

# The *TIMES* of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol 24 No. 8

February 1994

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

## Grants Assist in Delmar Beautification

by Jo Ann Vatcha

Progress to be reported this month includes news about development both East and West on Delmar. On the west side, at the highly visible intersection of Delmar and Skinker, there are handsome new awnings, definitely tying in the businesses to the east with those of the successful Loop to the west. The awnings were partially funded with a matching grant through the Southwestern Bell Growth Grant awarded to the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council and its Commercial Development Committee last year. To date, awnings and windows have been installed on more than twelve buildings, including:

- Radiant Products
- Delmar/Sinker Building
- Shoe Repair Building
- Colonial Rug
- Art Directions
- Robertson's Furniture
- Palomino Lounge
- Pawnmasters
- Gingiss Formalwear
- Boulevard Cleaners Building
- 6135 Delmar (an interesting display of classic cars)
- Royal Hookup—barber shop
- Happy Taco

In addition to providing matching funds for improvements to these buildings, the Southwestern Bell Growth Grant, and other funds from the Commercial District Program of the St. Louis Development Corporation, have assisted with trees, banners, and the soon to arrive lighting along Des Peres from the Metro Link Station south into the residential part of the neighborhood.



As improvements are made to existing business locations on "our" part of Delmar, there is also news of a significant business expansion. Robertson's Furniture has recently received approval to build a new furniture store on the vacant lot east of its current location. With space of nearly 3,000 sq. ft., Robertson's will be able to display more selections than ever. Definitely a "survivor", Robertson's has been serving customers on Delmar for more than twenty-five years. Gary Robertson, whose parents began the business there, is optimistic about the store's future on Delmar, stating, "We feel very upbeat about the future. More and more people are choosing to live in this neighborhood. The convenience of the Metro Link Stations is going to be more important as time goes by, and we want to continue to be a part of Delmar's progress."



Robertson's Furniture

Robertson also serves as President of the newly formed Delmar Businessmen's Association. Together with his executive committee, he is busy formulating plans for working together to make other improvements on Delmar.

In other news, Alderman Irv Clay and Alderman Dan McGuire have announced that the Redevelopment Plan, partially drafted by the Skinker-DeBaliviere Commercial District Committee, and covered in detail in *The Times* in previous issues, will be introduced this year as an ordinance. A public meeting will be held prior to its introduction.

## Get Together with *The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere* Chili Supper and Trivial Pursuit Contest

It is February, the traditional month for *the Times* to ask its readers for support to pay for coming issues. This time, we are combining two previous events to create an evening of food and drink and socializing as well as a test of intellectual skill that no one will want to overlook.

This not-to-be missed event will take place on Saturday, February 26, at New City School at Waterman and Lake in the north gym. Supper will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the fare includes several different kinds of

chili, hearty soup, breads and crackers, and desserts of varying types, often featuring chocolate. There also will be a cash bar.

Following an informal supper and visiting, there will be the *Times*' 2nd Annual Trivial Pursuit contest beginning at 7:30 p.m. Once again, Alderman Dan McGuire will act as emcee. Contestants will be grouped in tables of 6. Reservations may be placed ahead of time by calling 721-7532. There will be ten categories with ten questions apiece. Categories will include popular music, sports, business and industry, the U.S. today,

and St. Louis/Missouri facts. There will be a pause between rounds and scores will be recorded for all to see by some younger *Times* fans. As usual, the *Times* will be supplying desirable prizes to the winning tables.

The best part of this event is the cost. The price for supper and game is \$10. One can take part in either or both activity. If choosing only supper or only game, admission is only \$5.

Please join us on the 26th. The *Times* needs you!

## Crossroads School Purchases Its Building and Land

On January 4, Crossroads School announced that it had acquired its school building and the land on which it is located at 500 DeBaliviere from the Mills Group. Head of the school Anne Spencer said that "it is exciting for Crossroads to begin its 20th year with the permanency, stability and opportunities that owning the land and building give us." Crossroads is the only independent non-sectarian secondary school east of I-170.

## Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

On January 13th, Professor John Mollenkopf of the City University of New York Graduate Center spoke to the Urban Forum at the Missouri Historical Society Library and Collections Center. Mollenkopf has written a great deal about federal programs designed to aid cities. He spoke of the great difficulty in funding urban programs now because the votes are in the suburbs and legislators are reluctant to back programs aiding central cities. He offered a solution which is worthy of some consideration: grants to fund programs in both central city areas and contiguous suburbs. Congress has always been responsive to a "what's in it for my district" approach. It could also foster increased feelings of togetherness which are often absent today. Further, Mollenkopf proposed greater activism on the part of community-based organizations; in other words, he favored a joint regional and neighborhood approach. We may hear these ideas again because he has been asked to help draft the Clinton urban policy. The size of the deficit alone should necessitate lowered expectations but Mollenkopf's approach was novel and it engendered a little hope at least in this listener.

*The Times* still needs writers. If you would like to help, give me a call. The Board and I would also love to see you at our chili-trivia event on Feb. 26. Come and give us a hand while having an enjoyable evening.

### Thank you to all our recent contributors!

<i>Ernest W. Stix, Jr.</i>	<i>Bob and Trisha Martin</i>
<i>Rick and Joan Bender</i>	<i>Evelyn Netterville</i>
<i>Tom and Karleen Hoerr</i>	<i>Gene and Delores Hoefel</i>
<i>Sandy and Sue Rothschild</i>	<i>Dan Shea and</i>
<i>Frank and Mary Hellwig</i>	<i>Kathleen Williams</i>
<i>Polly O'Brien and</i>	<i>Ken Cohen</i>
<i>Barrett Toan</i>	<i>Peter Lukaszewicz and</i>
<i>Robin and Darrell Stoecklin</i>	<i>Shirley Bissen</i>
<i>Michael and Ellen Lowenstein</i>	<i>King and Dee Schoenfeld</i>
<i>Vince and Lois Schoemehl</i>	<i>JoAnn and Neville Vatcha</i>
<i>Wilma Cantwell</i>	<i>Venita and Rich Lake</i>
<i>Betty and Joe Botz</i>	<i>Lana Stein</i>
<i>Tricia Roland</i>	<i>Marj and Brad Weir</i>
<i>Ray and Joan Breun</i>	

## The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Editor: Lana Stein  
Business Manager: JoAnn Vatcha  
Production Manager: Venita Lake  
Typesetting: Marj Weir

*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:

Ray Breun	Katie Kurtz	Sue Rothschild	JoAnn Vatcha
Tom Hoerr	Venita Lake	King Schoenfeld	Marjorie Weir
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### Guidelines for Submitting Copy

The Times welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of *The Times* has always depended in large part on submissions from non-staff area residents.

All material - articles, letters, notices, classified ads - must be typewritten on opaque paper, double-spaced, and signed. Signature on correspondence to the editor may be omitted by request. Calendar listings should be phone or mailed to 6008 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 or illustrations submitted should be black and white.

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

Send all correspondence to 6008 Kingsbury, 63112. Deadline: 15th of the month or call 721-7532.

# CALENDAR



## Neighborhood Events

- Jan. 26 Skinker DeBaliviere Housing Corporation, 12 Noon, 6008 Kingsbury
- Feb. 2 6000 Kingsbury Block Meeting, 7 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury
- Feb. 3 28th Ward Regular Democratic Club Endorsement Meeting, 7:30 pm, John's Town Hall.
- Feb. 6 MLK Commemoration Ceremony, 3 - 5 p.m., Grace & Peace Fellowship 5574 Delmar
- Feb. 21 Apartment Owners Association Meeting, 7 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury
- Feb. 22 6000/6100 Waterman & Pershing, 7 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury
- Feb. 26 The Times Trivia Contest With Chili, New City School, 6:00 pm for Food, 7:30 sharp for Trivia competition. \$10.00 per person.

## Other Nearby Events of Interest:

- starting Feb. 2 "Portraits of African Americans," a photographic exhibit at Portfolio Gallery
- now-Feb. 13 "Marvin's Room" presented by The New Theatre at the AirLoft Annex, 1527 Washington. Call 781-9314 for information.
- now-Mar. 20 "Obata's Yosemite" at the Saint Louis Art Museum; paintings of Chiura Obata in the Cohen Gallery.
- now-Mar. 27 "The Near Distance: James McGarrell's St. Louis Years," exhibition at the Washington University Gallery of Art.
- Feb. 12 Paul & Linda's Wedding: A Live Wedding in the Window at Blueberry Hill, 1:30pm.
- Feb. 18, 19, 25 & 26 "From Darkness Cometh the Light" at the Holy Roman Repertory Company; slave women's narratives, at CASA. Call 863-7888 for information.
- Feb. 24 St. Louis Urban Forum: "Shaping St. Louis: Public Policy and the Urban Landscape," with Prof. Dennis Judd of UMSL and Vincent C. Schoemehl, Jr. and H. Milford. At the Library and Collections Center of the Missouri Historical Society on Skinker, 7pm.
- Feb. 25-27 22nd Annual Blueberry Hill Dart Tournament (400 players, a major national tournament)
- Feb. 28 "The Black Heritage Trail," a tour of African-American St. Louis, 1-4pm. Call the Missouri Historical Society for reservations, 454-3135; \$15 (\$10 for members).

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# SDCC-Sponsored King Commemoration Postponed Until Feb. 6

The sleet and snow falling all over the area on Jan. 16 necessitated postponement of the annual King commemoration sponsored by SDCC, Grace and Peace Fellowship, and the New Cote Brillante Church of God. Children from St. Roch's School, Hamilton School, New City School, and Crossroads School were scheduled to perform.

The commemoration has been re-scheduled for Sunday, February 6, at 3:00 p.m., at Grace and Peace, Del-

mar at Clara. Parking will be available at the Regional Hospital lot across the street. As originally planned, Gregory Freeman, columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, will speak on "The Need for Nonviolence—Now More Than Ever." The school children will perform readings and songs and additional music will be supplied by the New Cote Brillante Church choir and members of Grace and Peace.

## A Discussion with State Senator William L. Clay, Jr.

by Lana Stein

Just before Christmas, I had the opportunity to chat with Senator Clay, our neighbor on 61xx Washington, about his recent trip to Israel as well as other matters. The Israeli government sponsored the trip for a number of American legislators at the state and federal level. The legislators attended a number of seminars and met with Israeli and Palestinian leaders as well as visiting many points of interest.

The legislators learned about the Israeli legal system and the constitutional question, the economy, current issues in U.S.-Israeli relations, minorities in Israel, security in the north, the peace process, Arab-Jewish coexistence, and history and religion.

The sites that impressed Clay the most were Masada because of its history and the Sea of Galilee because of his Christian background. It was incredible to him to be there and walk in the steps of Jesus. He saw where Jesus gave his Sermon on the Mount. It was very moving. He also visited the Dead Sea where so much history took place and he saw the palace King Herod had built at Masada. This palace, built about

3,000 years ago was the product of brilliant architectural minds. The palace is shaded most of the day and was designed for security. It even had a sauna and steam bath, taking the idea from the Greeks. Herod had gone to school with Mark Anthony. The Dead Sea is 36 percent salt and Clay floated in it.

Senator Clay was impressed by Israel because he saw people of all shades and skin color there. The people had an immense pride and sense of nationalism. People universally disliked the politicians. Israel is a crossroads, an island; you can get there only by ship or airplane. Their kibbutz system is unique. Seventeen percent of the population are Arabs who stayed on after the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.

Clay found that immigrants are being absorbed well into Israeli life. The Ethiopian Jews have fitted into the society and are doing well in schools and the military.

Clay said that he was hopeful that peace will take place. He would like to see the different nationalities there live in peace. After meeting with both Jewish and Arab leaders, he acknowledged that it would be a struggle. He does hope both sides can compromise and form a real peace. Israel's back is to the wall now. They have nowhere else to go. They have vowed that the Holocaust will never happen again. Clay said he respected that because of the holocaust of slavery for black people here. Jews have a right to be there but they have to live in coexistence with Arabs. The PLO says that God cannot be a land broker; you can't designate Israel as the Jews' land. This situation has to be straightened out.

## Senator Clay Speaks About Forest Park

From December 7 to 9th, Mayor Bosley sponsored a summit on Forest Park to bring together all interested parties and to have them discuss the major issues surrounding the park: land usage, transportation, access, physical improvements. State Senator William L. Clay, Jr. participated and offered some thoughts to the assembly on the 9th. Following are excerpts from his remarks:

"Not since the planners of the 1904 World's Fair has any group been charged with such a unique and rare opportunity to shape the future of Forest Park. . . . It would be hard for any of us to imagine St. Louis without Forest Park. When we think of the park what comes to mind are soccer and rugby games in the winter, baseball and softball in the summer, skating on Friday nights at Steinberg, sleigh riding down Art Hill, trips to the zoo, art museum, science center and history museum, family picnics on Sundays or, my personal favorite, playing a round of golf. What other park anywhere offers this kind of diversity, this many attractions? It is this diversity that presents our greatest challenge.

"It is my hope that we will produce a comprehensive plan for the future of the park that a majority of the participants can agree on. I am confident that this format will allow for different, even opposing, groups to air their ideas, express their concerns and, through the art of compromise, reach a consensus. (These previous plans) should be used as an outline, our starting point in developing the solution to the long term needs of the crown jewel of our parks system. . . . The needs are great and time for action is now."

Alderman Dan McGuire also attended the summit and participated in the presentations. State Representative Nancy Farmer, whose district also contains the park, was present at the sessions. In all, about 300 St. Louis area residents attended and participated in workshops designed to formulate areas of consensus regarding the park's uses and design. Summaries of the summit proceedings are available from the mayor's office and further planning activity will follow.

## Rep. Farmer Named to Urban Violence Task Force

In December, Gov. Mel Carnahan named Rep. Nancy Farmer, D-64, to serve on a task force on the causes and prevention of urban violence. He established the task force because of the epidemic proportions which violence has reached in urban areas such as Kansas City and St. Louis.

Rep. Farmer said that she was "delighted to be appointed to a task force which is studying one of the most critical issues facing my district, metropolitan St. Louis as a whole and this entire nation. Rather than trying to offer a quick fix to this problem, the governor has brought the right players to the table and initiated a process which I believe will result in good, solid recommendations that will be helpful to the legislature."

In addition to Rep. Farmer, the task force consists of the governor, the attorney general, two other House members, three Senate members, representatives from the Kan-

sas City and St. Louis mayors' offices, the directors of the departments of public safety, health, mental health, and corrections and 18 gubernatorial appointments which must include at least seven Kansas City citizens and seven St. Louis citizens.

The task force was initiated to form partnerships between public officials and local community leaders to address the problem of urban violence. The task force will make recommendations on policies to help protect children from violence and to strengthen family and community institutions in urban areas, measures to reduce violent crime committed with firearms or due to illegal drug transactions, changes in policies and laws which will reduce recidivist criminal behaviors, and changes in criminal or juvenile laws that will reduce violent crime.



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## St. Roch Pre-School: Busy Hands - Constructive Minds

by Wilma Cantwell

The hustle and bustle you hear when you come to St. Roch's School, 6052 Waterman, are the happy sounds from our pre-school class. The children are involved in many creative activities. They can be found in the art center, housekeeping center, library corner, in the gym developing gross motor skills or doing numerous craft projects and developing fine skills, singing, playing, and learning.

On Wednesday and Thursday mornings, some of the children are busy working on the computer with

help from a Computertot teacher. St. Roch Pre-School has two teachers and four teacher aids. Enrollment is limited to twenty children per day.

Open house for the Skinker-DeBaliviere community is Sunday, February 13, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Enrollment forms will be available at this time. Children must be 3 years old by July 1 to be eligible for the 1/2 day program and 4 years old by July 1 for the all day program.



## Home Improvement Heating System Improvement

by Amrit and Amy Gill

Considering the extreme cold weather St. Louis has been experiencing in the past few weeks, improving the heating system of a house is a topic of great importance for homeowners. No matter the age or type of heating system, there are a few basic steps that can be taken to ensure that a comfortable temperature can be maintained while minimizing cost. In this article I will attempt to point out some of these steps.

One low cost energy saver is attic insulation. The payback for insulating your attic can be as low as one year, depending on other factors. An R-value of 38 is sufficient for Missouri winters.

Doors and windows are a big source of heat loss. Taking the time to weather strip doors and windows can drastically reduce heat loss. I use polyethylene tubing and felt strips to seal old doors and windows. These products are available at the local hardware store at a very low cost.

A programmable thermostat can pay for itself in less than one heating season if you have a fixed schedule during the week. Programming the thermostat to maintain a lower tem-

perature while you are at work can save a lot of unnecessary heating costs. The same holds true during the night when you are under a comforter.

There are certain steps that you can take to increase the effectiveness of your heating system as well.

In the case of steam furnaces with radiators, draining and refilling the system once every two weeks will improve the efficiency by eliminating the residual deposits of rust and other minerals from the boiler. The steam control valves (the knob like attachments on one side of the radiators) impact how much heat passes through the radiator. If one room is getting warmer than you need it to be, putting a new valve with a tighter rating will decrease the amount of heat allowed into that radiator. The reverse holds true for a room that is not getting sufficient heat. In essence, the heating has to be balanced to produce the optimum temperature in each room.

In the case of hot water systems, as with steam, draining and refilling the system improves efficiency. The water pump needs maintenance once a year before the heating season.



Balance the system by closing the radiator a little at a time in rooms that are too warm.

In the case of forced air systems, the biggest heat loss is in the ductwork. This can be reduced by sealing around the register/boot. If there are not cold air returns in every room, try and keep the doors to the rooms without returns open.

Finally, the basement needs to be weather proofed as much as possible. A cold basement will cause the

floor on the first floor to be cold, leading to the furnace having to work much harder to maintain a comfortable temperature. Furthermore, a leaky basement will lead to drafts up the plumbing and chase walls, setting up a kind of highway of cold air throughout the house.

Everything I have pointed out in this article can be accomplished in a short period of time, and the savings in terms of money and convenience are tremendous.

## Kingsbury Kiosk Land Now Part of City Park

In May of 1992, the Kingsbury Kiosk library branch closed. In its stead, there is now a branch on Skinker between McPherson and Waterman. The kiosk was demolished shortly after closure. Although the land was listed for sale for some time, the Saint Louis Public Library

decided to transfer the land to the city Parks Department. It thus becomes part of our Four Corners Park and will be maintained by the Parks Department. The Library's Director felt that such a transfer was in keeping with the neighborhood's wishes.

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## Vicissitudes

by Marj Weir

It was a new grandchild for Rosemarie and George Storey of the 5700 Block of Waterman who added to the holiday joy for their large family. Her name is Annie Lynn and she arrived in November, 1993. Her proud parents are Jim and Maggie Storey.

Amanda Gibson of the 5800 block of Waterman passed away in mid-December. Neighbors extend condolences to her husband John and their daughters and grandchildren.

In this issue of *The Times*, Rich and Venita Lake remember Karen Brown who died in October. Karen and George were active neighbors in their years in Skinker-DeBaliviere and never forgot us.

Our Editor, Lana Stein, has been named a Public Policy Fellow for 1994-95 at UMSL which will relieve her of teaching duties and allow her to concentrate on research.

Students of St. Roch School marked the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King on January 14. Representatives from each class processed into the church with decorated banners bearing the names of all of the students in his or her class. These banners symbolized each student's pledge to walk with the Lord by peacefully respecting all people.

## St. Roch School Holds Dr. M.L. King Prayer Service



Students and faculty of St. Roch School honored Dr. Martin Luther King's dream of all people living in harmony with a special prayer service January 14th. The focus of the service was the theme, "Who is Our Neighbor?"

Gathered in St. Roch Church, the students prayed for peace and non-violence, not only for the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood, but for all metropolitan areas.

Representatives from every class processed into the church with decorated banners bearing the names of all the students in his or her class. These banners symbolized each student's pledge to walk with the Lord by peacefully respecting all people.

Eighth grade students Jay Gerard and Sylwinn Wyllie led their fellow students in prayer.

Eighth graders Candice Carter and April Hornberger acted out the poem, "As I Grew Older" by American poet Langston Hughes, who has represented the voice of many African-Americans.

Seventh grader Sara Vanderbeck and eighth grader Ginger Harris led the students in the song "Pass It On" by Kurt Kaiser.

## Karen Brown -- A Remembrance

by Rich and Venita Lake

In October Karen Brown died after a long bout with cancer. Many Skinker-DeBaliviere residents will remember George and Karen. They moved into the neighborhood around 1973 and were the kind of people who helped make this neighborhood what it has become. Job opportunities took them away from St. Louis about 10 years ago but they never lost touch. They came from Tennessee, and later, Florida or Illinois for Progressive Dinners. And occasionally they would just show up in St. Louis to spend the weekend and visit old friends. We will miss Karen--she was a good friend and we have some great memories, some of which we would like to share.

We moved to St. Louis on June 28, 1973. It was a hot day and the two friends who had helped us load a truck on the 27th were helping us unload and getting tired, hot, and very cranky. Out of nowhere, a number of neighbors showed up to help. This was the first time we met Karen. The Browns lived in 58xx Pershing and had heard there were new neighbors on Waterman. The help everyone gave us that day was really appreciated, but Karen arrived

with a most important plus, cold beer. She always had her priorities in the right order and knew what was most needed on a hot summer afternoon.

**Venita:** Karen and George shared our interest in model trains. This led to the joint project of building train layouts in the Brown basement and the Lake basement. We would spend one night a week working on their layout and after four weeks move to the other house for one night a week. Both layouts were really beginning to take shape by the time that Karen (and George, of course) moved away. House renovations and graduate work have put us on hold, but we have begun to start building again and there will certainly be a town or an important business on the layout with Karen's name on it.

**Rich:** Then there was the party at the Brown's when Karen and I, after a little too much wine (another shared interest), expounded at length to anyone within earshot on the differences between STEAM and diesel power. As I remember the explanation we were making some pretty sexy implications about STEAM. Looking back I know it couldn't have

been as funny as we thought it was but it is still a favorite memory.

We have lots of canoeing stories. On one trip Karen very neatly snatched the canoe out from under me. We had beached on a gravel bank to have lunch and Karen, our daughter Beth, and Marty Wright had gotten out onto the gravel. I was in the stern and just as I stood up to walk forward Karen grabbed the bow of the canoe to "pull it up further on the bank." She swore that she didn't see me standing up in it. I did the only full back flip I will ever do in my life over the back of the canoe and into the Osage Fork. As I waded to the shore Karen began laughing while protesting her innocence. She may have been innocent but she sure did have a wonderful laugh. I never did have the chance to get pay her back for that one but she knew the "threat" was always there.

**Venita:** There are other, less personal, but equally important memories about Karen's contributions to the neighborhood. She and George personally bought, rehabbed, and then sold two houses on 58xx Pershing. They made very little (if any) profit on the houses but they

did it because it was good for the block and the area. Karen stripped woodwork in her house and then in the two rehabs because it looked better that way. (Many of you will remember the neighborhood passion for stripping.) Karen was someone you could always count on to lend a hand, a rope, a ladder or whatever was needed. During the worst part of our renovations (no working bath and no kitchen), they lent us their shower and for a week, we stayed at their house. (Yes, that's why Rick left their house freshly showered every day just before George came home, in case you wondered.)

Karen chaired the Art Fair/House Tour in 1979 and worked on various other committees over the years. On Halloween, the kids on their block knew the drill--through the front door and out the back for hot dogs! And then there was the chain saw--you could trim tree limbs or cut down dead trees anywhere in the neighborhood and even if you're only 4 foot 10, if you wear a hard hat, no one will question your right to be there.

Lots more memories.... We're glad that we knew Karen.



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## Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting December 13, 1993

Attending the meeting were: Directors R. Johnson, B. Bender, M. Merritt, J. Wright, S. Johnson, K. Keaveny, G. Hayes, J. Miller, S. Polk, L. Stein, A. Smith Carr, G. Fox; Alderman D. McGuire, Conserv Officer J. Waits; and Executive Director K. Koenig.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### I. Formation of Nominating Committee

G. Hayes requested volunteers to serve on a Nominating Committee. L. Stein will chair this committee, with A. Carr and G. Fox as members. L. Stein requested that Board members contact any of the three committee members with nominations. Elections will be held at the January meeting.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### I. Review of Minutes

L. Stein moved "That the minutes of the November Board meeting be accepted as read," seconded by S. Polk and approved.

#### II. Treasurer's Report

J. Wright moved "That the treasurer's report for November be accepted as read," seconded by S. Johnson and approved.

J. Miller requested that a Finance Committee be formed to prepare a 1994 budget and to work on the simplification of monthly cash statements. L. Stein, G. Fox, and J. Wright will serve on the committee with J. Miller as chair.

#### III. Committee/Association Reports

**5700 DeGiverville** - S. Polk thanked K. Koenig for writing a letter of inquiry to U. S. Postmaster about late delivery of mail.

**5900 DeGiverville** - K. Koenig reported, on behalf of A. Johnson, that a long-time problem block resident no longer lives in the neighborhood.

**Kingsbury Square** - R. Johnson reported that block watch meetings have begun.

**Nina Place** - L. Stein reported that D. Burnes has secured financing from Boatmen's to rehab 5885 Nina.

**Parkview** - K. Keaveny reported that several burglaries occurred over the Thanksgiving holiday. She also stated that Parkview has nominations for new officers.

**Rosedale** - J. Miller reported that "Saturday with Santa" was very successful with about 40 neighborhood children attending.

**Housing Corporation** - K. Koenig reported that they are trying to obtain NAP tax credits in order to assist in paying for the demolition of 519 Des Peres. An open house at 6036 Washington will be held on December 19 from 2 to 4 p.m. All are welcome.

**Recreation** - B. Bender reported that three neighborhood basket ball teams are practicing/playing at Hamilton Community School through Operation Teamwork.

**Commercial Planning** - L. Stein reported that she is trying to reach Alderman Clay about the redevelopment plan.

**Social Services** - B. Bender reported that the committee is planning for BicycleWorks to begin in late April/early May. The committee is also planning a food drive for mid-February. Washington University students have assisted in two home weather ization days, with 15 senior citizens being assisted.

**MLK Commemoration** - J. Wright reported that this year's program will be held on January 16, 1994, at Grace and Pace, from 3 to 5 p.m. Gregory Freeman will be the keynote speaker. J. Wright will

contact J. Waits about parking at Regional Hospital.

**Report on Director' Evaluation** - J. Miller reported that the overall rating was outstanding. He also presented a summary of goals for 1994.

### IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**Sinclair Station, 400 - 404 North Skinker** - K. Koenig reported that a variance was denied for the owners to install new tanks, pumps, and a canopy at the site. Since that time, the owners have contacted K. Koenig stating that they do not have plans to do any further work except to replace existing tanks. According to EPA standards, tanks need to be replaced every 30 years. K. Koenig also requested that the public telephone on the property be removed, and the owners have agreed to have it removed by Southwestern Bell.

**Forest Park Summit** - Alderman McGuire gave a report on the summit. He stated that a summary report to be available to the public is being prepared.

The next meeting will be a joint January/February meeting on Monday, January 24, 1994, at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

## General Assembly Convenes

by Nancy Farmer,  
State Representative,  
64th District

The second regular session of the 87th General Assembly convened on Wednesday, January 5. It promises to be another exciting and productive session and I want to share a few of the issues I'll be working on in the coming weeks.

I am sponsoring or co-sponsoring legislation to fund mass transit (statewide, regionally or locally), to address crime prevention with a Youth Opportunities and Violence Prevention Act, to improve the juvenile justice system and to give the City of St. Louis authority to enact regulations stricter than the state for firearms and billboards. I also support local control of the St. Louis Police department and plan to file a bill which will repeal all or part of the state's current authority.

I am honored to have been appointed to the Governor's Task Force on Causes and Prevention of Urban Violence and the Commission on Management and Productivity in government. I will be working with these two groups throughout the session.

Your questions or comments are welcomed. Contact me at home: 6026 Waterman, 63112, 721-3083, or, in Jefferson City: House Post Office, State Capitol, 65101-6806, 751-1400.



Alicia and Erica Webb assist Santa at SDCC Christmas Party.

**Blueberry Hill**

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- novelist Stanley Elkin

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- Joe Pollack,  
St. Louis  
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# In Your Ear

by Hawkeye Y. Hoerr

Truth is stranger than fiction. There's simply no doubt about it. All you have to do is pick up the front page and begin to read.

There's the Bobbitt case. Suffice it to say that no matter how you cut it, it's a tragic situation. And then there's the never-ending Tonya Harding skating saga. As this is being written, everyone around her is implicated and her bodyguard says that she was part of the plan; she denies everything. All we know is that someone's on thin ice. Then Special Prosecutor Lawrence Walsh comes out with a report saying that, basically, Presidents Reagan and Bush both were aware of the arms-for-hostage deals, and that both covered up. The weather is colder in St. Louis and Boston than it is in Minnesota. And finally, Disney has troubles in France! Yes, Disney, the same Disney who could make money on Mars, finds out that the French version of culture is different than ours. It's all simply amazing.

So after all of that, you probably think that there's nothing possibly left that could be surprising. You probably think that all of the crazy and wild and wacko news has been published. Wrong. There's more. In fact, what's left is so bizarre, that it couldn't get published anywhere. Anywhere, that is, except for the news-breaking *Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere!* Yep, that's right. This little tabloid is going to share all and set you straight. As you'll see, none of the stories have hit the front pages yet because there are tiny bits and pieces which still need to be hammered down, firmed up, and agreed upon. This will happen, though, shortly. So get ready, and remember that you read it here first! Here are

## The Top Untold Stories of 1993

### 1. DOWNTOWN GAMBLING LEASE GOES TO TED DREWES'

In an end-of-year, late night deal, local ice cream entrepreneur Theodore Drewes, Jr. secretly signed a 25 year lease for the downtown property just north of Laclede's Landing. A Drewes spokesperson says that he plans to create a combination gambling casino and ice cream parlor. "You know," he said, "gambling not only costs lots of money, it burns lots of calories! People will be able to gamble and eat ice cream all night, without gaining weight."

### 2. HALF OF FOREST PARK SOLD TO COUNTY

Technically, of course, half of Forest Park wasn't really "sold." No money changed hands. But Mayor Bosley, it has learned, has agreed to give county residents 50% of the seats on a to-be created Forest Park Commissioners Panel. In exchange for this, the County has agreed to open up two homeless shelters, one in downtown Clayton, the other near Plaza Frontenac. Talks are still underway about whether or not the County government will provide transportation to the Plaza Frontenac homeless shelter. City officials feel that this is essential, but County representatives are less enthusiastic about this aspect of the plan. LaDue representatives, we learned, having lost the vote to accept the homeless, were primarily concerned about whether or not signs would be erected in the yards of the shelters.

### 3. LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS NBA TEAM TO MOVE TO ST. LOUIS.

In a secret deal, *The Times* learned, the owners of the professional basketball team, the Clippers, have agreed to move to St. Louis after the end of the 1993-94 basketball season. This is, according to all sources, basically a "done deal." The only hold-up is that the Clippers ownership wants to create a home court ambience that is similar to that in LA. As a result, plans are underway to renovate the midtown Fox Theater into a basketball arena. The giant lions in the lobby will serve as impetus for changing the team's name to the St. Louis Lions (the Clippers would've never sailed in St. Louis anyway). Talks are also underway with officials at St. Louis University to pursue using the site for the Billiken games as well.

### 4. OFFICIALS DELIGHTED: LIGHT-RAIL LOSES MONEY.

Despite ridership that is 50% more than anticipated, running true to form (late!), Bi-State has managed to lose money on the light-rail system. A Bi-State official explained, "Well sure there are more riders, but that meant that we needed to add more trains, and that meant more staff, and that meant..." In a surprise move, the Missouri State legislature will agree to contribute millions per year to subsidize the system. But rumors have it that faced with the possibility of breaking even or, maybe even, making money on light-rail, Bi-State officials are considering reducing the number of trains to keep ridership down so that they can maintain their consistent loss pattern.

### 5. SCHNUCKS TO ADD SECOND FLOOR!

In a move to remain competitive with other giant mega-supermarkets, it has been learned that there are plans to add a second floor to the Schnucks at Hanley and Clayton avenues. Special escalators, designed to accommodate shopping carts, will be installed and the entire facility will more than double in size, complete with underground parking. The highlight of the expansion will be the furniture mart located at the southwest corner of the second floor; newspaper coupons will allow purchasers to save up to 33% on any combination sofa-dishwasher.

### 6. POST TO BE PUBLISHED EVERY-OTHER DAY.

In a move widely acclaimed by the publishing world, Pulitzer Publishing will announce that the actual newspaper will only be produced and distributed on even-numbered days. On odd-numbered days, the *Post's* electronic news-link will report the news. Readers who

do not have a modem can get the news from either CNN or by listening to Rush Limbaugh on KMOX. In an attempt to stave off great consumer unhappiness, however, coupons and cartoons will still be delivered each day before the sun rises.

### 7. PRESIDENT CLINTON TO VISIT ST. LOUIS TO OPEN RENOVATED KIEL AUDITORIUM.

President William Rodham Clinton will announce that he will personally come to St. Louis to officially cut the ribbon at the opening of the "new" Kiel Auditorium. In honor of Clinton's visit, the first public event will be a hamburger eat-off. Hamburger eating teams from fourteen schools will be poised, ready to eat away, waiting for President Clinton to take the first bite. The team that first eats all of its burgers will be declared the *Beefcake Team of 1994*.

*Trivia Teaser:*  
In what year was *The Times* first published?  
What was it called then?

*The Paper*  
1970

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