

The TIMES of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 25 No. 7

December 1994

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

King Commemoration Set for January 15

King Commemoration Chairman Jack Wright was pleased to announce that Colonel Clarence Harmon, chief of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, would be the featured speaker at the 1995 Commemoration. Harmon will speak about the legacy of Dr. King.

The Commemoration will take place on Sunday, January 15, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Grace and Peace Fellowship, on Delmar at Clara. Jack Wright will serve as master of ceremonies. The choir of the New Cote Brilliante Church of God will perform selections and their pastor, the Rev. Mikki Merritt, will deliver concluding remarks. In addition, five schools are participating in the event this year. They include: New City School, Crossroads, St. Roch, Hamilton, and the Bethel School. Children will perform skits or offer songs that reflect what Dr. King means to them.

Everyone in our neighborhood is encouraged to attend this event. A reception will fol-



Clarence Harmon
St. Louis Police Chief

photo by St. Louis Police Department

low the program activities with refreshments furnished by Grace and Peace and Commemoration Committee members. In the case of a winter storm, the commemoration will be moved to January 22. For further information, call the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, SDCC, Grace and Peace, New Cote Brilliante, and the five schools all join in sponsoring this annual event.

Playground Meeting Held

Some Skinker DeBaliviere residents and several children joined the Ad Hoc Playground Committee at Grace Methodist Church on November 29. They discussed the pros and cons of placing a playground at the southeast corner of DesPeres and Kingsbury.

Committee members Dawn Blobaum, Beth Bender, and Arline Webb spoke of the positive features of the Four Corners site: its central location, its not being a problem crime area. It is city property, so liability is not a problem. Several residents said that they supported a playground, but not at that site. One

spoke strongly in favor of Lucier Park. Another said he would favor it across the street, so that no trees would have to come down.

After about an hour of conciliatory conversation, the group felt the southwest corner at Kingsbury and DesPeres, now a parking lot, would be the best alternative for the playlot, and they compromised on having the lot designed for children 6 and under. The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council must approve the plan. The committee intends to apply to the Gateway Foundation for funding.

In Memoriam

Monsignor Robert M. Peet

1908-1994

Joe Edwards Works New Magic on Delmar

by Lana Stein

With a strong faith in the area, Joe Edwards has become an investor in the rehabilitation of the Tivoli building and possibly other new construction in the Loop. Joe and his wife, Linda, are familiar figures to many in our neighborhood. They are long time residents of Parkview and own Blueberry Hill, an emporium with fame far beyond the metro area. They have contributed a great deal to the revival of the Loop and they are now choosing not to rest on their laurels and will contribute to its further growth and success.

On September 8, 1972, the Edwardses opened Blueberry Hill. Edwards had grown up in our area, in both the city and Clayton. He went off to Duke University for college. Returning to the city, he tried to figure out what to do with his life. He figured he would open a place he felt comfortable going to. He

met Linda who had grown up on 60xx Pershing and had a great love of the area. The Loop at that time was at its low point. About half the stores were vacant. It was a gamble. They made it with the help of friends' investments, but it was rough the first two years.

Today, many consultants consider Blueberry Hill a prime example of a way to turn an area around. Edwards tried to set a tone for his place and the neighborhood that would show that certain kinds of behavior were not acceptable. From the beginning, unaccompanied women could feel comfortable at Blueberry Hill. He's been very strict on I.D.s.

Edwards said that "it's a wonderful existence to do something you like." Blueberry Hill is very related to his hobbies: music and record collecting. It's a nice creative outlet

and "it's nice to do something for the area in turn." Without a doubt, he feels this is the best area in St. Louis. There are other good neighborhoods "but nothing like this area." There is a great range in housing prices and a wide variety of people, older adults, Wash. U. students, blacks, whites, and Asians. "It's vibrant and exciting."

After opening Blueberry Hill, Joe and Linda Edwards helped to found the special business district. This district sets certain standards and, most important, the merchants tax themselves so they can put money into their area. They put in dusk-to-dawn lighting, additional trash receptacles, and flower pots filled with blooms. The special business district helps to fund the Holiday Walk and the Loop Arts Festival.

After Blueberry Hill was on its way, Edwards started Rock 'n Roll beer, more or less for fun.



He wanted Blueberry Hill to have its own beer; Blueberry Hill is steeped in the rock and roll tradition. It is sold in a few other places. In 1986, he started Blueberry Hill Records. It's a small independent label and is used to sponsor the annual St. Louis music contest. This is a song-writing contest that gets

continued on page 3

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

During the latter half of the week of November 14, readers of the Post-Dispatch and watchers of the local news on TV learned that an undercover police officer had been shot in the leg after he and his partner stopped to question people in our neighborhood. The written coverage gave a possibly misleading picture of us as "crime-ridden" or experiencing a real "rash" of robberies. Regrettably, the media are part of the problem in the public perception of criminal activity. They tend to specialize in "crime of the night" journalism. Their attention to crime and sensationalism detracts from any chance of obtaining serious coverage of local politics, among other things. And, it certainly leads many people to infer that the city is a lot less safe than it actually is. Yes, there is crime, but nothing that justifies the attitude of one of my students, who told me that her husband forbids her coming east of Skinker after dark.

To get back to our own situation, I understand that were some crimes committed in October and early November near the area where the officer was shot. Captain Heath of the 7th District noted an unusual blip in the reports and assigned a special team there. At this writing, it is likely that those apprehended in the incident may have been responsible for the earlier headaches. The captain is certainly to be commended for his prompt response and we send all our best wishes to the officer who was wounded.

Despite this seemingly good outcome, I decry the nature of the coverage and am only grateful that it didn't mention our neighborhood's name. I have heard others blame the media for a lot of our problems, particularly the widespread perception of cities as war zones. We don't need to hear all this. How low does the media place the common denominator for what it thinks the public wants? The local news is part and parcel of the term "tabloid journalism" and all that it conveys. Newspapers should be more careful, especially if they are not the New York Post.

Some of you reading this now may have been blissfully unaware of the incident. Your low media consumption may truly be a blessing. If any of you disagree with my comments, please send a letter. It will be printed. But, before you do, watch the 10:00 o'clock local news and see if these words aren't apt. And, turn on your porch lights all night long and keep your eyes open when on the street, especially after dark. We need to look out for ourselves and each other. We are our own best protection in this neighborhood.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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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 of submissions from non-staff area residents.

All material - articles, letters, notices, classified ads - must be typewritten on opaque paper, double-spaced, and signed. Copy may be submitted on computer diskette if the diskette is in DOS format. We cannot process Macintosh diskettes. Diskette stories should be accompanied by a printout of the article, the name of the word processing software in which it is written, and the full name and address of the party to whom the diskette should be returned. Signature on correspondence to the editor may be omitted by request. Calendar listings should be phoned in to the editor at 721-7532, or mailed to 5855 Nine Place. Deadline for all copy is the 18th of the month.

The writer is responsible for the accuracy of the data, including times, dates, location, and particularly the spelling of names.

Pictures or illustrations should be in black and white. Color photographs do not reproduce well.

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

CALENDAR



Neighborhood Meetings

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12/12/94 | Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board of Directors, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:30 p.m. All residents are welcome. |
| 12/13/94 | Hamilton Elementary Community Education Center Council, Hamilton School, 6:30 p.m. |
| 12/20/94 | Holiday celebration at Hamilton School for the whole community. Performances by students. Refreshments. 6 p.m., 5819 Westminster Pl., free. |
| 1/16/95 | SDCC Board of Directors, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:30 p.m. |
| 1/17/95 | Hamilton Elementary Community Education Center Council, Hamilton School, 6:30 p.m. |

Other Events of Interest

- | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12/4/94 | "A Mark Twain Holiday" starring Chris Limber at the History Museum, 2 p.m. Admission is free. |
| 12/8/94 | Renowned historian Jacqueline Jones of Brandeis University will speak on "Poverty in the Late 20th Century: The Problem of Distressed Communities" at the St. Louis Urban Forum, Library and Collections Center, 225 S. Skinker, 7 p.m. |
| 12/10/94 | Gilded Age Holiday Fete at the History Museum, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Features elaborate home decorations, intricate handicrafts, and lavish entertainment. |
| 12/28/94 | Kwanzaa Celebration at the History Museum. Program in two parts: Seed Day and Elders Day. 3 p.m.-8 p.m., free. |
| 1/26/95 | Peter DeSimone will discuss welfare reform, "Welfare Theatre: Making Them Out of Us" at the St. Louis Urban Forum, Library and Collections Center, 225 S. Skinker, 7 p.m. |

Aldermanic Hearing Scheduled on Forest Park

As the paper goes to press, the public hearing on Resolution 178, which adopts the Goals and Policies to Guide Future Plans for Forest Park dated November 11, 1994, will be conducted by the Aldermanic Committee on Parks and Environmental Concerns on Monday, December 12, 1994, at 6:30 p.m., in Room 208 of City Hall. The general public is invited to

attend and participate. Copies of the Goals and Policies can be obtained at the Mayor's Office, Room 200, or by calling 622-3201. If you wish to attend, check the date and time by telephoning the Board of Aldermen at 622-3287.

The Goals and Policies were prepared by a committee that Mayor Bosley appointed following the Forest Park summit, held a year ago.

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Blueberry Hill

"An odd nostalgia seems to hang over it all, a sawdust chic."

- novelist Stanley Elkin

6504 Delmar

"Blueberry Hill is a treat - visual, aural and gustatory."

- Joe Pollack,
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Questions for Alderman Irving Clay, D-26

by Lana Stein

Alderman Clay, I understand that there were to be renovations at the Ruth Porter Mall on Delmar, beginning at the end of De Baliviere.

Yes, actually the improvements were finished in late July. Lights will be installed but there is a new sign, the superstructure has been painted, the sidewalks have been shored up, there has been planting, and new trash receptacles. It's a nice addition to the new Social Security building immediately to its west.

What is happening with the renovations at People's Clinic?

Construction will begin again soon. There is \$500,000 in this year's Community Development Block Grant budget to assist the Clinic. It will get moving after February.

What kind of services are at the new Social Security building?

It is a full-service office and replaces the one on Euclid.

There has been mention of new homes being built in the neighborhood to the north of ours. How is this coming along?

Work has begun along Bell and foundations have been laid. The homes will go along Bell up to Arcade and along Cabanne to Maple. They will cover 10 acres of ground. The costs of construction are funded by the Missouri Housing Development Corporation. Prospective buyers must meet certain requirements regarding income and family size. They will receive \$1,500 to cover closing costs and have a mortgage of about \$440 a month. Northside Preservation Commission is handling applications for the homes which have 3 or 4 bedrooms, a garage, a full basement, and a security system. The lots are 50 feet wide and 200 feet deep. They are designed to be similar to houses already existing in the area. They will be 2 to 2 and 1/2 stories. We are also breaking ground for a 72 unit senior citizen building near by. To further develop the general area, we will continue making Home Improvement Grants to allow owners, many of whom are older people, to shore up the exterior of their property. For those who qualify, this is money they do not have to repay. I began in 1991 and we have given out \$600,000 in these grants. There are 151 now planned for the coming year. This helps to stabilize the community.



Edwards

continued from page 1

entries in all categories: novelty songs, Christmas music, pop, country, jazz, blues, alternative. There is some folk and gospel, too. There are over \$10,000 worth of prizes. The contest starts April 2 of every year. The record label has brought out certain St. Louis groups to hopefully help them up the next step on the ladder.

In 1988, the Edwardses founded the non-profit St. Louis Walk of Fame. They now have 57 stars in the pavement along Delmar in the Loop. It costs about \$55,000 each year to put on; they get a lot of in-kind contributions. Edwards feels the Walk gives a sense of pride and provides role models in a lot of different disciplines. It gives a sense of cultural heritage.

Blueberry Hill also is noted for its very colorful and unique window displays. Edwards said that Linda does these displays. "She's a creative wizard."

Blueberry Hill is also home to the largest and oldest publicly sponsored dart tournament in the United States in the last week of February.

Now Edwards is investing in the Tivoli. He calls it an "impulsive act." As late as this past May, he had not planned to get involved. It wasn't until the theater was being shut down that he said, "No. It was too important for the Loop to have a theater. Too important for Washington University and Skinker DeBaliviere. It's such a wonderful neighborhood filled with artistic groups, galleries, bookstores, live music clubs and restaurants. It needs to have a movie theater—the premiere art theater in this part of the Midwest.

Edwards became a developer. It was difficult finding the financing for the project. Two banks came through: Allegiance and Lindell Bank and Trust. There will be a 3 screen theater. One screen will seat 500 and there will be two with 200 seats. Facilities/Solutions is the architect/designer. The main theater is being renovated to the wonderful beauty it had when it opened in 1924. The lobby and the vestibules are being recreated. A copy of the original vertical sign that hung in front is being made. This will be the 3rd largest theater in St. Louis. Ed-

wards plans it "to become the landmark it used to be." It actually is the largest building in the Loop and its location and size are very important to the Loop. It was still solid structurally, but they are putting in all new wiring, heating and cooling, and plumbing. They are also remolding the original plaster where it had been damaged. The Tivoli is expected to be ready in mid-January.

The new theater will show first-run art films, foreign films, and some classics. It will be able to show films by the best and innovative directors in the country.

In conjunction with the theater, all 9 store fronts are being totally renovated. They will be ready not long after the theater opens. The second phase is the renovation of 45 studio apartments. This won't start till some time in 1995, after the theater and storefronts are done.

These will be apartments for young people who may work in the area and for students. They will have a lot of built-in items such as shelves and fibre optic cables.

There is a possibility he may be part of new construction on lots in the Loop. These would be retail and offices. More details later.

He and his family find Parkview a very pleasant neighborhood in which to live. There are lots and lots of trees and all kinds of sizes and styles of houses. There are lots of professors and other different types "who have a lot of interesting things to say." It's a "peaceful, beautiful neighborhood. The Edwardses also have found it wonderful to have St. Roch school available to their children.

Edwards thinks that eventually the Loop development will spill east on Delmar. The trees that have been planted make it a lot more attractive. You need people willing to take a risk early. It won't happen over night, he said. "Look how long it's taken with the Loop."



Don't forget to return the Voter Registration form which should have arrived at the homes of all who are registered to vote in the City of St. Louis. If you don't return it, your name may be removed from the registered voter rolls. Let's keep our area strong through high registration numbers and significant voter turnout.

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Skinker DeBaliviere Recollections: Bonding with a Neighborhood

by Joan Bender

Author's note: It occurred to me that with the upcoming 25th anniversary of The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere, many newer residents might like a peek at some recent history. The following are recollections of our 26 years here...

In 1960, my husband, Rick, and I attended a conference in St. Louis and spent a good deal of time exploring the city. The west end and Forest Park really impressed us, so that, in 1968, when Rick accepted a position at St. Louis University, we knew where to look for a home.

Moving 5 children and a dog from 3 and 1/2 acres in the suburbs of Pittsburgh, Pa. was a formidable task. This new place had sidewalks. Our kids were fascinated by them since in the country we had none.

We also wanted an integrated neighborhood. Our third son, Hugh, has a skin pigment that tans very easily and he was always complimented on his tan. Once in Pittsburgh, when he was about four, Rick took the boys to the county swimming pool where some African Americans were swimming. Hugh was excited and said to Rick, "Look at the great sun tans they have, Dad!" "That's it," we decided. "When we move, it'll be to the real world."

In May, 1968, we left the children with a sitter and came to St. Louis for a week to find a home in the west end. We had to find a real estate company and this was the real eye-opener. Several realtors would not show anything in the Skinker-DeBaliviere area and indicated that we did not understand the racial situation in St. Louis. I spoke with one on the phone who said frankly, "You don't want to buy there (Skinker DeBaliviere). It's going to be all black in two or three years." Stunned and shocked, we moved forward and signed on with one company that didn't mention racial climate. We were assigned a young, new agent who said she'd look but couldn't find anything in this neighborhood.

Rick and I spent mornings and evenings walking around the neighborhood and noticed

many children playing. We visited John and Jane Cross on Kingsbury, who were referred to us by a mutual friend back east. When we mentioned our predicament, Jane jumped up and pointed to the house across from theirs and exclaimed, "That one's for sale." Sure enough, we found a "For Sale" sign behind some bushes. The house was listed with the company we were dealing with. It looked occupied because curtains had been left behind.

We immediately went to our agent with the news. She checked her file and was puzzled: It wasn't listed. Then she excused herself and said she would check another file. She returned looking ashen and disgusted and apologized because this house was in a file "For Blacks Only." This was Wednesday and by Friday we had bought the house, after some heated discussions with the realtors. The Crosses introduced us to Susie and John Roach, and he handled the closing for us.

On August 8, 1968, we moved in and met so many wonderful, energetic and interesting people. To our delight, we discovered that in the 40 homes on 61xx Kingsbury, there were about 140 children from cradle through high school.

There were suspicions that real estate people were steering whites away from the neighborhood. In fact, it was the beginning of "Block Busting." This was brought up time and again at neighborhood gatherings. Besides the "white flight" aspect of all of this, there were many fine black families who left because they knew what had happened elsewhere. No longer able to be silent about suspicions, the neighbors talked openly about it and looked for action and solutions.

In my opinion, Susie Roach (now Mrs. Dan Feinberg), was the "energizer bunny" of that era. She and Joanne Budde (wife of a Wash. U. grad student) had begun an art show on Mother's Day of 1968 on St. Roch's playground fence. They also cranked out a mimeographed neighborhood news-



paper on an occasional basis. That was probably the beginning notion of *The Paper* (now known as *The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere*).

Joanne and Susie knew the wife of another Wash. U. grad student who was experienced in newspaper work. She explained what they should do to set it up and lay it out. They put out a call for staff and had a good response. Jody Creighton was the first editor and *The Paper* was founded in 1970.

Interestingly, in 1972, a group of women from the Central West End paid our staff a visit to learn how to go about beginning their newspaper and the *West End Word* was born.

In order to counter the block busting, Susie rounded up a group of women to form a not-for-profit Residential Service. It worked with, but was independent of, the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. In fact, there was no office. It seemed to run out of the apron pockets of those (then) young, energetic, idealistic women, who had understanding and helpful husbands.

One group kept the files for apartment rentals available and another had a file of homes for sale. Initially, this was a word of mouth operation throughout the neighborhood. If you wanted to sell your home, the Residential Service would help.

Marlene Mestres and Betty Newsham were the mainstays of the Apartment Rental section. Susie, Pat Kohn, Suzanne Hart, and I held up the Homes for Sale end. There were a lot of helpers for both when needed.

The houses for sale in Skinker DeBaliviere had personalized advertising. People would spread the word at their workplaces and invite the perspective buyers to see the homes. Men from the neighborhood contacted banks to encourage home loans for the area. When a potential buyer found a house, lawyers John Roach and the late Richard Hart handled the closings.

Also, we must remember and be thankful for the late Phil Lucier, who lived in Parkview. He believed in the neighborhood and backed up his belief with seed money for West End Townhouse, an enlightened development corporation. Through his generosity, buildings were bought and rehabbed.

Suzanne and I spent over five years showing the homes for sale. We were weekend street walkers showing interested people available housing. Early on, Susie and Pat took real estate courses and got their licenses in order to better understand what the service was up against. Therefore, they acted as advisors to the service. They each were spark plugs generating fruitful ideas.

I spoke with Suzanne Hart recently. We reflected on those five years of showing homes. She commented that unless residents are tuned in to neighborhood events, a similar housing situation could happen again. Some of the people who were introduced to their homes by the Residential Service were Steve & Dee Vossmeyer, Sam & Lu Green on Westminster; Tom & Karleen Hoerr on Washington; Rick & Venita Lake on Watterman; Arline Webb on Pershing; Gene & Dolores Hoefer on McPherson; and Rocco & Bernadette Di Lorenzo, Bob & Debbie Bracey, Peter & Maggie Marcus on Kingsbury-to mention but a few. Vince Schomehl, Jr. was a big visionary. His wife Lois said he bought his house while they were dating.

In 1969, the first Mother's Day Art Fair was held on the 61xx block of Kingsbury. It was

Blueberry Hill

Blueberry Hill is more than a bar, more than a restaurant... It's a way of life.

- St. Louis Post-Dispatch

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not a "celebration of self" as has been reported on several occasions. Rather, it was a "marketing tool"--almost a desperate measure to bring people into the neighborhood.

This was where residents from all over our neighborhood helped with the physical set-up and take-down of the snow fence for the art work and by volunteering for or being dragged onto a committee, of which there were many.

Boy Scout Troop 98 of St. Roch's needed a fund raiser and their wise guy Scoutmaster decided to host it in the Bender backyard. It featured hot dogs and Polish sausage sandwiches and Pepsi or beer. Something for every taste! The Scouts and some parents worked hard, and it prospered and lasted for the life of the fair. Interestingly, several times visitors returned the following week hoping to find the beer garden open!

A few years into the fair, Don & Sue Tepas on McPherson felt there was a need for a breakfast restaurant to accommodate early arriving artists and early rising neighbors. They recruited vast numbers of Schoemehls and other neighbors to work it.

The House Tour made its debut in 1974 and remained a part of the Art Fair until the last one in 1981. This was the extra marketing measure to introduce people to the area. Planning for the whole affair began not later than October in order to line up tour homes and to staff them with host and hostess house sitters.

In the mid to late 1970s someone had a great P.R. idea! That's how everything seemed to happen: great idea--enthusiasm--yelling "let's do it"--and then getting to work! This idea was to have a huge banner across Skinker at Waterman advertising:

MOTHER'S DAY ART FAIR / HOUSE TOUR 6100 Kingsbury May XX, 197X

This brainstorm was executed by Pat Kohn, Susie Roach, Betty Newsham and probably a few others. They used a large canvas to reach across Skinker. Bill Kohn designed the lettering and the women put out word that they needed large scraps of brightly colored material for the letters, which would be sewn on. One day, I stopped at Pat's home and there were ladies on her living and dining room floor with portable sewing machines affixing the letters to the banner. I quickly left! They completed this glorious banner and it called out to all who traveled Skinker to come to the Fair and House Tour. It was a tremendous success and a pretty classy event through the years. People came from all over and saw a neighborhood take charge of its own destiny.

I believe it was the first of its kind in the city, and it lasted until 1981. Tilless Park and other neighborhoods followed our lead and had their own art fairs and house tours. Perhaps we ran out of gas, but we felt our mission was accomplished. While we were reminiscing about those days, Suzanne remarked that, "we were lunatics." Yes, I suppose we were. But, the neighborhood was worth it!

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Times welcomes reminiscences of this kind. Please write up recollections from earlier days and send them to me at 5855 Nina. Our April issue (the actual 25th anniversary) will be chock full of them and I would like to place them in other upcoming issues as well. This neighborhood was a pioneer and is probably unique in the country in the stability within diversity it has achieved.



A view of the dining room of a Parkview home on one of the last neighborhood house tours.



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Introducing Jackie Wellington, Neighborhood Stabilization Officer

by Lana Stein

Mayor Bosley recently created Neighborhood Stabilization Officers to assist every neighborhood in the city. Neighborhood Stabilization replaces the neighborhood liaison officers and Operation ConServ.

Jackie Wellington, a resident of the Central West End, has been assigned to Skinker DeBaliviere, DeBaliviere Place, and Skinker Wydown. At one time, Wellington worked at the Community Development Agency, handling tax incentive programs. For the past 11 years, she has worked in a family-owned construction company. She is married and has two children. Her son is a freshman at Emory University and her daughter, a graduate of New City School, is now a freshman at John Burroughs.

Wellington has an office at the Ford Community Education Center. The stabilization officers are using four of these centers as offices. Her hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and she can be reached at 454-9749. Citizens with problems may also call the downtown office at 622-4628.

Wellington's primary focus will be crime prevention and neighborhood stability. She wishes to focus on public safety, housing, education, rec-

reation, neighborhood marketing, and clean-up and beautification. She will basically be a liaison between city services and residents, working in conjunction with Aldermen McGuire and Clay. She wants to see that services are provided for specific community needs. She will also try to organize neighborhood-based block units where none exist. The differences of the communities will be taken into account. In Skinker DeBaliviere, Wellington noted that there is an existing strong neighborhood organization.

Wellington is excited about her new job. She had spent two weeks in training after coming on board on Oct. 24. The training dealt with this new program, familiarized participants with city services and showed the NSO's how to access them.

Wellington is particularly urging neighbors to call here if they notice graffiti, debris, possible drug activity, derelict cars, refuse accumulating in alleys, weeds over 7 inches tall, damaged dumpsters, or to talk about problem residents. Neighbors are also welcome to stop by her Ford School office at 5599 Ridge.

A New Direction at DeBaliviere Place

In 1994, National Housing Partnerships of Washington, D.C., took over the management of 1,109 apartment units and the commercial space in DeBaliviere Place. NHP had actually been the owner of this project for some time. Its parent company is owned by the Harvard Endowment Fund and private investors. An Act of Congress established the entity in 1968 to develop housing for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

NHP now handles resident services, marketing, leasing, subsidized housing units, and maintenance for a large portion of the DeBaliviere Place area. NHP's on-site manager is Mary Ann Powell. A native of Atlanta, she had worked for NHP there. She has enjoyed her move to St. Louis. DeBaliviere Place reminds her of the Virginia-Highland area in Atlanta. She likes the convenience and the

fine restaurants nearby, such as the Tango Grill.

Powell reports that the project is now 91% occupied. NHP is taking over the space at Pershing and Bell formerly occupied by 2 Black Cats to use for offices and meeting room. Powell has been retooling the structure of many of the buildings and will address the entrances and lobbies in 1995. Apartment units are also being upgraded.

Powell also has tried to address the issue of security by starting a citizens' watch. Block captains have been identified and 3 meetings were held regarding the community watch. Each was standing room only. Powell also intends to begin a DeBaliviere Place newsletter and will do resident interviews with the many interesting people who live there. Powell is very positive about DeBaliviere Place and our neighborhood to the west.

Halloween Party, 1994



At the Rosedale Neighborhood Association Halloween Party over 30 children were entertained by the juggling of Charley Clampett and his friend. The costume prize winners were: Carlos Doriety, Joker; Elena Hayes, Witch; Luke Hellwig, Devil; L. Jackson, Doctor; D. Ross, Samurai; S. Ross, Policeman; Anne Sappington, Princess; B. Underwood, Minnie Mouse; Carsen Zarin, Thumbelina; Max Zarin, The Grim Reaper.

Rosedale Plans Holiday Party

Continuing its yearly tradition, Rosedale Neighbors will hold a holiday party on Saturday, December 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Santa Claus will be there to listen to the wishes of every boy and girl. There will also be refreshments. All children in the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood and their parents are invited to attend.

Notes from the Skinker-DeBaliviere Housing Corporation

The Housing Corporation recently sold the property at 6047 McPherson to the Martinez family. They are rehabbing the building themselves and plan to live in one of the two units. Housing Corporation member Amrit Gill noted the high quality of their workmanship.

The Housing Corporation is now engaged in a revision of Skinker DeBaliviere's housing plan. Some parts of it need updating because initial goals have already been accomplished. As part of this process, Jackie Wellington, our Neighborhood Stabilization Officer (NSO), will begin a survey of all neighborhood properties in order to update the housing condition map for Skinker DeBaliviere.

Hamilton Invites Neighborhood to Holiday Celebration

The Hamilton Elementary Community Education Center is inviting all residents of Skinker DeBaliviere to a holiday festival at the school on Tuesday, December 20, at 6 p.m. The school is at 5819 Westminster Pl. Hamilton has students from over a dozen different countries. The theme of their performance is sharing how holidays are celebrated in other lands. Each of the 24 classrooms will adopt a country and spend the month of December studying it. On December 20, they will present songs or skits about these countries. The evening will not be complete without a visit from Santa. There also will be refreshments furnished by the Parent Teacher Organization. Everyone is invited to come and see the children perform. Hamilton has been completely renovated and this will give everyone an opportunity to see how wonderful the building looks. The event is open to all and is free of charge. For more information, please call the school at 367-0552.



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Pet Talk

By Stephen A. Brammeier, DVM

A zoonotic disease has the ability to be transmitted from animals to people. Under normal health and hygienic conditions, disease transmission between pets and their owners is not a problem. However, people who have weakened or suppressed immune systems are at greater risk for acquiring diseases from their pets. HIV positive people, people undergoing chemotherapy, and people receiving organ transplants may have suppressed or depressed immune systems. Pets are important emotional support for chronically or seriously ill people; it is important for people to keep their pets as long as possible. Education about possible disease transmission between pets and immunosuppressed owners can help assure the continuation of the relationship between pet and owner.

The following guidelines are taken from a pamphlet produced by the School of Veterinary Medicine at Tuskegee University.

Pet Selection

- Select a pet whose temperament, energy level, and environmental needs match yours.
- Consider an older pet who may be safer than a young one. Avoid reptiles and monkeys.



Veterinary Care

- Have a veterinarian examine new pets and run blood and fecal tests.
- Keep your pet's vaccinations current.
- Seek veterinary care immediately for sick pets.
- Control fleas and other pests.

Pet Care

- Keep your pet clean and well groomed with toenails kept short and blunt.
- Always walk your pet on a leash. Minimize your pet's contact with other animals or their fecal droppings.
- Prevent hunting and scavenging.

- Don't allow your pet to drink from the toilet.
- Keep your pet's living and feeding areas clean.
- Assure a balanced diet by feeding only commercially prepared pet foods.
- Never feed raw meats or unpasteurized milk.

- Be sure your bird's seed is fresh.

Other Precautions

- Don't allow your pet to lick your face.
- Wash your hands after handling your pet.
- Use a litter box liner (trash bags work well). Throw away the liner and litter daily. Keep the litter box away from food areas.
- Wear rubber gloves and a face mask when cleaning the litter box, aquarium, or bird cage.
- Minimize contact with urine, blood, feces, and vaginal discharges. Clean soiled areas with a solution of one ounce bleach per quart of water. Wear rubber gloves and wash your hands after each clean-up.
- Don't allow birds to fly free in your home. You must avoid their droppings.

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board of Directors November 14, 1994 Meeting Minutes

In attendance were: Directors Ruth Johnson, Gary Hayes, Shirley Polk, Miki Merritt, Dexter Bordes, Cari Marinella, Jack Wright, Beth Bender, Joe Miller, Sara Johnson, Arline Webb; Neighborhood Stabilization Officer Jackie Wellington.

B. Bender called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

L. Stein introduced our new Neighborhood Stabilization Officer, Jackie Wellington. J. Wellington described the main focus of her office as crime prevention, working with block units, facilitating services of the area, working with the aldermen, beautification, education, housing, and public safety. She welcomes all calls and visits.

I. Review of Minutes

A. Webb moved, "That the minutes of the October Board meeting be accepted as read"; seconded by S. Polk and moved.

II. Treasurer's Report

J. Miller presented the Treasurer's Report to the Board. Discussion followed regarding some of the dollar amounts. S. Polk moved, "That acceptance of the Treasurer's Report be postponed until clarification was made"; seconded by G. Hayes and moved.

III. Committee/Association Reports

Commercial Planning - No report.

5700 DeGiverville - It was reported that the 50/50 grant has been utilized by residents to repair sidewalks.

Kingsbury - Kingsbury Square was commended for Adopt-A-Park participation and will appear on Channel 16 in mid-November. Construction has resumed on new housing. Bi-State is considering building a sound wall.

Parkview - It was reported that the gates were favorably received by residents. Also, a new security company will be patrolling the neighborhood.

Rosedale - J. Miller reported that the Halloween Party was very successful with 20 to 30 children in attendance. Approximately 70 to 100 people are expected to attend the happy hour on November 16 at Lyrics Jazz Club. This year's Saturday with Santa will be held on December 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at SDCC.

Housing Corporation - A letter received from CDA states that we will receive full funding in 1995 but 1996 funding will be distributed based on a performance review. Presently looking for more information in order to determine what steps need to be taken. The newly landscaped lot at 519-521 Des Peres will be corrected to allow water to drain properly.

Recreation - Presently looking for a basketball coach; anyone interested should call 862-5122.

Youth Cycles - B. Bender reported that Youth Cycles is working with Hamilton Community School. Selling bicycles to Washington University students is being considered in order to raise money.

Social Services - B. Bender reported that SLU students are still in the process of weatherizing senior citizens' homes for the winter. A food drive will be held on Saturday, December 3. Notices will be sent out to block captains one week prior. Volunteers are needed to help collect food; meet at SDCC Saturday at 9 a.m.

Community Fund - J. Miller presented the final bingo report. Thank you to Mary Brown for doing all the bookkeeping for bingo.



MLK Commemoration - J. Wright reported that the MLK Commemoration will be held January 15 from 3 to 5 p.m. at Grace and Peace Church.

Fundraising - B. Bender reported that letters have been sent to every "Friends of" contributor who should receive a membership card and a listing of merchants who will offer discounts.

By-Laws - B. Bender reported that a meeting scheduled two weeks ago was canceled.

Employment - B. Bender reported that the committee will be looking at various issues to create a personnel policy, such as disability, maternity, sick leave, education, etc. Sample personnel policies from various organizations in the area are being collected to help with the process. A formal review procedure of the policy needs to be finalized.

By-Laws - Nominations for officers of the Board of Directors will be taken in December and the elections will be held in January 1995.

NEW BUSINESS

Code of Fair Campaign Practices - Confluence St. Louis asked for an endorsement for fair campaign practices, designed to decrease racial polarization in the political arena. R. Johnson moved, "That SDCC endorse the Code of Fair Campaign Practices"; seconded by J. Miller and moved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

In Your Ear

by Hawkeye P. Hoerr

Dear Uncle Zeke,

I am sorry that I haven't written for a while. I hope that you're out of solitary confinement. Remember, the screws are lifers too; just ignore 'em! You're due for a parole hearing in the next couple of months, and you don't want to jeopardize your chances by doing something stupid. I bet now you regret using the kool-aid powder to make your teeth blue for the last hearing. Sure, it was funny, but who got the last laugh? You're still in!

It's been busy here. Keeping up with the OJ Trial, alone, takes time each day. And I'm spending an hour or two on e-mail daily (TRHoerr@AOL.COM) chatting with folks I hope never to meet. Then there's the time that I'm spending training my dogs' pets. That's right, my dogs' pets, the pets that belong to my two dogs. I'm not sure whether or not I wrote about this earlier, but the first wife and I decided to that we would get into the flea-training business. You see, the dogs, Moxie and Boomer, have fleas again this year. Having fleas is sort of a summer/fall ritual in St. Louis, like complaining about the humidity and being disappointed with the Cardinals. Regardless of how often we bathe the pooches in flea soap, clip them, or use vaseline and tweezers to catch the fleas, they keep their pets.

"So why not train 'em?" we thought! I mean, how difficult can it be to get these little fleas to jump through hoops and pull tiny wagons? We're not talking about solving quadratic equations or performing in a marching band here! This is not Rocket Science.

Given the number of fleas on the doggos, collecting them, unfortunately, was pretty easy. It was easy as shooting fish in a barrel or identifying fools at a Republican National Convention. We just picked the buggers-fleas, not Republicans-off the dogs and stored them in an old pill bottle.

Training the fleas, on the other hand, was much tougher than I expected. Fleas must not have ears because they couldn't hear me telling them what to do. I mean, they just hopped everywhere! Assertive discipline didn't work at all; neither did using the MegaSkills.

I was able to get one little fella, I named him Napoleon, to balance on a toothpick. Actually, he did it twice and then I lost him. Heaven knows where he's balancing now, but there's a mysterious itch in my beard!

Three fleas did show some potential. At least they haven't escaped to a flea resort somewhere in the house. To help develop rapport with them, we've named them Dorner, Blitzen, and Ralphie. It's not the easiest of tasks, Zeke, but I figure that this has the potential to be a great show for local cable TV company. Already the team and I are more interesting than anything on HBO or the Family Network; Home Shopping Channel, on the other hand, would be much tougher competition.

But enough of me, Uncle Zeke, I hope that you're holding out OK. The wife and I loved the last photo of you, really of your newly tattooed back. No, you're right, I wouldn't have recognized you. Heck, your skin is just like a mural with all those tattoos. I can see why the other prisoners call you "Sisline!" And it's remarkable the way that they could re-make the old tattoo of your ex-wife. For a minute or two I thought it was an original drawing of Flicka, but then I recognized that the eyes belonged to Babs. Your ex-wife always was a nay-sayer. (Get it, Zeke?)

Here's the big news... The first wife has been approached by Zephyr Press about doing a coffee table gift book for the '95 holiday season! Yes, we're pretty excited. It's always gratifying when someone you know has their interests, expertise, and talents recognized. She's worked hard for years, and deserves this. It's only in the first draft stage, but the working title is *SHOES I HAVE KNOWN AND LOVED*.

How this came to be is an interesting tale in itself. Apparently representatives from Zephyr Press went to Ireland and talked to some shoe factory executives (you may remember that we visited the shoe factories there a couple of years ago). The Zephyr people already had the topic for the book but were looking for someone, a collector of note, to take the lead in organizing and writing it. They told us that every shoe executive they met, a dozen or so, gave them two or three names, but that Karleen was the only person who was named by each and every one of them. That's no small feat! (Get it, Zeke?)

Thus far the first wife has spent her time conceptually,

focusing on creating categories for the book. Some time in the next few months they'll send someone to come by for the actual photographs. She's far from finished, but the initial categories center around: season; lace, slip-on, tie, or Velcro; country of origin; nickname; family lineage, and color. Fortunately, the first wife has all 300+ pairs of her shoes recorded on 3X5 cards and listed by name and other variables, so this isn't as daunting a task as it might sound.

I will try to send you some newspaper clippings and cookies. I'd like to write longer, but I have to go now. My good friend Judge Ito is about to make a pronouncement about the use of electronic devices in the hallways.

Best,
Hawkeye

Did you find our little envelope in this issue of *The Times*? Every year we insert a remittance envelope for those of you who want to help us in our efforts for the neighborhood. Whatever you can spare will be greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged in print.

Thanks
in advance!



The Times Staff

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