

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 26 No. 6

November 1995

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis



DELMAR PLATFORM

One of the design sketches produced by the Urban Land Institute, showing a proposed terrace cafe near the Delmar Metrolink facility and the historic Wabash building.

NEIGHBORHOOD RESPONDS TO PAWN SHOP PROPOSAL

by Jo Ann Vatcha

Cash America has applied for permits to open a new pawn shop in a new addition to the car detailing shop which remains at the rear of the former Wabash Triangle Cafe at 6153 Delmar. The restaurant building was destroyed by fire some months ago. The submission of this new pawn shop application has raised numerous questions about applicable provisions of the Delmar Redevelopment Plan, as well as other city ordinances and agencies which might affect such development.

History of Pawn Shop Proposal

Cash America, a national chain of pawn shops, recently purchased Pawnmasters, located at 5980 Delmar at DeGiverville. Pawnmasters itself was granted a city license prior to the adoption of the Delmar Redevelopment Plan; therefore, it is an existing use and, as such, can be purchased and operated unaffected by the redevelopment plan use restrictions which are applicable only to new uses of property on Delmar.

However, in order to obtain a pawnbrokers' license:

- An applicant must provide a neighborhood consent petition.

- In addition, City Ordinance limits the number of pawnbroker licenses permitted in the City of St. Louis to 15, which is the current number in existence.
- No pawnbroker is allowed to have more than one place for businesses unless he also has a separate license for each place of business.

Therefore, it would appear that there could be no new pawnshop license issued to Cash America. There is, however, one dissenting opinion, that of the License Collector's Office. In response to inquiry from Alderman Dan McGuire, License Collector Tom Nash has said that, in his opinion, the Ordinance does not preclude the transfer of the License from one entity to another nor from one location to another, subject to zoning, as long as the neighborhood consent petition provision is met.

A petition must be signed by a majority of the persons occupying premises or conducting business on the main surface floor of buildings within a 500 foot radius plus one half of the width of the front of the premises, from the center of such premises projected

to the streets. Moreover, a pawnshop cannot be located less than 500 feet from the nearest point of an elementary school without their written consent.

Licenses Not Transferable--Except by License Collector

A separate license is required for each name under which a person acts or engages in business. No transfers or assignments of license are valid unless approved and countersigned by the License Collector.

Delmar Redevelopment Plan

The Delmar Redevelopment Plan, which passed into ordinance last May, 1994, includes the following language regarding Use Restrictions:

Redevelopers ... and any other person or entity seeking an occupancy permit for a new use after the effective date of approval of this Plan by ordinance shall not be permitted to use said property for the following:

pawn shops, adult bookstores, x-rated movie houses, massage establishments, auto and truck dealers (new or used), auto and truck repair shops, motor fuel pumping stations, car lubrication facilities, car wash and detailing

continued on page 7

Darlene Green Becomes City Controller

by Lana Stein

On October 30, 1995, Darlene Green took the oath of office as St. Louis' Comptroller, replacing Virvus Jones who resigned. Green had been the city's budget director. She purchased a home in our neighborhood on 59xx DeGiverville in 1989 and has been involved with many block unit activities.

She is a native St. Louisian and first lived in Pruitt-Igoe before moving to the 3rd ward on the north side of the city. She is a graduate of Vashon High School and Washington University where she received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. She then worked for the state of Missouri and Columbia College. On returning to St. Louis she worked as accountant and then Finance Manager of the Circuit Court.

Green's quiet personableness does not fully hide her strong determination to do well in her new position. Appointed now by Mayor Bosley, she will have to seek election to Jones' expired term in 1996. Ald. James Shrewsbury has already announced that he will enter the race. Green is the second woman and first black woman to serve on the city's powerful Board of Estimate and Apportionment.



Celebrating 25 Years of Service to Skinker DeBaliviere

News Briefs

FOREST PARK PLAN

The city's urban design director, John Hoal, met with residents of Skinker DeBaliviere on Oct. 13 and learned of their dissatisfaction with the diminution of access to the park for our neighborhood if the present plan is adopted. Some golfers present objected strenuously to the redesign of the golf course and especially to the installation of a driving range and putting green. The final plan is supposed to be unveiled in December. If you have comments or questions about any part of the plan, you may write to Laura Cohen, Office of the Mayor, Rm. 200 City Hall, St. Louis 63103.

FIRE AT JASMINE'S

Shirley Stanford opened a youth center called Jasmine's on Delmar at DesPeres (site of the old BiRite) last spring. Following a dispute with her landlord who apparently failed to make repairs required by her lease and a judgment in her favor, there was a fire at the building causing considerable interior damage. The fire was ruled to be arson. There are no plans known at this writing for the building or the center.

HARDEE'S?

After denial of their request for a conditional use permit to open a facility on Skinker just north of the Shell station, Hardee's has made no effort to appeal.

BASEBALL TEAM FETED

Recreation Chair Arthelda Busch arranged with the Hamilton Elementary Community Education Center to fete our neighborhood's winning softball team prior to a meeting of the Hamilton Council. Each member of the team received a trophy and heartiest congratulations. Busch is currently working on getting a basketball team going if space is made available at Hamilton.

CHRISTOPHER'S BARBER SHOP MOVES AND EXPANDS

Congressman William L. Clay Sr.'s district office moved from its longtime location at Skinker and Delmar to a facility at Union and Delmar. Christopher's Barber Shop, long a tenant on Delmar, moved over a few doors to occupy the space formerly used by the congressional office and expanded their operation.

NINA PLACE

Dean Burns of Westminster Builders will no longer develop condominiums along Nina Place. He has been replaced as developer of 5885 Nina, partially completed, by Gary Bierman, who successfully redeveloped the building on 6000 Westminster, featured in the Times early this year.

CALENDAR



Neighborhood Meetings and Events

- 11/6 Mayor's Town Hall Meeting, New City School, 5209 Waterman, 8 p.m.
- 11/11-12 Christmas Bazaar at St. Roch
- 11/13 SDCC Board of Directors, SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:30 p.m.
- 11/14 Neighborhood-Wide Pawnshop Meeting, New Cote Brillante Church, 6195 Washington, 7 p.m.
- 11/20 Apartment Owners Meeting, SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, 7 p.m.
- 11/22 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation, 12 Noon

Other Nearby Events of Interest

- now-12/10 Native American Art from St. Louis Collections in Gallery 100 of the St. Louis Art Museum.
- 11/3-12/31 "Transcending the Past: Japanese-Style Painting, 1868-1968," a special exhibition at the Saint Louis Art Museum. Features the works of 61 artists from private and public collections primarily on silk and paper. Most of the works have never been seen in the U.S.
- 11/3-19 The New Theatre presents David Mamet's "Speed-the-Plow," with Peter Mayer and Wayne Salomon and Angie Ohren. At the International Arts Complex at 15th and Washington. Call 531-8330 for more information.
- 11/11 3rd Annual Trivia Night to benefit Archway Communities. At 5200 Shrewsbury, 7pm. Teams of up to eight. Complimentary soda and cash bar and O.T. Hodge Chili. \$15 per person to play. Contact Archway at 5652 Pershing.
- 11/18 Synchronia's Decidedly American New-Veau Party at West End Wines at 7:30pm. \$20 admission includes music, food, and drink. Works by Kim Apicella and Jimmy Whitecotton will be on display in the "Little Gallery." This is the weekend the nouveau wines become available at tastings there.
- 12/8 28th Ward Regular Democratic Club Christmas Party! All ward residents are welcome. 6pm at Victoria's Kitchen at 245 Union between Pershing and Lindell. Call Committee-woman Rose Storey at 727-1727 or 622-4720 for details.

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 on 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 or on high density Macintosh diskettes. Submissions on diskette 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 Nina 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.

Neighborhood Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 1995

7:00 p.m.

New Cote Brillante Church
6195 Washington (at Skinker)

- Update on Pawnshop Proposal
- Urban Land Institute recommendations
- Your opinions and input are invited.

Community Education Center News

by Mary Schmit

Eldertel-Did you see the recent picture of Mrs. Elizabeth Blanchard in the Post-Dispatch? Bravo to her for sharing her 84 years of experience with young Hamilton students! Participants in Eldertel sing songs, share experiences, and form friendships with students. Mrs. Blanchard's daughter, Ruth Johnson, is a member of the Hamilton Council and serves as Secretary of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council.

The Rev. Robert K. V. Buckner, Sr., of University City, will be bringing the At Risk Prevention

program for teens to Hamilton. Two times a week from 4 to 5 pm there will be training sessions that focus on Conflict Resolution, truancy, and peer pressure.

Counseling will be offered to area teens under the auspices of the St. Louis City Family Court Delinquency Prevention Program. This will include counseling to those 14 and under who have already been involved in truancy and delinquency referrals.

Please call Avis May at 367-6996 for more information about these programs.

Angela Turner: Skinker DeBaliviere's New Associate Circuit Judge

by Lana Stein

Angela Turner, resident of the Nina Place condominiums, is a woman of determination and perseverance. Long hard work paid off for her when she was named by Governor Mel Carnahan to be an Associate Circuit Judge for the 22nd Judicial Circuit.

Turner was born in Miami and moved with her family to St. Louis in 1972 when her father was transferred here. The family lived in Hazelwood and she originally attended Hazelwood West Senior High. She completed the 12th grade at Florissant Valley Community College and received an Associate of Arts degree there in 1979. She took pre-law courses. She had wanted to be a lawyer since the age of 12. She then went to the University of Missouri-Columbia where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a minor in business administration. She then attended St. Louis University Law School and graduated in 1984.

Turner initially worked at the Missouri Department of Revenue as a trial de nova attorney. She deal with driver's license suspensions and revocations, DWIs, and appeals. This position was not as challenging as she wanted. She really wanted to be in the courtroom, doing a lot of trial work. She then went to work at the Missouri Public Service Commission in Jefferson City. She did utility regulation for little over a year but did not enjoy living in Jefferson City.

She returned to St. Louis and began working at the Circuit Attorney's office. She was a prosecutor there from 1985 to 1991. She gained a lot of trial experience and handled everything from misdemeanors to murder. She enjoyed it immensely. In the summer of 1991 she put in an application for a judicial appointment. The Chief Judge of the Missouri Court of Appeals told her that she had excellent criminal experience but needed civil experience. She then went to work for the St. Louis city counselor's office until 1994. She did civil litigation, prisoners rights, personal injury, and cases for the Board of Police Commissioners. A friend from the Circuit Attorney's office now working for the U.S. Attorney asked if she would like a job



there. She became an assistant U.S. attorney until she received a call from the governor on February 28, 1995. She was sworn in on March 31.

From March of 1991 until she was selected, she applied 8 or 9 times for judgeships. She continually took jobs that would enhance her qualifications for sitting on the bench. Turner said that she had "no deferred dreams in her life. If I had a dream, I went for it."

Turner is presently assigned to Division 26 Criminal for mis-

demeanors and traffic cases. She handles dockets every morning, between 100 and 300 cases per day. In the afternoon, she officiates at trials of crimes such as stealing, assault, or sexual misconduct. She loves this new job and says there is never a dull moment in her courtroom. In fact, she would like to be elevated to the circuit bench. She sat in for Judge Michael David for two weeks while he was on vacation. She took pleas on robberies and tried a murder.

In her spare time, Turner spends many hours working with youth. She said, "It doesn't matter what environment you come from. You can set goals and do them." She often explains the judicial system, emphasizing the positive part of it. Recently, she was a grand marshal at the Annie Malone Home parade. She liked the bystanders who shouted encouraging words.

Turner became a resident of the City of St. Louis in 1981 when she was attending law school. She lived in the old Del Coronado. When she returned from living in Jefferson City, she wanted to be in the city again. She bought her condominium in June of 1990 and was glad to be in the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood. "Here there are residents and homemakers who care about their property and the police protection is good. The aldermen and representatives care." She used to fear city living and had lived in the county. "Now you couldn't pay me to go back." We'll certainly be hearing more things about Angela Turner in the years to come.

Crossroads School Holds Open House

Crossroads School, located at 500 DeBaliviere, will open its doors to prospective families on Tuesday, November 14, from 7:00 - 9:00pm. Crossroads is an independent, college preparatory school for students in grades 7-12. The school has a rich history of cultural diversity, a student/teacher ratio of 8:1, and offers financial assistance. Interested families should call the school to RSVP for the open house by November 10th at 367-8085.

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Halloween Costume Contest Winners

Rosedale Neighborhood Association held its 28th Annual Halloween Party on the traditional date. More than 40 children were entertained by "Circus Lady." She brought two dogs that performed tricks. She then invited children from the audience to participate in the show. All the children had a great time. The winners of the costume contest were

Stewart Abrams as Batman; Davis Camp, a king; Emily Class, a bee; Elena Joyce-Hayes, an Egyptian princess; Anthony King, a warlock; Janetta Nelson, a ballerina; Stephanie Schiller, a cat; JoJo Stansfield, a ninja; Brittany Underwood, a Spanish dancer; Paul, Sam and Nathan Wheeler, Mexican banditos.

Entertainment was by "Everyday Circus." The committee which made this event possible included Art Santen, Mark Livingston, the judge, Scott Santen and Art Buell, crossing guards.

From the Desk of the SDCC Executive Director

by Laure Porterfield

It seems just a short time ago that I came on board as the Executive Director of Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. Measured by the calendar, however, it is now well over three months. Measured in terms of the wonderful people with whom I have had the opportunity to meet, to become reacquainted with, or to grow closer in friendship, it has been a very long time indeed.

To those of you who have taken time to stop by the office, to phone to learn how things are going along, or to share your vision for the neighborhood, many thanks. You have willingly given of your time, wisdom, and energy to help me through so many "firsts" . . . the list is far too long to include on these pages, but you know who you are and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

The next three months will be the test for us; knowing that fundraising goals will be more challenging in 1996 (our funding sources are shrinking) and that the challenges we face are enormous, I call on each of you who has an interest in the neighborhood, in a particular activity or project, to speak up and to sign up to help make your dream a reality.

The fabric of a neighborhood is a delicate thing. If one block of Skinker DeBaliviere suddenly finds itself fighting a battle against an absentee landlord, a property that is sheltering drug activity, or simply a group of youth who have no place to go after school and no adult helping them to find the right way, all of us are impacted. Each block continues to need regular communication and constant vigilance. Veterans of Skinker DeBaliviere learned long ago that we are our brothers' keepers; newcomers need to take heed.

Even though MOST of our homes have been rehabilitated far past minimum standards, we must continue to maintain a watch that codes are enforced, appropriate permits are obtained, and that those who need help can be directed where to find it . . . or have it provided.

Ultimately, we as homeowners or tenants have to walk past the weeds or trash or tree branches that we did not put there. Perhaps the best thing we can do for our neighborhood is PICK IT UP. Our extra effort to care for the neighborhood, to plant the flowers and tend the weeds in public areas, is the "added value," the intangible difference, that makes Skinker DeBaliviere the special place that it has become . . . through the hard work of our neighbors and friends. Let's not lose that.

The fabric of a neighborhood, the fabric of a community, is a delicate thing. Let's not forget that we all have a share in maintaining Skinker DeBaliviere's textures, its colors, its strengths.

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Mark Jackson Graduates from UMSL with Honors

Mark Jackson, 23, who resides on 60xx Washington, with his parents, Dorothy and James is graduating from the University of Missouri-St. Louis in January with a number of honors. He will receive a bachelor's degree in communications with a minor in public affairs journalism and a writing certificate. He has an A- average and has earned a number of honors include a Press Club of Metropolitan St. Louis Scholarship, selection to Golden Key Honor Society, and a recipient of an Outstanding Academic Achievement Award. He has been on the Dean's List four times and also received a George Dewey Ross Scholarship for Academic Achievement.

Mark began his education at Delmar Baptist Church in the Head Start Program. He went on to Rce Elementary School, Dewey Middle School, and Parkway West High.

Although Mark's educational pursuits consume much of his time, he does find time for other activities. He is actively involved in his church, Calvary Missionary Baptist, on Martin Luther King Dr. where Rev. Ronal C. Bridewell is pastor. Mark is a member of the



Christian Outreach Planning Committee, president of the Youth Fellowship and assistant supervisor of the Junior Ushers.

Mark currently works as a writing intern at A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. He has also worked as a freelance writer for the suburban journals.



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The Storeys Explore Eastern Europe

by Lana Stein

One of George and Rosemarie Storey's eight children, daughter Susan, is an expert in finance. She presently is working under the auspices of the U.S. Agency for International Development as an advisor to the government of the Czech Republic. She is helping them to privatize government-owned businesses. This past July George and Rose journeyed there. It was a fascinating visit which included trips to the countryside and to what we used to call East Berlin.

The Storeys were interested in everything they saw. The building where Susan has her office in Prague has a very old-fashioned elevator that travels around and around instead of up and down. You have to hop on quickly when it comes by your floor. There are no doors on this contraption. After one trip on it, Rose reverted to the stairs.

Prague, of course, is a very old city. Many of the structures had not been updated under communist rule. The Russian embassy was gorgeous. Both Rose and George were struck by the fact that there were no street people. No one was allowed to beg. Everyone had a job. Prague has an excellent rail system and a breathtaking museum with artifacts from previous centuries and even skeletons. Today, WalMart is the biggest store in Prague. Many of the city's residents live in high rise buildings. The city is not spread out like American com-

munities. Rose noted that people still seemed afraid of the government. They begin lining up at 7:00am outside government buildings when they have business to transact there.

The Storeys visited the very famous Infant of Prague, a shrine at a church. It is a statue of baby Jesus, put there by a Spanish princess who married a Czech. The statute is always clothed in beautiful cloaks. The infant is glass-encased. But, the steps were crumbling in the front of the church and the door was in disrepair. And, the church was dusty and dirty. Rose bought copies of the statute on a nearby street to take back to friends in St. Louis who had wanted a copy of this famous infant. A couple of months ago, she learned that a priest from that church would be saying mass at the Old Cathedral. He was trying to raise money to restore the church. She went there and had her copies blessed and sent a donation for the restoration.

They stayed in a very modern hotel in Prague with all the western accoutrements. A Jewish convention was being held at the hotel while they were there. One morning there was a bomb threat and everyone had to vacate for awhile while the premises were checked. Their daughter remarked that there was still a great deal of anti-Semitism there.

The Storeys went to the town of Budjar where the other

"Budweiser" is made. George said it was a good beer; in fact, there were no bad beers during this trip.

They visited an old village in the hills--Cesky Krumlov. It had very narrow streets and a castle complete with live bears.

Susan took her parents to Berlin for 5 days. They stayed in the eastern sector very close to what had been Checkpoint Charlie. They were able to see Christo's famous wrapping of the Reichstag. In a park near the Brandenburg Gate, they heard wonderful music. Going to Berlin from Prague was like going from 1940 to the present time. Everyone was walking, riding bikes, or using busses. There was far less travel by private auto. They found out that there is \$20 billion in construction going on in east Berlin which will be completed in a few years. The city is full of cranes.

They were in Berlin at the time of a Love Fest in which 300,000 youth took part. This was to celebrate the wall coming down. They saw quite a few "hippies" (punk?) with green and purple hair and lots of leather miniskirts. They also went to Spandau where Rudolph Hess was kept imprisoned for decades. There was a wonderful microbrewery there down in a cave. It was the only place they found cold beer. It clearly was a trip not soon to be forgotten.

Vicissitudes

Sarah Stuart, Cal and Gee's oldest, married Brian Earl on October 21. Her father walked her down the aisle and then officiated at the service. Sarah and Brian will live in the Great Northwest where she is a ceramic engineer and he is an attorney.

Congratulations to neighbor banker Kathleen Hamilton who received her Masters in Business Administration from Fontbonne College last month.

Marvin Nodiff of 61xx Westminster was inducted into the Charter Class of the College of Community Association Lawyers by the Community Associations Institute (CAI) at CAI's 37th National Conference. Nodiff was selected for membership by a six-person Board of Governors. The Board made its selections based on the candidate's published writings, teaching, and speaking in the field of community association law and community and public service leadership relating to consumer education and professional development. CAI represents the residential community association industry including condominium and homeowner associations and cooperatives.

Happy Thanksgiving
from the Staff of *The Times*



Pet Talk

by Stephen A. Brammeier,
D.V.M.

Unfortunately, the last two weeks have brought five dogs into the hospital because of being hit by a car. Three of them did not survive; one spent several days in intensive care after being stabilized and then transferred to a surgical referral practice; the last was the most fortunate, even though he did suffer a small fracture of the elbow. Types of cases tend to come in groups, as I think I have mentioned in other articles, but it is rare for us to see so many dogs hit by cars. I originally thought that being an urban practice would mean frequent hit-by-car cases, but that has not proved to be the case. I'm glad.

Obviously the best precaution is to keep your dog on a leash at all times, and keep your cat indoors, or on a leash. But for whatever reasons, pets and cars do meet up and I've yet to see the pet that comes out on the good side of such an encounter. If your pet is injured by being hit remember that whatever you do to try and help--be careful. A frightened pet in severe pain will bite. If your dog is unable, or unwilling, to walk, find a rope, or strip of cloth to tie their mouth shut before you attempt to move them. A towel thrown around a cat will give some protection.

It is always advisable to have an injured pet examined by your

veterinarian. Sometimes, the pets with the fewest external wounds are actually the most seriously injured. When a pet is in shock, they are very quiet, their body temperature drops, the oral mucous membranes are pale, and the breathing may be either too fast, or too slow. Even if their injuries are not fatal, they are in danger of dying from the shock. They need immediate treatment. All injured pets do not go into shock right away, initially they may seem okay, but given time, their injuries may have more serious effects. Therefore, even if a pet appears okay, they should see their veterinarian who will help decide the best course of treatment.

Luckily, we now have four emergency facilities in the St. Louis area: Kirkwood, Bridgeton, St. Charles, and Collinsville. Three of the four are only 20 minutes from our area, especially at off peak traffic times. Given the appropriate treatment, and careful observation most pets can survive being hit by a car. But why take that chance. Unless a dog is expertly trained to come immediately when called, no matter what, I would not walk them off lead in any, except the most rural settings. Cats love to be outdoors, but I would only allow them out with supervision.

SDCC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes October 9, 1995

In attendance: Directors Ruth Johnson, Jack Wright, Lana Stein, Julie Schoemehl, Beth Bender, Gary Hayes, Gregory Freeman, Maggie Hart-Mahon, Ann Smith Carr, Joe deBettencourt, Sara Johnson; NSO Jacqueline Wellington; Recreation Chair Arthelda Busch; Alderman Daniel J. McGuire; SDCC Executive Director Laure Porterfield.

Reported absences: Arline Webb, Aaron Johnson, Miki Merritt, Shirley Polk.

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by President Beth Bender at 7:29 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

Gregory Freeman moved to accept the September minutes with one correction; seconded by Jack Wright and approved.

III. Update on By-laws

Ann Smith Carr walked the Board through all changes previously discussed. Typographical errors, corrections, and other changes were made. Ann also recommended that we have a follow-up meeting and create some guidelines for the standing committees.

Gary Hayes moved for the adoption of the new by-laws as submitted and with the suggested changes; seconded by Gregory Freeman. Passed by a majority vote with one abstention.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Maggie Hart-Mahon presented the Treasurer's Report for September. CDA funding for the remainder of the year was discussed. Gregory Freeman moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Ann Smith Carr and passed.

V. Executive Director's Report

Laure Porterfield discussed the need to be able to undergo an A133 audit by the end of 1995 because of the Heinz grant received this year. Still waiting on completion of financial statements for 1994. The services of French McGowen, at a cost of \$500, were recommended. They have given us free services and assistance in completing our 990 for this year. Copies of an agreement document with French McGowen were distributed. It was moved by Maggie Hart-Mahon that we engage French McGowen to provide the financial services as outlined in the letter distributed at a cost of \$500; seconded by Lana Stein and approved unanimously.

VI. Crime Update

Sgt. Dave Habermaas and NSO Jackie Wellington reported that overall, crime is down since last year, but larceny has increased. Board members reported on graffiti, cars broken into, many of these crimes occurring during the day. In response to a question of residents being informed of paroled offenders in the neighborhood, Sgt. Habermaas informed the group that there is a law regarding informing residents of sex offenders only. All neighbors asked to be observant and report anything unusual.

Lana Stein suggested publishing the article "Street Smart" in The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere.

VII. Committee Reports

Apartment Owners Association - A request was made by the AOA that a student from Washington University serve on the SDCC Board of Directors in a non-voting capacity to help dis-

seminate information to other students. Sara Johnson provided additional information about such a need. Ann Smith Carr moved that Sara Johnson work with Washington University in providing a liaison to the SDCC Board; seconded by Ruth Johnson and approved. Further discussion addressed a complaint of loud music coming from cars; report any such incidents to the police.

Commercial Planning - Lana Stein reported that The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere will have a photo essay on new businesses in the neighborhood. The legal time for Hardee's Restaurant to appeal the earlier decision has passed. Arson is suspected in the recent fire at Jasmine's on the 6000 block of Delmar. Arthelda Busch reported that the residents of the 6000 block of Washington are concerned about youth congregating in the area now that Jasmine's is gone. Hamilton Community Education Center's gymnasium was suggested as a possible solution; however, time and space are hard to obtain in the gym.

Kingsbury Place - Pedestrian gates on Laurel are locked as of October 1.

Parkview - The residents of Parkview are opposed to locking the gates. An alternate plan of closing the streets at night is proposed.

Rosedale - The Rags to Riches committee has yet to meet in order to put together a final report on the event.

Recreation - Special thanks to Lana Stein for publicity regarding the baseball team; they won first place this year. A celebration

will be held on Tuesday, October 17, 6:30 p.m., at Hamilton Community Education Center. Would like to start basketball soon. Pastor Merritt offered use of the gym at New Cote Brillante for basketball if the floor is ready.

VIII. Other Business

Forest Park Update - Members were asked to attend a meeting at City Hall on Tuesday, October 10, at 5:30 p.m. concerning the golf course of Forest Park. There will be another meeting at SDCC on Wednesday, October 11, at 8:15 p.m.

CBDO Status - Has been approved by CDA for 1996. Budget reduction of \$2000.

Miscellaneous - If you have noticed drilling on Skinker, the Metropolitan Sewer District is planning a tunnel, according to Alderman McGuire. Alderman McGuire also discussed a proposal to make the Sinclair Station lot on Skinker into a parking lot for nearby apartments.

There being no further business, Lana Stein moved for adjournment, seconded by Gregory Freeman and approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

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Activities at Hamilton

by Betsy King

The students and teachers at Hamilton Community Education Center have been venturing into the community and beyond. In the past few weeks, several classes have had the opportunity to attend performances at Bob Kramer's Marionette Theater at 4143 Laclede. It was a great way to experience literature in a medium outside of the classroom. A few classes used this event to introduce puppet making into the literature used in their curriculum.

The preschool visited Thies Farm, where they went on a Halloween hayride and picked pumpkins. Beyond the St. Louis area, Hamilton students have gone apple picking at Eckert's Orchard in Grafton, Illinois, explored the burial sites at Cahokia Mounds, and visited Rombach's Pumpkin Patch in Grover MO. "This is kind of like science, isn't it?" asked second grader Deborah Hill on the return trip from Eckert's Orchard.

Back at school, efforts are being made to bring the community into Hamilton. On October 11, Hamilton E.C.E.C. hosted the "Careers on Wheels" program. Students had the opportunity to speak to professionals from a number of careers "on wheels" and got a close up view of the vehicles and responsibilities that these jobs require. There was a fire truck, a vehicle from the St. Louis Department of Forestry, an emergency medical service van, a Channel 4 television mobile unit, a postal service truck, a mobile refueling unit, a police car, and a building wrecker. In addition to giving hands-on demonstrations, the professionals emphasized that in order for students to achieve their career goals, they must stay in school, respect their teachers, and make learning a priority. Later, in the classrooms, the intermediate students wrote about and primary students depicted

their favorite career on wheels, as well as the career that they might like to pursue someday.

Hamilton's English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher, Melanie Clampett, and here assistant, Robin Notice, were interviewed on the Channel 4 Ten O'Clock News segment, "Focus on Learning" on Oct. 19. Also interviewed were third graders Ethiopian Fasil Gesir and Vuong Luong, from Viet Nam. There are 65 ESL students at Hamilton.

Fourth grade teacher Cathy Ehlers participated in the 24th Annual St. Louis Marathon on Oct. 15. She was one of 180 women who took part in this 26-mile run. She prepared for this event by running 40-45 miles a week in the preceding 3 months.

On October 25, Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. attended Hamilton's "Be There" program, which honors students with perfect attendance.

After School Program at Hamilton

The Hamilton Elementary Community Education Center is offering an after-school program and homework helper for students in elementary and middle school. There will be tutoring and arts and crafts activities. Children will be able to spend after-school hours completing homework assignments. There will be a classroom setting staffed by certified teachers. At least 1/2 hour each day will be spent on completing homework. This after-school program will take place Monday-Thursday from 4-6pm.

There is also a Fun Center Club on Wednesdays from 4:30-6:30pm sponsored by Washington University's Campus YMCA. There are multicultural games, field trips, and other activities. Call 367-6996 for information.

continued from page 1

facilities, storefront churches, pinball and video arcades, pool halls, second hand junk shops, tattoo parlors, truck or other equipment rentals requiring outside storage, for-profit commercial blood donor facilities, free-standing package liquor stores, establishments selling alcoholic beverages by the glass which do not have a restaurant license in addition to a liquor license, check cashing centers, restaurants with no indoor table service which are strictly drive-through or carry-out, and open storage yards.

The first restricted use is pawn shops. With the inclusion of pawn shops in the list, as with so many others on the list, the Commercial Committee consulted with many groups and individuals in the neighborhood over a three-year period in which the Commercial Committee wrote the Redevelopment Plan and gained the support of Aldermen McGuire and Clay.

Why did the Redevelopment Plan Oppose Pawnshops?

- A survey of Merchants conducted by Washington University researcher Debra Smith in 1992 was designed to "understand from the merchants' perspective what they perceive as being types of businesses that could be detrimental to the revitalization of the District and therefore should be discouraged from being located on the District". In this survey, among "types of businesses to be discouraged from locating in the District", the businesses most mentioned were: alcohol related and pawn shops.
- A survey of Residents found "respondents who felt there were types of businesses that would be detrimental to future physical improvements." The most frequently mentioned were: alcohol related and pawn shops.
- For the past four years, as we researched and wrote the Redevelopment Plan, there have been several articles in *The Times*—and a great deal of response to these articles. There was lots of public debate and agonizing about the restricted uses, including the discouragement of fast-food restaurants without table service, and package liquor stores. There was agreement throughout the neighborhood that pawn shops were to be discouraged. Therefore, this was included in the list of Restricted Uses.

Can a Restricted Use Still Happen?

Why and how would a Restricted Use get approved? There is an appeal process, in the language of the Redevelopment Plan:

...no land use specifically prohibited by Section B.2 of this plan shall be modified except by successful appeal to the St. Louis Board of Adjustment in the same manner as is provided in Chapter 26.84 Revised Code of the City.

As stated in the Redevelopment Plan and Ordinance, "No building, occupancy, conditional use, or sign permits shall be issued by the City of St. Louis without the prior written approval of the LCRA or the PIEA. *The Times* has learned that, upon application to LCRA for permits to build this new pawnshop, the applicant received a response which stated that "...the Redevelopment Plan and Ordinance do not permit uses such as pawn shops and check cashing centers. Accordingly, if the proposed use is one or both of these types of uses, no additional discussion of building and site rehabilitation conditions would seem to be in order."

City Licensing

A key element of such applications is the proposed use. In the past, the previous owner, Pawnmasters, was allowed by the License Collector's Office to open its business without a neighborhood consent petition, due to its opening as a jewelry business, rather than as a pawn shop. Later, it "became" a pawn shop. One fear expressed by some members of the Commercial Committee, is that Cash America may intend to open a "retail" outlet in the current car detailing shop building, and then try to get a building permit to build an "addition" to that existing building.

Cash America, which is currently operating at the former Pawnmasters location, is also under citation from the Building Division for various building and safety code violations. Jackie Wellington, our Neighborhood Stabilization Officer, said that the company is due to appear in Housing Court shortly.

The Commercial Committee voted unanimously on October 27, 1995, to oppose the application of Cash America to open this new pawn shop. In addition, the Committee has asked Alderman Dan McGuire to oppose this application.

For more information or to express your opinions, call Laure Porterfield, Executive Director, SDCC, at 862-5122, or Alderman Dan McGuire at 622-3287, or write to *The Times*.



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In Your Ear

by Hawkeye P. Hoerr

(published this month at the insistence of the Unabomber)

We've had visitors staying at the house lately. Lots of them. They don't take up much space and we need not worry about having clean linens in the bedroom or, even, making extra coffee in the morning. Our visitors, you see, are a family of mice. Or possibly we have several families of mice. I'm really not sure. Maybe we have a mouse convention.

We first became aware of the mice when we heard some tiny noises coming from within the wall. Not exactly squeaks or yip-yaps, but little rustlings and husflings. Something was in there and we didn't know what!

Then we found some little mouse remains in a cabinet, sort of care packages left for us. There was no doubt what had joined our happy little home, and then one day it was clinched: the first wife saw a mouse. "EEEEAAAH-HHHH-YOOOOWW WEEEEEE!" she screamed, dropping a plate filled with microwave popcorn, a Goat's Breath beer, and some Girl Scout cookies dethawing from last year. (As luck would have it, it was her turn to prepare the dinner and it was now all on the floor.)

China shattered everywhere as the wife, literally, scootched up on the counter. "THERE, THERE," she yelled to me, hopping up and down and pointing at a cabinet, thrusting her hand back and forth as if she were casting a spell on the weathered wood. "My God, woman," I replied, "is it a copperhead, cobra, or vicious troll? Has Charles Manson found his way in our house? Is Rush Limbaugh squatting beneath our sink?"

"No, you fool," she replied with her usual aplomb and delicacy, "it's a mouse!" I opened the door but the cabinet space was empty. Of course, the mouse wouldn't have had to be too smart to hear the wife's shrieks. Two sets of neighbors had already come to the door to see what the problem was; a third neighbor had called 911, figuring that with this much noise, an ax-murderer must have found his way to our door.

I reassured the neighbors and went back to calm the wife. By now she had made more popcorn, opened another beer, and taken some Savannahs from the freezer to dethaw. Never let adversity get in the way of a fine meal! Together, we slowly opened all of the kitchen cabinet doors. Nothing was to be found besides a few pots and pans and the wife's collection of Independence Day china.

Later that night, while smoking a cigar and eating some Heath Bar frozen yogurt, I spied a tiny gray mouse. It darted from a space beneath the radiator, ran half-way across the room, stopped to look at me, and then zipped through a hole at the bottom of a cabinet. The wife, sitting next to me, had fallen asleep, so I awak-

ened her with the news that I, too, had seen a mouse. "EEEEAAAH-HHHH-YOOOOWW WEEEEEE!" she screamed. "But honey," I said, "you didn't even see the mouse. Why in the world are you screaming?" She gave me a look that could freeze boiling oil, rolling her eyes far back in her head. "You dolt," she said, "I screamed because you're standing on my foot!"

We sat up late that night, plotting our plan of mice attack. That was months ago, and we foolishly thought the problem would quickly be solved. Not. Since then, we've gone through several strategies, all with varying degrees of unsuccess: setting mouse traps, placing mouse poison, using little cages into which the mice crawl but can't get out,

borrowing a cat, and hiding mouse-paper which sticks to their little paws and immobilizes them. We even tried mounting small radio transmitters inside the walls; they emit a high-frequency pitch that mammals cannot hear but will drive rodents crazy.

Alas, none of our strategies were successful. We still have mice and like the former states of the Soviet Union, are learning to happily co-exist. I suspect that the mice are also happy. One of them is probably sitting right now at a teenie-tiny word processor, writing a column, "In Your Cheese," talking about how they've learned to co-exist with the humans in their house. It could be worse, I figure. After all, what if they wouldn't let us stay here?

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