

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 27 No. 6

December 1996

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

MetroLink Update Scheduled for January 29

On Wednesday, January 29, residents of Skinker DeBaliviere are urged to attend a neighborhood-wide meeting at Crossroads School to learn the current status of the Cross County Corridor Major Transportation Investment Analysis as it relates to the proposed Metro Link expansion. Featured speaker for the meeting is Mr. Doug Campion, of Sverdrup Engineering.

Paul Hohman, chairperson of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council's Metro Link Advisory Committee, is working to finalize the formal agenda for the evening.

Heightened awareness by neighborhood residents of the potential impact this project will have on our community led to the decision to hold an open informational meeting so that the most current information can be shared.

Please join us at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 29, in the auditorium at Crossroads School.

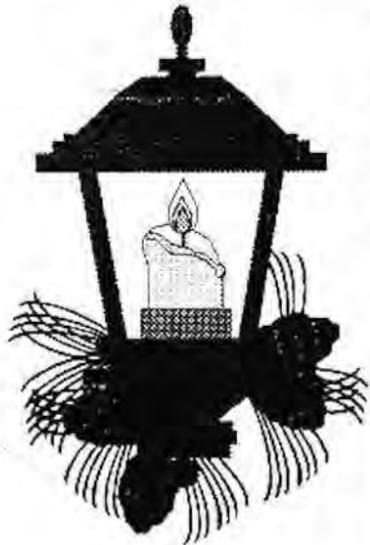
Rosedale Neighborhood Association Sponsors Outdoor Lighting Contest

The Rosedale Neighborhood Association announces its Holiday Outdoor Lighting Contest which will be held the week of December 21.

No formal entry is necessary; to be eligible, lights and decorations (visible at night) must be in place by December 21. Judges will tour every block in Rosedale that week and every decorated building will be considered.

One winner each will be chosen in Areas I, II and III. The 6000 and 6100 blocks of Washington and Westminster are one area; the second is the 6000 and 6100 blocks of Kingsbury and McPherson; the third is the 6000 and 6100 blocks of Pershing and Waterman. The winner from each of these three areas will receive a commemorative ornament.

Rosedale Neighborhood Association officers and block captains will serve as judges and will meet at 4:30pm on Sunday, December 22 at President Jane Geiler's home to select winners. Richard Lowenstein, block captain of 6000 Kingsbury, has agreed to chair the judges. For further information, call Dave Schmidt, Rosedale secretary, at 863-4512.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

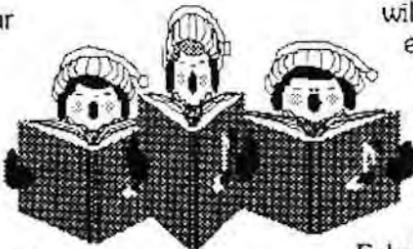
St. Louis Christmas Carols Association invites the Skinker DeBaliviere community to help celebrate its 85th year of bringing carol singing to our neighborhood, block by block.

Each block in our neighborhood is encouraged to call St. Louis Christmas Carols Association at 863-1225 to receive your territory and receive song sheets and collection cans. (Con-

tributions received help young people through 74 local agencies.

Caroling will take place between Thanksgiving and January 6. Long-time caroler, David Schmidt of 6100 McPherson,

will share his experience organizing caroling on your block if you call 863-4512. Our Central West End area chairperson is Stephen Eckelkamp (361-5068).



Parkview Properties Buys Arthur Building

On November 25, Parkview Properties purchased the Arthur Building on Skinker, better known as the home of Talayna's restaurant. Principals Alan Hamilton and Lecil Saller felt that this building was significant because "it is the front door to the neighborhood." They hope to spruce up its facade and will find uses for it more in keeping with what the neighborhood wants. They want to make the building look better and resemble the rest of the area.

Hamilton and Saller said that they do not have specific plans yet. They will begin formal architectural, engineering, and financial planning studies to see how it should best be rehabbed. Both spoke of making it look like it had.

They are thinking of using the first floor for retail. Mike Faille, owner of Talayna's, can maintain his restaurant at that site for 15

months after the sale. He is beginning to look for a new site. Hamilton said that there might be two retailers on the first floor eventually. The upper two floors will probably be restored as apartments or possible office space. They need



The Arthur Building Today

to be completely redone.

This summer Parkview Properties purchased and renovated Rosedale Court, 30 apartments across from St. Roch on Waterman at Rosedale. They kept the original floor plans, put in individual air conditioning, new kitchens, painted and rewired and also wired to the Washington University Internet, put in an intercom system, storm windows, a new roof, and did tuckpointing. The building is now fully occupied with Washington University students.

Annual King Commemoration Planned for January 12

On Sunday, January 12, from 3 to 5pm, at Grace and Peace Fellowship on Delmar at Clara, SDCC, Grace and Peace Fellowship, New Cote Brillante Church of God and a number of area schools are holding an annual commemoration to honor the life and work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The theme of the commemoration this year is: Our Neighborhood Rooted in Diversity Moving into the 21st Century. The featured speaker will be Robert Tabscott, an expert on African American history in the St. Louis area.

The New Cote Brillante Church of God choir will perform under the direction of Mrs. Miki Merritt. Schools planning to participate include New City, Bethel, Hamilton, Crossroads, and St. Roch. The committee organizing this event is chaired by Jack Wright of 58xx Pershing. He is assisted by Ruth Johnson of 57xx Westminster and Greg Freeman of 57xx DeGiverville. The committee is planning a reception following the program hosted by Grace and Peace. For further information or to volunteer to assist, please call the SDCC office at 862-5122.

Call-a-thon Set for Hamilton Elementary Community Education Center

Attention Skinker DeBaliviere residents! On Saturday, January 11, 1997 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., a team of volunteers from Hamilton Elementary Community Education Center will be placing random telephone calls to area residents.

This will **not** be a request for money!!!

This Call-a-thon is planned to collect a priceless commodity... your opinions and your ideas about Hamilton E.C.E.C. All you will be asked to contribute is a few moments of your time. The Call-a-thon Committee is headed by Mary Schmidt and Ellie Chapman.

With a generous contribution of space and phone lines from Central West End Bank, the committee hopes to determine what programs/classes/services will bring you to more active involvement at Hamilton E.C.E.C.

So don't hang up! This survey will help Hamilton meet the educational and informational needs of your family.

Happy Holidays from The Times!

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

I want to use this space to thank the people who help to bring the Times to you. Marj Weir and King Schoenfeld have handled production, ably assisted at times by Julie Schoemehl and Venita Lake. JoAnn Vatcha has kept the books, a task which Lois Schoemehl will soon assume. All of the above plus Kathleen Williams and Dan Shea, Katie and Paul Kurtz, Sue Rothschild, and Rick Lake have helped with our fundraising endeavors. Thanks, too, go to those who deliver the Times to your door, especially Art Santen, who delivers to the block deliverers, and Brad Weir, who delivers to the businesses. God bless you everyone!

In order to maintain our solvency, we are enclosing a little envelope with this issue. If you are able, please send us a check so that we can keep those issues coming.

We all have much to be grateful for at this holiday time. We are safer than we were last year and we continue to enjoy a very unique and diverse neighborhood together. May it only continue.

Letter to the Editor:

Median Income Revisited

I am writing in response to the article in the September 1996 issue of the Skinker DeBaliviere Times called Median Income. At the risk of sounding like Scrooge, I hate fundraising activities on medians. First and foremost, I hate the danger posed to the fundraiser by his or her standing on the median or walking among stopped vehicles. Second, I hate giving money to individuals that do not display any proof of permit to solicit donations.

I suffer from two southern, female maladies. I am unable to say "no" to requests for money for legitimate causes, and I suffer from "terminal guilt" especially when I am unable to help someone in need.

I am unable to say no, however, when the request for money involves a trip to Europe for the school band, glee club, etc. (Do they still have glee clubs?) In those cases I think, "Go out and have a bake sale or car wash to earn your trip to Europe." The only way I got to sing at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., with my high school choir was to work for the money.

I equate fundraising activities on the median with panhandling. I resent panhandling more when I am trapped in my car at a stop light. I feel like an unwilling, captive audience. It makes me angry that I feel compelled to give and guilty when I do not give to these individuals.

The United Way and other funding agencies should not grant funds to any not-for-profit agency that solicits donations on-street. The City of St. Louis and other municipalities should limit permits for fundraising to off-street sites only. They should fine agencies for on-street solicitation. Finally, permits for fundraising activities should be displayed by badges.

Does someone have to be injured or killed before such an unsafe practice will stop? I would hate to feel guilt because I injured some child darting in front of my car for a \$1 donation. Wouldn't you?

Juli W. Einspanier

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Editor: Lana Stein
Business Manager: JoAnn Vatcha
Production Manager: Marj Weir

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Guidelines for Submitting Copy

The Times welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of The Times has always depended in large part on submissions from non-staff area residents. All material - articles, letters, notices, classified ads - must be typewritten on opaque paper, double-spaced, and signed. 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. The 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, 63112.

The deadline for all copy is the 18th of the month.
The writer is responsible for the accuracy of the data, including times, dates, locations, and particularly the spelling of names.
Pictures or illustrations should be in black and white. Color photographs often do not reproduce well.
The editor retains the right to omit or alter any material.

Calendar



Neighborhood Events and Meetings

December

19 Holiday Open House for 7th District Police and Firemen, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Office, 6008 Kingsbury, 11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

January

- 8 Housing Corporation, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Office, 6008 Kingsbury, 12:00 noon
- 13 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:00 p.m.
- 12 MLK Commemoration, at Grace and Peace Fellowship on Delmar at Clara, 3 to 5 p.m.
- 22 Housing Corporation, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Office, 6008 Kingsbury, 12:00 noon
- 27 Apartment Owners Association, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Office, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:00 p.m.
- 29 Neighborhood Meeting on Cross County Study (MetroLink), 7:00 p.m. Crossroads School, 500 DeBaliviere. Call 862-5122 for further information.

Other Events of Interest

Now -

- 1/6 Neighborhood Caroling through the St. Louis Christmas Carols Association.
- Now -
- 1/26 A Retrospective of the work of Louis Corinth in the Special Exhibition Galleries at the Saint Louis Art Museum. Corinth was one of Europe's greatest modern painters.

December

- 13-14 Gateway Men's Chorus presents "Holiday Flourish, If & When" at 8pm at the St. Louis Symphony Community School in U City.
- 15 Candlelight Festival and Concert at Grace United Methodist Church, 4:30pm. All are welcome.

Seasons

by monica hammond

Seasons are like someone's mood, warm and cold, happy and sad.
They can bring back many memories, remind you of the fall,
the sun bleached leaves.
The wintery weather yet to come,
the sun won't shine warmly until winter is done.
The snow will be falling in odd shaped flutters,
the ice will be bounding from shutter to shutter.
When winter is lost and spring is found,
the flowers will sprout up out of the ground.
Once the weather gets warmer and months fly by
through summer, fall, winter and spring,
you have gone through one year
and memories flow back
to the sun bleached leaves.

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Speaking with Jesse Brown, Chairperson of the Hamilton Council

by Lana Stein

Jesse Brown, longtime resident of 57xx DeGiverville, became chairperson of the Hamilton Community Elementary Education Center Council this fall. He joined the council at its inception two and one half years ago. He hopes to see a partnership between parents, the neighborhood, and businesses in the community. He sees that parents are not really involved with their kids. They are not coming to council meetings. The Council, according to Brown, has to focus on this. "What disturbs me," he said, "is to see parents in this community bringing their kids to school in the morning and never come to the meetings." He wants to reach out to the community. The school is for the community.

Another goal for him is to have Hamilton focus on reaching excellence. The Council is committed to being the leader in community education. Hamilton has graduated some famous people. The owner of the Rams once went to Hamilton. The new superintendent of the St. Louis Public Schools came to Hamilton last week during the monthly meeting of all education center chairpersons. Brown said that the superintendent, Cleveland Hammonds Jr., said that we need to do away with boundaries and reach out to everyone.

Brown is concerned with giving youth a place to go especially when school is out. More activities are needed. The Council has established working committees. The Program Resources Committee will work with the community coordinator to explore what courses



Jesse Brown

should be offered in the evenings. After the first of the year, a survey will be created and sent to every family within reach of the school to see which programs are desirable. The programs currently offered are not as well attended as they would like. The SDCC Director comes to meetings as an advisor and serves on some committees. She should be publicizing Hamilton when she's in the community.

Brown remarked that we are living in such a troubled society. The young people are our resources. "People always talk about role models. I felt I could do some good by volunteering."

Brown said that Hamilton has some excellent teachers and an outstanding principal. It's like a family affair. Everybody is concerned about the students. Hamilton's basic belief is that "education is a con-

tinuum from the womb to the tomb. If you get children at a young age and guide them right, they should be a success in this world.

The Vice Chairperson at Hamilton is Ruth Johnson. Ellie Chapman serves as secretary and the treasurer is Jeff Strother. The Council has 21 members.

Brown said that he and his family have lived in Skinker DeBaliviere for over 20 years. He loves the neighborhood and the mixture of housing types as well as the racial and socioeconomic diversity. He recently retired from the federal government. He is able to devote his energy and enthusiasm to make Hamilton the best. Brown lives with his wife Mary and a granddaughter and 2 little dogs. He has

been very involved in his block unit and has been its president since 1991. "We have worked wonders on this block. We used to have some narcotics activity and we fought it. The block is now real quiet and peaceful. We have a police officer living on the block and that has been very helpful."

Both Mr. and Mrs. Brown said that they would like to see a neighborhood center at Lucier Park, a facility for boys and girls like Mathews-Dickey. They feel that Lucier Park should have an indoor facility and the school could have access to it. It could be very productive in the summer. They would also like to see the abandoned buildings on Delmar torn down. They also advocate for a parking lot for the Hamilton teachers at the corner of Hamilton and Westminster.

Grace Methodist Plans Beautiful Holiday Service

by Cynthia Harris
Director of Music, Grace United Methodist Church

Each year, on the third Sunday of December, at 4:30pm, Grace Church, at Waterman and Skinker, is filled with the warm glow of candlelight, as the majestic sound of organ, choir, and bells blend into a great harmony of Christmas glory. The Candlelight Festival of Lessons and Carols, celebrated at Grace since 1920, will be held this year on Sunday, December 15 at 4:30pm. This splendid celebration, held by candlelight that warmly illuminates the breathtaking interior of Grace Church, combines the glory of the world's greatest musical compositions with the immortal words of the ancient Hebrew and Christian scriptures to create a richness of experience that fills the sanctuary with the awe and majesty of this special and meaningful season.

This year, the Candlelight Festival will begin with the unforgettable sound of a Baroque instrumental trio, featuring flute, viola da gamba, and harpsichord. Throughout the evening, well-beloved Christmas carols will be sung by the audience, alternating with readings and musical performances, including selec-



of this century. The lovely medieval tradition of singing carols from house to house in groups of adults or children gradually transformed over the centuries until, in 1878, the custom began of gathering at a local church on Christmas Eve for the singing of Christmas carols by all who assembled. By 1911, this practice had become formalized, and an elaborate book with instructions of readings, prayers, and music was issued in Truro, England. Within a few years, this service of Lessons and Carols as we know it today was established by the Dean of King's College, Dr. E. A. Milner-White, in 1918. The beautiful service was eagerly adopted by congregations around the world. Grace Methodist Church began presenting the Festival of Lessons and Carols in 1920 following exactly the same format as the one given yearly at King's College.



tions from Handel's Messiah, handbells, children's choirs, and other renditions ranging from a 16th century motet to the lush beauty of Berlioz's The Shepherd's Farewell.

The original tradition of the Festival of Lessons and Carols was created from several different vocal customs in England in the early part

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Continued on page 7.

Citywide Candidates Speak at Meeting of 28th Ward Regular Democratic Club

On Thursday, November 17, candidates for citywide office in the March primary were invited to address the monthly meeting of the 28th Ward Regular Democratic Club. The Club will endorse candidates following a vote of its membership.

Two candidates for comptroller spoke, Dennis Hill and the incumbent, Darlene Green. Hill said that he felt the city was "inefficient in everything they do." When he was assessor, he said he was 8-10% under budget. He wants to bring residents back and raise the value of housing stock. He wants to create a geographic zone in poor or

the last several years, the city has had a surplus. The annual operating budget is around \$300 million.

Three candidates for mayor also addressed the group: Bill Haas, Marit Clark, and Clarence Harmon. Haas spoke first. He said he wants to bring this city together. Being mayor is a very tough job. His slogan will be "If we're not prepared to read it in the next day's headlines, we won't say it or do it." Haas ran for mayor as an independent in 1993 and ran for circuit attorney in 1992. This time he will run in the Democratic primary and he recognizes that he is an underdog.

relations in the Post were only the beginning." He wants to bring back "the vision that St. Louis can be a great city again." He spoke

of deteriorating neighborhoods, places where people were afraid to go out, and of homes going up for sale. The renewal of the city in-

involved everyone's participation. City government had to be responsive and accountable to the taxpayer, he added. Harmon then mentioned the lack of effective planning in the city: "Projects don't relate to something else." He spoke of government for all people, not just a select few. He concluded by noting that "When I ran the police department, we were nationally and internationally recognized. I want to bring that kind of experience to city hall and city government."



Clarence Harmon



Marit Clark

Marit Clark spoke next. She has represented the 6th ward in the Board of Aldermen for 12 years. Just the day before, she said she would not run in the Democratic primary but instead would be an independent candidate in the general election. She said she was in the race because she deeply loved this city. She is worried about where we are headed. She said she would hire the "kind of people who can solve problems." She said neighborhood revitalization was her strongest suit.

empty areas where income tax will be abated for new residents. (Hill was city assessor from 1993 to this summer when he was removed by the mayor.)

Green, a Skinker DeBaliviere resident, was appointed comptroller by Mayor Bosley a year ago. She won the special election primary in August and was elected to the position in November to fill the unexpired term of Virvus Jones. She is now running for the regular 4 year term. Green said that she has worked hard in the position and that she is qualified to be city comptroller. She pointed to the city's increased credit rating and the financing package for the new justice center. She feels her responsibility is to "protect your tax dollars." She wants to increase service provision and mentioned more arterial streets paved this year. For

Clark said that government can't solve all our problems but "we need to start when they are small. Neighbors here (in the 28th) can teach other neighborhoods." She said she had zero tolerance for nuisance crimes. She said she would work with the police chief and not tell him who to fire or transfer. She will also work very hard to retain businesses in our community. She is also worried about the schools. She said that her experience in the 6th ward which is very diverse "prepares me for dealing with the problems of the city." She said that she knows city hall and will not have to wait to learn the job.

Clarence Harmon, former chief of police and now executive with United Airlines, was the third mayoral candidate to speak. He began by saying that the city was in a crisis and that "the daily rev-

of his proven record as a police administrator and his experience at directing people. He said that he decided to leave the police department because the board in place was "directing me beyond my understanding of that role." Harmon then said he was concerned with racial divisiveness and would try to bring people together. He spoke

meeting lasted well over 2 hours. After brief reports from State Representative Nancy Farmer and Alderman Dan McGuire, the club elected new officers as follows: Bill Kuehling, President; Nancy Farmer, First Vice President; Anna Busch, Second Vice President; Dorothy Jackson, Secretary; and Brad Weir, Treasurer.



Rosemarie Storey, 28th Ward Democratic Committeewoman, answers a question from the audience with Sam Green, outgoing President of the 28th Ward Regular Democratic Club.

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Historic District Status

by Kathleen Shea, Commissioner
City of St. Louis Heritage and Urban Design Division

The Skinker Debaliviere neighborhood is a City of St. Louis Historic District. This is the first in a series of articles that will talk about the Historic District status and explain the design standards that govern changes to the exterior of buildings in the district. The City of St. Louis Heritage and Urban Design Division and Commission are responsible for working with historic district residents to help them maintain their property within the design guidelines contained in the Historic District Ordinance. In this first of the series we will discuss window replacement.

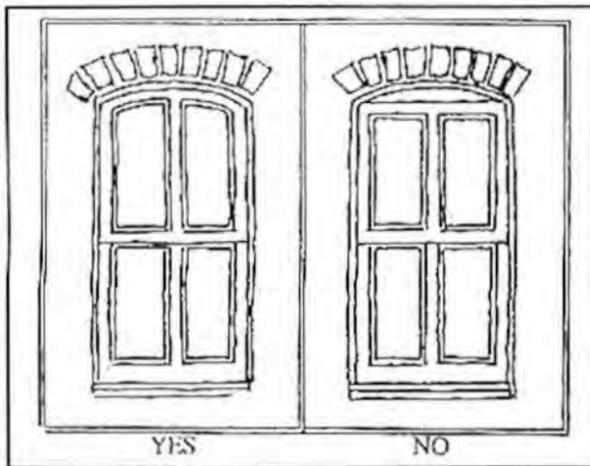
The City of St. Louis Heritage and Urban Design Division and its twelve member commission were created in 1981 as a successor to the old Landmarks and Urban Design Commission. The Division is part of the City of St. Louis government and is funded by the Community Development Corporation. The purpose of the Division is to work with residents and property owners in the City's fourteen historic district to help protect their investment in historic property. On the staff of the Division are four professional architectural historians, an architect and three clerical staff.

This historic district status was created by ordinance in 1973. The Skinker DeBaliviere, Catlin Tract, Parkview districts developed very rapidly around the time period of the 1904 World's Fair. The style of architecture within the Skinker DeBaliviere district is usually referred to as an 'eclectic revival style' because the original designers used various historic building styles, often mixing them exuberantly to develop a kind of American architecture that is unique to the time period between 1890 and 1920.

Generally, local historic district status, along with a concerned and involved citizenry, has provided stable environments that encourage maintenance of property values and a higher quality of life for residents. The purpose of the design standards contained in the historic district ordinance is to promote conservation and proper development of the historic buildings within the district. Experience has shown that, although alterations to historic buildings may appear to be fashionable and attractive when initially constructed, in time these changes will appear dated and undesirable.

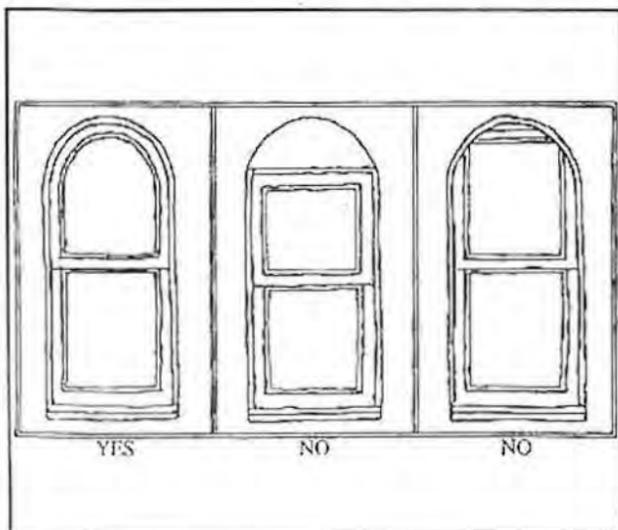
Maintaining the original details of old buildings, even when using contemporary materials, is the safest way to protect your investment in your building. This is why a building owner in the historic district needs a building permit to make changes to his property. The Division staff can assess proposed

changes such as new roofing materials or new windows and advise owners on the best solutions to their building's problems. The staff can be reached every day between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. at 622-3400. Just call and ask for the Heritage and Urban Design office. We will be happy to make an appointment to meet you at your building or in our office to review your proposed plans and answer questions about your building.



The staff of the Division is not only educated in building styles and proper modifications to those styles, but also has a great deal of experience in working with architects and contractors to solve construction and design problems.

Kinds of activities that require permits in the city's historic districts include replacement of street visible windows and doors and reconstruction of any detail visible from the street such as changes to front porches, cornices, roofs or dormers.



Windows were an important component in the design of historic buildings. A great deal of attention was given to their size, placement and detailing. All replacement windows for historic buildings must fit the entire opening and must match the historic window in design and profile. Unfortunately, a vinyl window has not yet been manufactured that is acceptable as a historic replacement window. The district design standards would allow vinyl coated aluminum windows, wood windows and the Commission has recently approved a fiberglass replacement window for its design. All window details such as brick-mold and trim cannot be removed without being replicated on the front and street visible facades, and should not be wrapped.



Vicissitudes

by Lana Stein

Margaret Genevieve Fox, better known as Genny, daughter of **Georgi Fox** of 61xx McPherson, married **James David Malcolm** on September 27 at St. Johns Church, West Wickham, Kent, in the United



Kingdom. Genny's brother **Alex** gave the bride away. Genny and her husband are residing in Tokyo where her husband is finishing doctoral studies. Alex lives in Chicago and has enjoyed working on various campaigns around the country this fall. On December 1, Georgi gave a surprise birthday party for her mother on her 90th natal day. **Bette Botz**, a former neighbor, attended and is doing well after hip replacement surgery.

The Times expresses its condolences to **Mrs. Joyce Barnard** of 59xx DeGiverville on the recent passing of her husband, **Carl**. They both had been very active in the community and with the 59xx block unit.

Congratulations to **Cecilia A. Nadal** of 61xx Westminster. She just had an original poem entitled "Nature's Love Affair" published in a treasury compiled by The National Library of Poetry. Nadal has been writing poems for 10 years.



Each year in August, Shirley Polk of 57xx DeGiverville sponsors the Central West Picnic for area children and adults in Forest Park. Polk is pictured here with some of the participants.

Another Successful Halloween Party

Rosedale Neighbors again sponsored a Halloween Party for all neighborhood children at the St. Roch gymnasium from 5:30 to 6:30pm on the holiday. Art Santen again organized the festivities and about 50 children and their parents enjoyed a performance by

Banks, a beat-up kid; and Jackie Chron, a witch. Congratulations to all the winners and many thanks to all who made the event possible.



Joe the Juggler from Everyday Circus. Prizes were given out for the best costumes.

Greg Freeman was the judge. The winners were Simon Mathews, a little cat with tail; Carrie Lutjens, a cracker box; Anthony King, a Ghanaian king; Loring Shelberg, Baby Bop; Erica Johnson, a Flintstone girl; Elena Hayes and Brittney Underwood, a two-headed clown; Emily Cross, a dinosaur; Nicole Burton, Tinkerbell; Patrick



SDCC OFFICE TAKES ON A NEW LOOK

Under the guidance of SDCC Director Laure Porterfield and with strong support from the Board of Directors, the office at 6008 Kingsbury has been reconfigured to host larger meetings in greater comfort. Colonial Rug donated and laid new carpet and helped with the removal of certain temporary interior walls. Painting will follow using funds set aside for the Council by the Community Fund. Residents are urged to stop by and check it out.

Partnership between Hamilton and Crossroads

Crossroads School, a private 7-12 middle and high school, located on DeBaliviere, is collaborating on certain projects with the Hamilton Community Education Center. Together they will be planting flower and vegetable gardens. Students at the high school level from Crossroads are providing tutoring and mentoring at Hamilton a couple of times a week. Crossroads students also worked on the Tile Link project with children attending Hamilton.

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

by Jeff Schoenfeld

When all of the rest were tucked in bed,
I was staying awake instead.
Christmas Eve had been good to me;
I saw "It's a Wonderful Life" on TV!
I turned off the tube and looked out the window
and saw a big sleigh with a spark-a-ly glow.
My eyes opened up as I saw it draw near,
and through the thick snow I saw nine big reindeer!
(I must take a sec to clear up that last line;
their leader was Rudolph; that's why there were nine.)
I heard a big clomp and a rustle of trees.
Someone was coming right down the chimney!
I said, "Oh, my gosh! This cannot be true!"
And right then and there, I knew what to do.
I ran to the telephone, quick as I could,
and soon the policemen outside my house stood.
They took him away, so hear this for all time:
Breaking and entering's a serious crime.

Pet Talk

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

by Steven A. Brammeier, DVM
Holiday time again and we are all getting into the shopping mode. What to get grandmother? She's been around for eighty years; what else could she possibly need? How many families shop for the household pet? Judging by the plethora of pet warehouse stores and chichi pet boutiques, the market for pet accessories is strong.

My childhood family pet: a beagle named "Peanuts," got a new squeaker toy every Christmas. We only gave her one a year because she drove us nuts "squeaking" the blasted thing for hours! I digress.... We would wrap the new toy in festive paper, but would not put the gift under the tree until just before time for unwrapping. Believe it or not, even though these toys were not scented with "eau de wild rabbit"; just plain, soft rubber, little animals or some animation character fated to be squeezed a billion times between the jaws of an obsessed "red rock" beagle ("red rock" because she was two shades of brown and white instead of the standard black, brown and white), she would hunt through the rest of the gifts assembled under the tree and always come up with her personal gift. The family would stand around offering encouraging

words: "Peanuts, where is your squeaker?", "Get your squeaker Peanuts!". You get the idea. To our delight, she would then rip the paper off the toy, grab it up in her mouth and prance around "squeaking" to her hearts' delight. The squeaking torment for the family would last until Peanuts managed to get the squeaker out of the bottom of the toy. Sometimes this process took as long as a couple of months. She never could understand why the toys quit squeaking and it wasn't nearly as much fun if it didn't squeak. We chose not to share with her that we knew why the toy quit squeaking. We were also lucky that we didn't end up with a dog that needed surgery to remove a squeaker from her small intestine. Sometimes, pre-vet school days were more fun.

Anyway, I can offer a few suggestions for giving your pet a gift. Many dogs love to chew on objects and there are many good "chew" toys. I recommend "Kong" toys. These are hard rubber toys in various shapes, some with places that you can fill with peanut butter or cream cheese. Your dog will chew and work with the toy trying to get out the goodie. Rawhide toys in limited amounts are okay for most dogs, however some dogs get up-

set stomachs from chewing rawhide. The fleece covered toys are favorites for many of my clients' pets. Clients report that their dogs, particularly retrievers, just walk around the house or yard, happily carrying their "chewman" toys in their mouths. I do not recommend the hard white "Nylabone". Dogs break their teeth on these particular toys.

Cats also enjoy toys. Sometimes just a plain old Ping-Pong ball is the best, but if your cat loses thousands of these under the furniture or down the basement steps, they now make a toy with the Ping-Pong ball confined in a circular track. Hours of fun for most cats as they send the ball spinning round and round the track, and it never disappears under the bed. Great in theory, and I know many cats who love these things, but my own cats are only interested if we sit with them and keep the ball going around. "Kitty condos" are fun for cats that like to climb. These are wooden structures covered with carpet that come various sizes to suit your living space and your purse. Various toys that employ an object on the end of a string, pole, or even one like a small fishing rod will provide interactive fun for you and your cat, plus burn

Friends Campaign Offers Sweatshirts for Sale

Friends of SDCC are making everyone's holiday shopping easier! They are selling beautiful dark green sweatshirts with the logo "City Living at its Best! Skinker DeBaliviere." These sweatshirts are for sale at the SDCC office for only \$19.95 and come in large, extra large, and extra extra large. Call 862-5122 to buy one today!

some calories of that slightly "less than svelte" feline. Cat nip toys are standard gifts for cats, but I would use them in moderation. Cats become disinterested after a while and cat nip loses its' buzz.

Of course, like children, the best gift you can give your pets, is your time and attention. They love you unconditionally, well, dogs do anyway. Cats deserve your love because they are such interesting and worthy creatures. You can get creative about giving your pets a gift. Take your dog for any extra long walk in forest park. Maybe, he/she would like to chase down a couple of rollerbladers. Happy Holidays and best wishes for a happy, health New Year!

St. Roch Students Plant Trees on DesPeres

Students at St. Roch school have made a major beautification contribution to the neighborhood. Each grade at the school planted a tree at the southwest corner of DesPeres and Washington. Students raised money for this project by recycling aluminum cans. On November 17, students, aided by their parents, planted redbud, flowering crabapple, oak, birch, elm and linden. Jim Flynn and Mary Christman designed the site plan. The Keaveny family drained the site, along with Jake Horner and the Christman children. Neighborhood artist Bill Christman made the sign



that marks the newly-planted area. Boy scouts Aaron Barchek, Jonathon Peavy, and Sam Christman provided valuable assistance. Working very hard on the 17th to get all the trees into the ground were Byron Jines, Mark Gorman, Gary and Dee Hayes, Tim Tucker, William Stage, Bill and Lisa Horner, Joe and Karen Keaveny, and Steve Schiller and Laure Porterfield. Each of the above were accompanied by their children.

Those who walk to the Delmar Metrolink Station as well as nearby residents will enjoy the maturing of these trees, a very valuable contribution from the children of St. Roch school.

Beautification Committee Plans New Plantings

The SDCC Beautification Committee is planning several major projects for the coming year and is seeking grant funding to make them possible. More flower planting at various sites in the neighborhood is contemplated and St. Roch Church plans more flower planting by its school and sanctuary. At the parklike setting at the northwest corner of DesPeres and Pershing, a long-neglected planter will be utilized again and there will be other additions to the greenery.

They will not take away any of the space currently used by nearby youngsters as a play area. There is a vacant double lot on 59xx McPherson that the Committee and nearby residents would like to develop as a vegetable garden. The idea has met with an eager response and several residents attended a workshop on community gardening. Andy Cross of 60xx McPherson and Catherine Forslund of 60xx Waterman have been coordinating the committee efforts.

HELPING THE POOR IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

The Grace and Peace Winter Shelter is an emergency overnight shelter ministry of Grace and Peace Fellowship Church. It operates at 5574 Delmar from mid-November through mid-March. It is funded by donations and staffed largely by volunteers. We welcome involvement from anyone in the neighborhood.

Current needs, especially for the holiday season, include:

- overnight and evening volunteers
- persons to prepare and bring home-cooked meals for 23 to the shelter
- new socks, gloves, hats
- toothbrushes, trial size hand lotion, toothpaste, bottles of salad dressing
- financial donations

Please call Melody Burke or Michael Hardcastle at 367-8959 if you would like to help with any of these. THANK YOU!



Hamilton's Winning Softball Team: l-r front, William Busch III, Cortez Jones, Christopher Jackson, Tory Johnson, Abdul Matteuzzi, Randall Falker, and Justin Falker. L-r, rear, Durwin Jenkins, Abdulah Matteuzzi, Rhamen Jones, and Conrad Slaughter. Not pictured: Coaches Wesley Falker, Bernard Jackson, and Eric McNeal.

Grace Methodist Holiday Service

continued from page 3

Throughout Grace's history, the service has been so popular that during the 1940s and 50s, parishioners and members of the community were compelled to arrive almost an hour early in order to find a seat.

This year's Candlelight Festival of Lessons and Carols, as always, is free and open to the public. A nursery will be provided, although children are always welcome to attend the service. For more information, call 863-1992. Please join with us in this beloved and cherished tradition.



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In Your Ear

by Hawkeye Q. Hoerr

OK, trusty reader, it's that time of year again. HO, HO, HO. Or if you're standing facing backwards, OH, OH, OH. The holiday season is upon us and no matter where we turn we can't escape the hoopla and hustle. Buy this and buy that. I haven't seen so many byes since a train of soldiers left town. (Get it???)

By now, of course, you've bought all of the presents for your loved ones. And your liked ones too. If you're like the Hawkeye — somehow after the recent presidential campaign I keep referring to myself in the third person — you have had those presents for months. After all, the Hawkeye has had the first wife's presents, her new shoes, all nine pair, since August when Marmi's sent the cab to bring him to their sale. And he's had John-Boy's new egg-cup since early summer. But because you read this fine tabloid, of course, the Hawkeye knows that you don't procrastinate and are on top of things. Of course.

But, you little rascal, you probably haven't purchased your gifts for the local celebrities, right? Family, liked, and loved ones are one thing, but who's going to buy something for a politician or media type in June? With special prosecutors here and there, not to mention Jerry Berger's column, who can predict who will still be in office at year end? So, dear reader, you waited. And now since time is of the essence, here are some gift suggestions for the nefarious notables in our neighborhood. Since many of the gifts probably go beyond your (and the Hawkeye's) expense account, if you'd like to have your name on the card just send your \$5 or \$10 check to *The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere* and we'll be sure to include your name. 'Cause here's what we're getting for those famous fames.

For Marit Clark - A membership to E.M.I.L.Y. You may have heard about E.M.I.L.Y., a Washington-based group whose name is an acronym standing for Early Money Is Like Yeast. E.M.I.L.Y. raises funds for female political candidates across the country. It funds selected candidates, the premise being that early money helps them seem viable and enables them to raise more money. Given the relationship of money to winning elections, sort of like the relationship between oxygen and breathing, fund-raising is awfully important. Unfortunately, for her anyway, Clark was never able to raise enough money to mount a mayoral challenge.

For Karen Foss - Mandatory membership in A.A.R.P., the American Association of Retired People. No, the Hawkeye doesn't want her to retire; she reads the teleprompter as well as anyone else. He just wants her to begin to show her must-be-advancing years! Hawkeye has been watching her since the football Cardinals were losing every Sunday. Hmmmm, the more things change the more they stay the same! Anyway, somehow even though we all age, she doesn't seem to get that much older. Hawkeye can't figure it out. Sure she dyes her hair, works out daily, has a personal trainer, eats properly, takes mega-doses of vi-

tamins, vacations at health farms, and has a plastic surgeon on retainer. But the Hawkeye does all these things too and he certainly doesn't look like her!

For Freeman Bosley - A giant rug, big enough to cover the Arena or maybe even Forest Park. Yep, you've guessed it, Mr. Piano Keys needs a rug that big to hide all of the administrative scandals and incompetence that have occurred in his office that he wants to sweep under it. Since he's been in office, living in St. Louis is like being part of a movie, "The Three Stooges Run City Hall!" He didn't appoint Virvus, that's true, but that's about the only mistake he didn't make. Hey, someone somewhere told me that he even recommended that the Rams draft Lawrence Phillips. And after all, he did draft Assessor Dennis Hill. Go figure!

For the executives at our lovely TCI Cable operation - A nice trip to the Yucatan peninsula

in Mexico. That's because with technology soon to come into our homes through phone wires, regular electric wires, and even through the air (this troubles Hawkeye because he still can't figure out how a 747 can fly!), the cable folks are about to become endangered species of the communications industry. These do-do birds will soon be a rude vestige of the past. And why Mexico? Because, we say to them, "Yucatan on the beach and enjoy this trip because soon cable t.v. will be like the buggy whip and you'll be working for Bill Gates or Ted Turner. Or Jane Fonda." Won't it be great to have scores more of channels offering reruns of programs that you never watched in their prime?

For Clarence Harmon - A pair of binoculars so that when he is elected Mayor he can have some vision and see around the corner, something that has been lacking for the last three years. At this point I'd take ANY corner. Think

Hawkeye is being too critical? Hmmmm, let's talk about it as we walk across the park and see the work that is being done to develop the old Arena site. Or maybe you're rather check the financial oversight that was done for the Midnight Basketball league. And how about our wonderful riverfront development? It's too bad that Baltimore or Boston or San Antonio can't capitalize on their waterfronts the way we have ours.

For Rich Brooks - No one ever said coaching the Rams would be easy. And to his credit he has handled the poor play and losses with dignity. Losing with dignity isn't the goal, however. For Rich we get two small signs. The first, posted on his bathroom mirror so that he'll see it every morning, says, "They may be making millions of bucks but emotionally they're still children." The second sign, to be posted on the inside of the front door, simply says, "Don't send out your laundry or sign any long-term leases."

*Our home is in
the city...
so is our heart.*

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