

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

Vol. 29 No. 2

June 1998

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

## Blitz Day '98 Lives Up To Its Name



Faith Sandler assists Claire and Peter with purple aster, provided from the Great Perennial Divide.

by Andy Cross

The Beautification Committee of Skinker DeBaliviere would like to thank the many neighbors who helped out with our Blitz Day '98 special projects. We had a very successful Blitz Day this year.

A small army of neighbors descended on the Four Corners area for a very impressive clean-up. Gwen Lazard, Evelyn Sparkman, Loren Genks, Jim Hatch, and others pulled up piles upon piles of weeds from the seams in the pavement around the concrete planters. Ralph Huber, Richard Lowenstein, and Chris Moritz shoveled up about one half tone of leaves, dirt, and debris from the parking area in front of the SDCC office on Kingsbury, a spot that has been in need of attention for some time now.

Becky Homan brought flowers which she planted in the concrete planters along with other plants provided by Gateway Greening. In a combined effort, neighbors planted well over one hundred plants from their "Great Perennial Divide." Our planters looked good at the start of Blitz Day, because many plants had survived from last year. Now they look fantastic! Help us keep these plants looking great by volunteering to water them for a week. A sign-up sheet is at the SDCC office. Plants need to be watered about three times per week, a total commitment of one and one half hours per week.

Other volunteers at Four Corners provided food and drinks for those cleaning up and planting. Theresa King provided all-around support throughout the day. Block captains picked up their flower orders from Operation BrightSide. Grass seed disappeared quickly this year. SDCC staff and other volunteers helped with these tasks.

Former neighbor Mark Abbott provided us with seed packets from the "America the Beautiful Fund," that included one thousand packets of flower, vegetable, and herb seeds. Emily Cross helped distribute these seeds to neighbors.

Operation BrightSide provided us with a dump truck load of mulch that was quickly diminished to a very small pile by the end of the day. Neighbors hauled off wheelbarrows full of the stuff. Truck loads of mulch were put in area pocket parks. Angela Roberson directed a good portion of mulch to the southwest corner of Kingsbury and DesPeres where the trees were mulched, bales of tall weeds were removed, and she and Chris Moritz cut down a few dead trees and removed some weed trees. The Parks Department is restoring the retaining wall now.

Mary Ann Rudloff assisted in restoring the brick circle planter at the Pershing/DesPeres pocket park. More "Great Perennial Divide" and Opera-

*Continued on page 6*



## Residents Invited to Help Design Forest Park

Here's your chance to contribute your ideas to the ongoing redevelopment of Forest Park!

Forest Park Forever has received a planning grant from the Lila Wallace Reader's Digest Fund, to be used to help determine what park visitors and neighbors want to see and do in the eastern end of Forest Park. This area includes such attractions as Steinberg Rink, Jefferson Lake (fishing), the Science Center, the archery range, part of the bike/jogging path, and the fish hatcheries. The Forest Park Master Plan calls for a number of changes in this area, including restoration of some wetlands and other natural areas, the connection of all lakes and lagoons into

a single, meandering stream, and the addition of more benches, paths and other park amenities.

Forest Park Forever is surveying park neighbors and visitors to learn how they use the park today and what types of changes, programs, and improvements they would like to see. Copies of the survey will be distributed by block captains in the coming weeks. Please watch for your copy and call the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council office if you do not receive one.

Forest Park is a wonderful resource to have in our backyard. This survey is a first step in helping to make it even better. Please take the time to complete the survey and return it promptly.

## National Night Out

Four Corners Park (at Kingsbury and DesPeres) will once again be the site for a neighborhood-wide NATIONAL NIGHT OUT Celebration on Tuesday, August 4.

The theme throughout the City of St. Louis will be "Light up the Night."

A planning meeting for the Skinker DeBaliviere event is set for Thursday, June 25, 7:00 p.m., at the Council offices, 6008 Kingsbury. Block captains, community group leaders and interested neighbors are all invited to attend the meeting.

As in years past, block units, athletic teams, scouts, youth groups, etc. are urged to reserve space to set up a table and conduct mini-fundraising activities. Last year, face painters raised money to support a beautification project, the 5900 block of McPherson sold ice cream, Friends of Skinker DeBaliviere sold T-shirts, and the Coun-

cil sold hot dogs, brats and beer. A live concert rounds out the agenda. This event affords a unique opportunity for all parts of the neighborhood to come together and to celebrate our successes, to recognize the need for continued vigilance in our efforts to improve neighborhood safety and security, and to get to know each other better.

Bring your ideas, your energy, and your creativity to our planning meeting on Thursday, June 25. And mark your calendars now for the biggest, most successful ever neighborhood celebration of National Night Out.

Please contact Laure Porterfield at 862-5122 with any questions.

See pages 4 and 5 for stories on the trip to California to visit Light Rail systems.

# Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

The Times Board wishes all neighbors a very happy and safe summer. Our neighborhood has benefitted from generally low crime and rising home values. The efforts begun over 30 years ago to stabilize the neighborhood and make it a successful expression of diversity continue to bear fruit.

There is still work to be done. Grants have been received to change the streetscape on Delmar to make it more conducive to commerce. Once completed, we will have a thriving commercial arterial to complement our neighborhood. Regarding housing, a few areas could benefit from assistance so that they might be more fully utilized. In addition, we must also vigilantly take care of our dwellings—almost 100 years old—so that the building stock itself does not deteriorate.

A number of neighbors have significant questions regarding the implementation of the MetroLink northern route on our southern boundary. Neighbors should attend the Transportation Committee meetings to see what is happening and to help make the process the least disruptive to Skinker DeBaliviere.

On August 4, city neighborhoods again will celebrate National Night Out. Skinker DeBaliviere celebrates at Four Corners with food and music and general conviviality. It is one of the best ways to see a cross-section of the neighborhood—old neighbors, new arrivals. If you are in town, plan on dropping by. Or even better, call the SDCC at 862-5122 to help out.

Speaking of help, we at the Times relish the new writers who have appeared on our pages this year and hope they will write again and be joined by many others. We need residents to provide us with information for Vicissitudes again—births, graduations, accomplishments, all rites of passage—for our neighbors. If you are able to help, give me a call at 721-7532. Our paper benefits so much from the contributions we receive!

## Social Services Committee Plans Food Drive, Other Activities

The reorganized and growing Social Services Committee will meet Thursday, July 22, 7:30 p.m., at the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council offices, 6008 Kingsbury, to plan its activities for the remainder of 1998.

A food drive will again be conducted in the early autumn, with details to be announced later. Volunteers to help collect the food and to transfer it to our local food pantries will be sought. Watch for the flyers!

Under the able leadership of Chairperson Shirley Polk, 57XX DeGiverville, and co-Chair Lara Doyle, 61XX Westminster, the committee will recruit vigorously for assistance with the drive and also with a proposed senior citizens telephone tree.

All those interested in working on those projects or these with ideas regarding new projects are urged to attend the meeting on July 22. Yes, we are air-conditioned! Questions? Call 862-5122.

## The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Editor: Lana Stein  
Business Manager: Lois Schoemehl  
Production Manager: Marj Weir

The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere is published by the West End Publishing Co., a not-for-profit, independent, community organization. Members of the Board of Directors are:

Tom Hoerr	Venita Lake	Sue Rothschild	Lana Stein
Marcia Kerz	Loretta Lloyd	Juliet Schoemehl	JoAnn Vatcha
Katie Kurtz	Essie McLean	Lois Schoemehl	Marjorie Weir
		King Schoenfeld	Kathleen Williams

Printing: Arcade Printing

### Advertising Rates:

Display Advertising:  
Column width, 2.25". Minimum ad size 2" x 1 col: \$24/insertion;  
(10% discount 5 to 8 issue contract; 15% discount 9 issue contract)  
For a complete list of sizes and rates, write  
The Times, 6168 Westminster, 63112, or call 727-6630.

### 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

- 7/6 MetroLink Advisory Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., location t.b.a.
- 7/13 Executive Committee Meeting, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:30 p.m.,
- 7/15 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Meeting, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, 6008 Kingsbury, 12:00 noon,
- 7/22 Social Services Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, 6008 Kingsbury
- 7/27 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:00 p.m.
- 7/29 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation Meeting, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, 6008 Kingsbury, 12:00 noon
- 8/3 Transportation Committee Meeting (formerly MetroLink Advisory Committee) location t.b.a.
- 8/4 National Night Out, Four Corners Park 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- 8/16 West End Neighbors Picnic, Forest Park, ground 8, ALL DAY

## Other Events of Interest

- now- 7/25 St. Louis Artists' Guild Exhibit, Passion in Paint, at Two Oak Knoll Park, noon-4pm daily. Closed Monday.
- now- 8/2 *The Invisible Made Visible: Angels from the Vatican* at the St. Louis Art Museum. From the Vatican in Rome. Admission is \$10.
- 6/26 Film "The Innocents" based on Henry James' Turn of the Screw at St. Louis Art Museum, 7:30pm.



*The Annunciation, Federico Fiori, called Barocci (Urbino, 1528/35-1612); painted 1582-8; oil on canvas, 99 x 68 inches.*

## Additional Renovations at New City School

New City School students, teachers, and parents soon will be enjoying a new theater space called "Founders' Hall." It will be a site for performances and plays and also for presenting classroom projects and exhibitions. This renovation was made possible by leadership gifts of John and Alison Ferring and the generosity of many others. The facility will be air-conditioned and may be used for neighborhood meetings.

New City also has received a foundation grant of \$1,000,000 to be used for capital improvements such as tuckpointing, installing central air, and replacement of windows and doors. In the meantime, educators from all around the U.S. and some from other nations visit New City to learn more about its innovative learning programs. Next year, New City will host a conference on educational theory.

## Washington University Plans Major Renovation at Our Doorsteps

Fumoihiko Maki, internationally known architect, has been selected to design Washington University's proposed Visual Arts and Design Center. This center would link five key campus areas in art, architecture, art history, art exhibition and information systems. Plans include the creation of improved facilities that will permit a more collaborative and interactive relationship between these areas and would encompass the present art and architecture complex at Forsyth and Skinker.

## ORDER IN THE COURT ... AND IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

by Jane Geiler

March 31, 1998 - Div. 29 - Small Claims Court - St. Louis, USA: Geiler vs. Cheatham.

The Judge gives an opening speech recommending to all parties that they get an attorney. "This is not sand lot ball. The rules of evidence and procedure apply." Although I am an attorney, I am also the Plaintiff in a small-time lawsuit about a big-time problem, 6154 Delmar--a building in my backyard which is rotting out from under the neighborhood while serving as haven for crooks, creatures and crud, and I am mighty happy to have an attorney this date. The defendant, an absentee property owner from St. Louis County, has appealed my win against him back in August the year before. Now we are "on the record" and starting all over again in a trial de novo as the rules require in the appeal of a small claims case.

My case this day is one of three "test cases" from the 6100 block of Washington involving "problem properties." Mary Mason has won her case against the owner of the Star Clothing building on Delmar, and she has prevailed on appeal. Without Vivi Wolf, the Neighborhood Stabilization Officer, neither Mary Mason nor I would have begun, much less continued, to pursue this process. The first phase was easy. Nine months or so before this, we appeared in a court filled with a mass of people like ourselves, each yapping as their name was called by the bailiff about some wrong or other done to them. Time was limited. We all turned in a self-addressed stamped envelope and awaited the judicial reply to our cry. That was Round One. I was loaded for bear. Mr. Cheatham's only response was that he was a veteran with health problems who planned to take care of his building if only the Court would just give him a little more time. (Yes, he had owned the building for 17 years and it had been vacant and needing attending for the last 12.) That first day, neither Mary nor I had counsel, and neither did Cheatham, but the case was not "on the record."

This day, I am represented by Mr. Eddie Roth, a generous, talented and caring young attorney with Leritz, Plunkert, and Bruning, PC Attorneys, One City Center, St. Louis, MO. 63104. Not only is Mr. Roth the right man for the job, he has agreed to take the Rosedale cases pro bono because he believes in this process to solve this kind of problem. Eddie Roth knows what he is doing. He has tackled this type case before in the Shaw neighborhood. He counsels me that all the things I have amassed (30 photos, police reports, environmental court reports, letters, witnesses, mug shots of yahoos, blah, blah, blah) are not relevant to my statutory claim that 6154 Delmar is a "nuisance" under Missouri statutory law that is costing me money. He takes one letter and four photos and marks them as exhibits. I feel foolish (all witnesses want to say more than is needed) and grateful for the guidance. Attorneys in this court look different somehow from the criminal defense bar I am used to meeting. They seem less sleek, more casual, less aggressive. The forum is more friendly, less dramatic. Case No. 1 is called. It is full of insider mechanics' talk. The Court must make a "Judge Wopner" decision. One party has an attorney, the other is winging it. The lawyerless man will not play

Continued on page 7

## 1997 ROSEDALE RECAPS

by Jane Geiler

In her brilliant and horrifying works on post-Communist Europe, The Haunted Land, and violent Latin America, Children of Cain, Pulitzer Prize winner Tina Rosenberg makes a point that it is in the life of grass roots groups—e.g. neighborhood associations like Rosedale and SDCC, where people come together to agree and dissent, that democracy and freedom survive. In Spring 1997 at our Annual Meeting, Rosedale neighbors brought disbanding the Rosedale Neighborhood Association to a vote. We took the high road and decided to continue to exist. That same night, officers were elected and a Mission Statement was written as follows:

1. To support diversity
2. To promote neighborliness.
3. To work for safety and stability.
4. To nurture beauty.
5. To advocate for children.
6. To foster protection for animals and pets.
7. To support the larger neighborhood through participation in the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council.
8. To keep current by reassessing annually and updating "the Mission" as needed.

From that Spring to this, Rosedale sponsored its "First Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest" (Joan Bender, Gary and Patrick Kattner, Dick and Belynda Hereford taking the prizes) and its "Second Annual Holiday Lighting Contest" (winners Rena Barksdale, Ruby Ferguson and Margaret Campbell). The annual Rags to Riches project, chaired once again by Julie Schoemehl, was its usual success. Rosedale Vice-President, Gary Hayes, continued as President of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council. Jane and Joe Geiler joined Mary Mason and Bruce Shipman in a fight in Small Claims Court against nuisance property owners on Delmar. The 1997 Rosedale Executive Committee (Jane Geiler, Gary Hayes, Glenda Underwood, Julie Schoemehl, Mary Ann Rudloff) and a friend, Dave Schmidt, drafted by-laws with the help of Vivi Wolf, Neighborhood Stabilization Officer, a project spanning two years. At this year's annual meeting in May, those by-laws were modified and then adopted after spirited discussion.

Other business at the Annual Meeting included election of officers for 1998-99: Julie Schoemehl, President, Amy Gill, Vice-President, Mary Ann Rudloff, Treasurer, Joe Hogan, Secretary, and Representatives to SDCC: Jane Geiler (Washington-Westminster), Dan Schesch (McPherson-Kingbury), Susan Littlefield (Pershing-Waterman), Laura Doyle (At-large). Rosedale also honored Vivi Wolf as the recipient of its "First Annual Rosedale Neighborhood Association President's Award." With Julie Schoemehl at the helm, we can look forward to a fine year for Rosedale in 1998-99 which will be a win for us all. Tina Rosenberg would smile I think and so should we.



Dan and Jill McGuire and sons John and Dan help to celebrate the former alderman's receipt of the Cervantes Public Service Award at a party given by the 28th Ward Regular Democratic Club.

## Vicissitudes



Virgil "Jack" Wright

Neighbors have lost a dear friend and tireless worker for the Skinker DeBaliviere community. Longtime SDCC Board Member and Past President and King Commemoration Chair Jack Wright passed away on June 14 after a long illness. His service and spirit will long be remembered by those with whom he worked in our community.

St. Roch 5th Grader, Megan Manary, composed a 2 minute piece of music for the flute as part of a class assignment from her teacher, Regina Morris, and won an all-expense paid trip for two to Pittsburgh where her composition was performed at the Pittsburgh Philharmonic. The contest was sponsored by the PBS program, Oscar's Orchestra, and the National Music Educators Association. As part of the event, Megan, her mother and brother, all participated in setting a new record for the largest orchestra performance for submission to the Guinness Book of World's Records. Although Megan has played the recorder for four years and also plays the flute and harmonic dulcimer, she wants to be a scientist, perhaps a marine biologist, when she grows up.

Folks on 57xx DeGiverville are sending best wishes to resident Tiffany Michelle Bryant. On June 7, she graduated from Ladue High School. She plans to join the U.S. Air Force in September and pursue studies in computer science. Tiffany is the daughter of Denise C. Bryant and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Coneal.

OFF: 721-5600  
RES: 862-5071

**KARLEEN O. HOERR**  
LIFE MEMBER MILLION DOLLAR CLUB  
MEMBER MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR CLUB

DANIEL B. FEINBERG REAL ESTATE CO.  
360 N. SKINKER BLVD.  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63130

**U. City Loop**

T  
I  
V  
O  
L  
I

WALK to the theatre that shows the best new independent films!

★ ★ ★ ★

Classic Cinema Series!  
Great Concessions!  
Great Staff!

**6350 Delmar  
862-1100**

VOTED #1 HAMBURGER IN ST. LOUIS

**6504 Delmar  
727-0880**

## Neighbors Learn About Light Rail in California

by Lana Stein

On May 27, several residents of Skinker DeBaliviere journeyed to northern California to examine light rail in San Jose, San Francisco, and Sacramento. They included SDCC president Gary Hayes, SDCC vice president and Parkview resident Ann Smith Carr, Paul Hohmann, chair of the MetroLink Advisory Committee, and Dan Schesch, newly elected SDCC board member from Rosedale. Schesch paid his own way; the other three received scholarships from Washington University. SDCC executive director Laure Porterfield also made the trip. The council paid for half of her expense and Wash U covered the other. At the SDCC meeting on June 8, they gave their impressions of the trip. Those impressions, as well as a later interview with Hohmann, provide Skinker DeBaliviere with new ways in which to view the light rail proposed to run along Forest Park Parkway, either at grade, below grade uncovered, or below grade covered.

duced. It was quite a bit less than with the trains that run through our neighborhood now. Our noise problem stems from the fact that BiState used old pitted track. Hayes also toured the Siemens plant that made our cars. They seemed less noisy than Italian cars also in use out there.

Hohmann mentioned seeing a train running in a trench in San Jose. That train had to pass under existing freight rail tracks. He said it was not attractive—an open concrete pit and a fence. He wondered how that would work here where we would have little room to take aesthetic considerations into account. Many of the train tracks he saw had considerable landscaping though, something made more possible by the California climate.

Carr focused on the quality of the professional planning staffs in California. She and Porterfield were both impressed by their sophistication and expertise.



The 48th Street Station in Sacramento. A house in the background shows the station's proximity to the residential neighborhood.

Schesch spent time talking to the train drivers and learned there were recurrent problems with motorists trying to beat the gates at intersections. Accidents that occurred were not the fault of the train drivers but of pedestrians or motorists.

Hohmann also hoped to see the transit-oriented development that light rail made possible in these communities. He did not see as much as he wished. In one area, dense housing and apartments were built by a station. However, there was not a great deal of mixed use development (commercial) around the stations they saw. However, it was clear to him that light rail in San Jose and Sacramento helped downtown renewal and new residential growth there. Schesch commented that some on the trip had really been impressed by the downtown transit mall in San Jose.

In an area near downtown San Jose, the train goes down the middle of a roadway that has several lanes of traffic on either side. Trees have been planted right by the track. This train preempts regular traffic signals: The light turns green when the train approaches the intersection. Hayes com-

mented that traffic kept flowing except at big intersections. Porterfield and Hayes both mentioned a neighborhood in Sacramento that had resisted light rail and even when it passed through they opted not to have a station. Subsequently, they petitioned to be allowed to reverse their previous position. Their neighborhood now has two stations.

Hohmann offered some food for thought for Skinker DeBaliviere residents. We might worry about how slow trains at grade would be in well-developed areas. He noted that there is so much congestion in California that light rail, even at grade, makes it better. We don't have that degree of congestion. He feels that light rail at grade can be safe if people are careful. His biggest concern regarding light rail at grade here is horns. In California, horns are almost never sounded. Missouri law dictates that the driver blow the horn at intersections. Many have noted how loud that can be and can even hear the horn when it is sounded now in Wellston. Hohmann is also fearful regarding the DesPeres intersection. With light rail at grade, vehicular traffic may not be able to travel to Lindell on DesPeres.

Hohmann felt that light rail could be integrated if landscaped and if the right type of track bed was laid. A floating slab could control vibration and noise. A trench is poured first. An isolating element is added and then the slab. There were examples on the trip of where light rail is unobtrusive.

Hohmann understands that the consultants to East/West Gateway are putting together a plan for a committee with representatives of each area along the proposed new MetroLink route. A first meeting would take place in August if East/West Gateway okays this plan.

To continue its mission of providing information to the neighborhood regarding MetroLink, the advisory committee has been reconstituted as a standing committee of the SDCC, the Transportation Committee. Hohmann will continue as chair and this committee will also monitor BiState's plan to redo the DeBaliviere parking lot and perhaps add other development.

The Transportation Committee will meet on July 6. A major item on the agenda will be viewing video footage Dan Schesch took in California. All neighbors are welcome to attend Transportation Committee meetings and learn more about what is planned for our neighborhood. Call SDCC at 862-5122 for more information.



A new apartment development adjacent to the Almaden Station (the last stop of the light rail line in San Jose). Hills in the background mark and urban growth boundary.

Hohmann spoke for everyone when he described the trip as well-planned and thought out. Some of what they saw was applicable to our situation but some was not. Most of what they saw was surface light rail. Hohmann particularly wanted to see first hand what it would like when the trains ran at grade. They had a pretty good variety of exposures: 1) through industrial areas at 55 m.p.h. 2) through somewhat residential areas at 35 m.p.h. 3) traversing downtown areas at 10-15 m.p.h. In San Francisco, the train runs in the midst of traffic and that really slows the train down. The train there stopped at every stop sign.

Hayes said that he found that trains running above ground could be tastefully done. The noise had been re-



ABOVE. Autos share the roadway with streetcars on the Market Street line in San Francisco. A circa 1946 streetcar from St. Louis runs on this line. A faster, modern light rail line parallels Market Street in a below-grade subway.

LEFT. A light rail car crosses an intersection in downtown San Jose. The train runs on a granite-paved, tree-lined transit mall that replaced half of the original street.



## Light Rail in California:

A Perspective

by Laure Porterfield

An energetic and enthusiastic group of travelers gathered at Lambert Field on Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, preparatory to the Citizens for Modern Transit tour of light rail sites in California. In all, the Skinker DeBaliviere contingent included Ann Smith Carr, Gary Hayes, Paul Hohmann, Laure Porterfield, Dan Schesch and 28<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Lyda Krewson. Cameras, video cameras, sound meters and comprehensive "briefing books" were packed with the travelers' paraphernalia. Some had the foresight to bring umbrellas and other raingear.

We had the opportunity to visit three very different locations where light rail and related transit oriented development were in various stages of implementation.

In San Jose tremendous growth has outstripped the community's capacity to provide convenient and affordable housing and transportation for workers, who frequently commute more than 100 miles in order to reach work sites in the booming "SiliconValley". Professional planners and staff from the economic development agencies, transit systems and municipalities involved were generous with their time, expertise and data.

In Sacramento, we rode a light rail transit line that had been successfully constructed at grade through established residential areas. We had the opportunity to meet representatives of the neighborhood group which initially opposed construction of any station in their neighborhood and which eventually lobbied to have two walk-up stations added after the viability of the project had been proved. Neighborhood representatives assured us that property values remained stable or increased with the advent of the light rail system.

For me, the most valuable lessons were learned in San Francisco, where the Third Street Light Rail extension is currently moving towards the design and implementation phase. The outline of the community engagement and planning process that was shared with us seems to capture all the elements that we hope to see included as the Northern Route extension of our own MetroLink light rail is planned and designed to move from Skinker DeBaliviere and University City to Clayton and beyond.

Finally, we also had the opportunity to visit the Siemens plant outside Sacramento where the new cars for the St. Clair County extension are currently under construction. These cars are so customized that they are virtually assembled by hand and put through vigorous safety checks and shake-downs throughout the process. Anticipating state-of-the-art robotics, it was startling and heartening to see these skilled craftsman at work.

Though hard to quantify, the opportunity to travel with representatives from Clayton,

University City, the County and several other municipalities and organizations interested in the future of MetroLink was perhaps the most significant part of this trip. As we continue to work to advance the best interests of Skinker DeBaliviere, we hope to tap into this network to assure our success.

Special thanks to Citizens for Modern Transit and the Board of Directors of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, who made my participation in this event possible. Hats of to Dan Schesch and Lyda Krewson, who sent themselves to learn more about the issues at hand, and thanks to Washington University for 21/2 scholarships for Gary Hayes, Paul Hohmann, and, along with Parkview Agents' assistance, Ann Smith Carr on an info-trip to a very wet Northern California.

## Blitz Day '98

Continued from page 1

tion BrightSide plants were planted there.

Juan and Kiki Chavez planted a large number of "Great Perennial Divide" plants at the garden they maintain at Washington and DesPeres. They have made a very attractive garden there.

The Beautification Committee also planted a fifteen by twenty-five foot section of day lilies on a slope at the light rail right-of-way by the Hamilton II school building. These day lilies came from the "Great Perennial Divide."

Thanks again to the forty-plus volunteers who helped these neighbors in their efforts at Four Corners and our pocket parks. Thanks also to the block captains for distributing flowers, trash bags, and for their efforts to clean up their own blocks. Special thanks to Mary Lou Green, Operation BrightSide director, and the staff of Gateway Greening and their "Great Perennial Divide" from the Beautification Committee and the SDCC.



Chris Moritz removes dirt and debris at Four Corners on Blitz Day '98.

# Pet Talk

## Two Decades at the Station

by Steven A. Brammeier, DVM

Twenty years ago, June 1978, we were putting the finishing touches on the renovation of a boarded up Shell service station to transform it into a veterinary clinic: Kingsbury Animal Hospital. The Skinker/DeBaliviere neighborhood provided just what I was looking for in a location for my practice. I struggled with the name for the practice. I didn't like the sound of "Skinker Animal Hospital." "West End Animal Hospital"? ...too generic. "Central West End Animal Hospital"? ...not accurate. "Skinker/DeBaliviere Animal Hospital"? ...too long. "Brammeier Animal Hospital"? ...too hard to spell. No, "Kingsbury Animal Hospital" fit, and besides, it was easy to give directions: "On the corner of Skinker and Kingsbury just north of Talayna's." Now we say, "...North of where Talayna's used to be." I put the first lettering on the building myself with the prefabricated letters purchased at "Central Hardware." (Where?) I actually couldn't believe the sign turned out so well. Usually, with all that spacing and measuring I end up leaving out something or adding something. The sign was homemade, and it looked it, but starting a business on a budget leaves little room for graphic design when X-ray machines cost \$9,000.00. I was proud of the sign announcing the new life for the old Shell station.

I kept the first appointment book. The first patient was a Doberman puppy. We did surgery on him to "trim" his ears. The surgery room wasn't finished so we operated in one of the exam rooms. I stopped doing ear trims about 3 years ago. The process is too painful for the puppies, and a completely cosmetic procedure. It is a reflection of what the veterinary profession in general, and I specifically, have learned about animals (pets); their experience of pain and our ability to relieve the pain. It has only been within the last 10 years that the profession in general recognized the need to provide specific pain control for our patients. Of course, veterinarians have always worked to relieve an animals suffering, cure their diseases and keep them healthy. However, our lack of understanding about the manifestations of an animal's pain and the limited number of non-narcotic substances available to relieve pain, made specific pain control—separate from treating a disorder—not primary on the list. Happily, much has changed. I have more drugs at my disposal specifically for pain control. Along with human medicine we have learned that preventing pain, before it starts, reduces the amount of medication needed to control a patients discomfort. Patients with less pain recover quicker.

I look around the office and see the changes brought by technology. An automatic X-ray developer not much bigger than an orange crate that produces consistent high quality films in about two minutes. I don't miss the hand dipping tanks at all. The nasty smell of the chemicals, the films sticking together, the lack of ability to control the temperature of the developer, and worst of all, the inconsistency in the quality of the films produced requiring more exposures, more trauma for the pets and the staff taking the films. The blood chemistry machine that sits on the lab counter. It is not the same as getting a full battery of test from a commercial lab, but it provides valuable information in just a few minutes

that we used to have to wait overnight to get. Two local "roving" board certified radiologists have portable ultrasound machines. These doctors come to our practice with their machines giving us the capability to get much more information, non-invasively, about what's going on "inside" an animals body. The computers and their ability to improve our record keeping, improving accessibility of medical information and client contact. Most recently, the connection to the internet bought the ability to discuss cases with "experts" around the world, search the veterinary medical literature data bases, and compare notes with other veterinarians.

Twenty years is long enough to see trends come and go. Like the decor at Kingsbury. I knew if I hung on long enough suffering barbs from staff and a few brave clients about the "seventies" look of the place, eventually it would be trendy again. So, I'm ready to have the legs of the plastic modular seating in the waiting room re-chromed. They are a design classic! Medical trends come and go, and come again. Their have been plenty. When I was in school, every dog with congestive heart failure took a digitalis compound. Ten years ago that treatment was out of fashion. Now, we are starting to use the drug again, not on every case, but we realize the drugs value in a new way. A trend that won't go away is the recognition of the bond we have to animals; our pets in particular. I have a few clients that have fostered puppies for the "Support Dog" program. We give care to many pets for the "PAWS" organization; "Pets are Wonderful Support." This group provides assistance for pet care to people living with AIDS, recognizing the importance of a pet in the life of a human coping with chronic, or terminal illness. Some of my clients participate in programs for the elderly. The clients take their dogs or cats to retirement centers, nursing homes or extended care facilities to share the love and joy of their pet with people deprived of contact with a warm furry friend.

As I look through that inaugural appointment book I am touched by the names of pets no longer around and also by the clients' names we still see on our appointment book. As much as I might not relish growing older, there is gratification in being able to stay, "I've been practicing here twenty years."

The practice at Kingsbury Animal Hospital has touched many lives through the years, both animal and human. Like any business, or family, the relationships formed there have come and gone, and come again. I am grateful to all those who have worked with me contributing to the success of the practice and to the pet owners that have trusted me with care of their loving companions. I look forward to the comings and goings of the next twenty years.

**COLONIAL  
RUG COMPANY**  
6191 Delmar  
Complete Floor Service  
Remnants Always in Stock  
Bill Schiller  
726-3281

# Notes from the Community Gardens

by Andy Cross

The spring work weekends for the McPherson Garden are over and the garden looks wonderful. Eight new raised beds were made. We now have roughly sixty raised beds and the waiting list is small once again. The alley side of the garden has been cleaned up and straightened out. The garden is spruced up and looks great. The butterfly garden and sunflower garden in the center of the raised beds have come back from last year and are very healthy. Also, the wildflower garden and common gardens out front are bursting out of the ground with a vengeance (as are the weeds, but we are keeping on top of them).

We are working on some special gardens out in front in the tree lawn. Michelle Pike is creating a very special flower garden, with a flagstone path. It is going to be a beautiful addition to the McPherson Garden. More flowers have been planted in front near the sidewalk, and other plantings and projects will continue during the summer.

On Saturday, May 16, the McPherson Garden had a bar-be-cue with the gardeners from Block Unit 1035 Garden and members of Gateway Greening—sponsors of the gardens along with the SDCC. There was a big turnout. Gardeners enjoyed meeting each other and sharing gardening tips.

The Block Unit 1035 Garden is being built under the direction of Ronnie Haliburton at 5838 Westminster and still has a little work left. It looks wonderful already! The Block Unit 1035 gardeners have been working hard and are building a great garden.

Both gardens have received many generous donations of plants from the "Great Perennial Divide," and the help we have received from the SDCC staff, Operation BrightSide, Vivi Wolf (Neighborhood Stabilization Officer), and especially Gateway Greening has been fantastic.

When you are out for a stroll, come take a walk by our gardens. We think you will like what you see.



(Above, left, and below.)  
Neighbors take the first steps in the establishment of the Block Unit 1035 Community Garden.



(Left, below, and page 7, bottom left.)  
Spring planting and reconstruction at the McPherson Community Garden inspires neighbors to dig in.



## Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting on April 13, 1998

In Attendance: President Gary Hayes, Directors Ann Smith Carr, Lara Doyle, Peggy Droege, Jane Geiler, Ronnie Haliburton, Maggie Hart-Mahon, Gwen Lazard, Susan Littlefield, Julie Schoemehl, and Lana Stein; guests: Rachel Blacker, Andy Cross, Beautification Committee Chairman, Amrit Gill, Paul Hohmann, MetroLink Advisory Committee Chairman, Sgt. Dave Habermaas, SLPD 7<sup>th</sup> District, Lyda Krewson Alderwoman, John Nyngstron, Beay Pollack and Dan Schesch; staff: Gary Boehnke, Housing Corporation Project Administrator, Laure Porterfield, SDCC Executive Director. Absent: Arthelda Busch, Dan Freedberg, Gregory Freeman, Steve Givens, Ruth Johnson, Rev. Miki Merritt, Shirley Polk, Paula Sigman, Jack Wright.

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Gary Hayes.

**Approval of Minutes**

It was moved and seconded that March minutes be approved. Motion passed.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Sgt. Habermaas provided crime statistics for the neighborhood and information about arrests made. Washington University Thurtene Carnival is April 18 & 19. Student representatives reported on security measures.

**Financial Report**

It was moved and seconded that the March financial report, submitted by Lana Stein, be approved as submitted. Motion passed.

**Executive Director's Report**

A. Liquor license will be approved for Taylanya's pending completion of health department inspection, proper record checks for staff, and some other steps. A detailed list of restrictions must be met if a Liquor License is to be maintained.

B. SDCC asked to write a letter of support for feasibility study regarding a trolley on Delmar. Motion was to write the letter of support with the condition that the study include the area of Delmar east to DeBaliviere.

C. Volunteers requested to sign up to water plants at Four Corners Park.

D. Web Fair 1998 will be held at Forest Park Community College on April 26.

E. Housing Corporation updates (Gary Boehnke): the lot at 5796 McPherson was purchased by the Housing Corporation, 6048 Washington has been sold and will be rehabbed and owner occupied. Historic tax credits are available on personal income tax (state) when repairs meet guidelines. Application available at SDCC offices.

**Committee and Neighborhood Reports**

A. Residential Development Committee - Lana Stein, Chairperson. The Committee toured the neighborhood March 15. Problem areas were identified. Possible solutions were discussed. A letter of invitation will be sent to Washington University to tour the neighborhood and discuss future involvement including Delmar. Discussed ideas of neighborhood opportunities and code enforcement.

B. Commercial Development Committee - a business card exchange will be held April 16; sponsored and hosted by Central West End Bank.

C. Neighborhood Services/Playground Committee - Funding is being requested. Progress is being made.

D. MetroLink Advisory Committee - Paul Hohmann, Chairman. Last meeting was April 6. Committee will now meet on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Council office. There will be a meeting with Mary Means and Associates regarding the public process on April 14.

E. Beautification Committee - Andrew Cross, chairman. Gardens are off to a good start. Blitz Day meeting was April 4, plans were finalized. Flowers are blooming in the triangle at Laurel and DeGiverville that were purchased with a grant received last year.

F. Parkview - Wall was repaired at Skinker and Milbrook. Insurance paid for tree on Washington that was damaged and will use funds to make improvements on Skinker.

G. Social Services Committee - Shirley Polk will chair the committee. Please call to join committee and submit ideas.

H. Rosedale - Annual meeting scheduled for May 5, at 7:00 p.m. at Grace Methodist Church. Won the lawsuit against Mr. Cheatham. Thanks to Vivi Wolf for her help.

I. New Business - Discussion on grants available; decided to apply. Motion was made: Board authorizes and empowers Executive Director to prepare and submit by May 7<sup>th</sup> a proposal for core operational support and infrastructure to the Regional Housing and Community Development Alliance; proposal to be designed and approved by the ad hoc committee (Lana Stein, Maggie Hart-Mahon, JoAnn Vatcha) in cooperation with Alderwoman Krewson and the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation. Seconded and passed.

Adjourned at 9:02 p.m. and Board went into Executive Session.

## Cat's Clause, 2d Edition

by Pinky Geiler

Greetings my fans. Happy summer to you. I am pleased to know that this is the last issue of the paper until the fall because I have much hot weather business and would be unable to tear myself away to write. You see, while you know me as "Pinky", in summer, I am "Pinkerton," sleuth among cats, Block Catpaw at 61xx Washington. Every day I am on the Neighborhood Watch, looking out for trespasses and cat burglars. Those of you who have heard my yowl and thought it annoying might rethink a thing or two. Without me, this time of year, Farryl would overrun the whole vicinity.

All of this is rigorous, requiring many naps and a great deal of IAMS, especially since, neutered and declawed, I have no desire purr se for combat, and have been a slow starter at the necessary arts of the watch. For instance, I cannot bound up a fence to gain an advantageous lookout, but instead must muscle my way up pull by pull like a Marine in an obstacle course. Also I have had to learn friend from foe, e.g. possums are welcome, with even vulnerable babies receiving no more from me than a cornering and a stare, but a blue jay in a fly by will get a thwak! from a jump executed three feet straight up from a standstill, and he better be glad I have no claws! Finally, you should know that I have tailored my efforts to fit human security guard standards. This includes such maneuvers as sleeping on the job, making no unnecessary arrests, and never tackling any cat heavily clawed. I am convinced that those things do not pay because, you see, when there was an actual burglar in our kitchen some years ago, Joe Cat was in his prime and had credibility and tried to warn her. (How Egyptian.) He went right upstairs and cried and cried. She just said, "Be quiet, Joe Cat." And so the felony went undetected, until later when she saw the window open, and Joe Cat never made it on Animal Planet as the hero cat he was. That lesson was not lost on me. I really just guard my own bench and bowl, and tussle only with a small tree and lity. When you hear her calling me in at midnight, forgive her the breach of peace. She's securing her security cat, who's been on the job making Rosedale a safer place, at least for himself. (How American.)

*Continued from page 8*

Dear Hawkeye,

I collect \_\_\_\_\_ because

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

I could go on an on but I have to wind my hundreds of clocks, a lengthy task. Oh yeah, I have to be careful that I don't knock over the cigarette lighters that are positioned in front of many of the clocks. And recently I've become interested in salt & pepper shakers that have an aeronautical or ship theme...

**ORDER IN THE COURT**

*Continued from page 3*

well "on the record" I feel sure. He needs Eddie Roth!

My case is called. I am on the stand, right hand in the air. Because Eddie is comfortable, I am comfort-able. Mr. Cheatham's attorney seems genuinely impressed that I have appeared with Mr. Roth. The Court is solicitous too. With Eddie's help, our case is crisp and to the point: Cheatham's building is a shambles, an eye-sore, a fire-hazard, a health hazzard, a detriment to me effecting the fair rental value of my property. The Cheatham building has kept the St. Louis City Fire Department, Police Department, Neighborhood Stabilization Office, Forestry Service, City Counselor's Office, Circuit Attorney's Office, State and Municipal Courts busy for years. I turn in my envelope and await the reply.

Now I have a judgement for damages and I need to hire an attorney to collect it! Cheatham's weeds are up past the ugly plastic sheeting he laid down last summer to keep from mowing, and someone has dumped a load of tree cuttings over the bright orange plastic fencing Cheatham hung up just before court. This would all be more demoralizing (or hilarious) than I could stand but for Eddie Roth, Vivi Wolf and Mary Mason, who banded together and tempted me out of "self-help" measures that appeal to my darker, vindictive side. Bottom line, anarchy isn't friendly and the court system is. I would have liked instant results, but the Court's ruling vindicated all of us in the neighborhood, who must live with Cheatham's building while he lives with himself.



OFF. 721-5600  
RES. 863-0220

**R**  
BROKER &  
ASSOCIATE

**RENNI SHUTER, GRI**  
LIFE MEMBER MILLION DOLLAR CLUB  
RELOCATION SPECIALIST

DANIEL B. FEINBERG REAL ESTATE CO.  
380 N. SKINKER BLVD.  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63130

Mayer Funeral Home Inc.

4356 Lindell Boulevard  
St. Louis, MO 63108  
533-0293  
Guidoon Richeson

**DELMAR CLEANERS**

Your neighborhood cleaner  
with complete cleaning &  
laundry service.

6142 Delmar Blvd.  
Call 727-6600

**KINGSBURY ANIMAL HOSPITAL**  
420 N. Skinker (at Kingsbury)

Stephen A. Brammeler DVM  
Kim SeUing DVM

Full Service Grooming Available  
Hours By Appointment  
9-6:30 Mon.-Thurs. / 9-4:30 Fri / 10-2 Sat.

**721-6251**

# In Your Ear

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

Collections! If there is one thing we all have in common, aside from thinking that we work too hard and get paid too little, it's a *collection*. There must be something in the human psyche or genes, going back to those cave days when man saved flints and woman saved pelts, that causes us to collect. The STUFF may be displayed prominently on the living room wall, tucked securely in a chest under the bed, or piled haphazardly in the basement. But no matter where, we all have a collection of something.

Now collecting is different from saving. Saving (something about which I've heard a great deal but with which I have little direct experience) is collecting with a purpose, namely to use it later. Whether it is saving money, saving coupons (which really is saving money, sort of), saving the rubber bands in which the mail is wrapped, saving magazines to be re-read at some leisurely time in the future, or, even, saving ketchup bottles in the basement, just in case the Great Depression descends upon us again, saving has a purpose. We assume that what is saved will be even more worthwhile in the future; otherwise we'd consume it now.

On the other hand, collecting is saving for its own sake. We collect things that we can't use now, much less in the future. That's what makes the collecting fun. Oh sure, some of you, those who are into hoarding crystal or minted memorabilia coins might actually think that your collecting is also saving. In the future, you think, these coins depicting great moments in rock & roll or the development of the internal-combustion engine will be worth big bucks. And you just know that in 20 or 30 years, your *Gone With The Wind* figurines will be, uh, er, "priceless." HA! Well, you're probably right but "priceless" means that they'll be less-price; they will yield practically nothing at the neighborhood flea market! So you shouldn't collect as an investment. If you want a safe investment, buy a lottery ticket. If you want to enjoy the hunt, looking and searching, go for a collection, pure and simple.

What people collect is as varied as the people who collect. From coffee cups to calendars, cars to cat-things, crayon paraphernalia to circuit-breakers, when it comes to collecting, everything is fair game. A recent issue of WEEKEND CRAFT (don't even ask how I came across it!) featured collections: antique eggbeaters, popside-stick art, McCoy pottery, coat hanger sculpture, Coca-Cola memorabilia, dolls, birdhouses, angels, teacups, sconces, wooden fishing lures, and hats.

I decided to do a little personal research and ask some of the folks I know what they collect. I started, of course, with my first wife. "I'm too busy to collect anything," she said, her voice echoing from deep in her shoe closet. She who doesn't collect was busy alphabetizing her shoes by their first names.

Being a 90's kind of guy, I threw out this question on the NET. I asked my cyberbuddies what they collect, other than busy signals from America Off-Line, and the response was overwhelming. Jayne in NJ collects armadillos, not real ones but armadillo statues, jewelry, slippers, pins, books, and cards. Judy from West County collects rocks, crystals really. Mindy from MA says she collects dust-bunnies and unfinished books (I think I see a correla-

tion here!). Carolyn from VA says she collects children, "two natural, two adopted, and one foster." She continues, "Christmas dinner with the kids and significant others is a challenge. One is a vegetarian, another is a vegan, another doesn't eat red meat, another eats no pork, another says onions make her break out. Another only likes gourmet dishes and another checks everything for the expiration dates." She didn't say so but I'll bet Carolyn also collects headaches at holiday times.

John from the Central West End collects egg-cups. Ever the logical sort, he decided on this "because egg-cups are small, fairly cheap, and not all that common." Craig from Lafayette Square points out that while her husband collects Christmas ornaments, "...he is referred to as 'Mr. Christmas' in some quarters," she collects teapots and pig figurines. Ron from South St. Louis collects egg-beaters. "My favorite," he says, "is a pink-handled one from the June Cleaver era." Lois from MA collects books and sea detritus, stones and pieces of wood, shells and feathers. She adds, "I also collect

people, to some extent, I think. I love knowing lots of people and just chatting with them, not to any end other than relishing the range of who we are."

Pat from South St. Louis collects "Precious Moment figurines." She adds, "the reason I do is that my mother thinks I should and is always getting them for me." As a kid, Skinker-DeBaliviere Carla collected paper napkins. Now an adult, she collects plates. A bit of reflection causes her to say, "I have never intentionally collected glassware but I do have four different sets of stemware..."

Bill from South St. Louis collects canes, walking sticks, hats, and pens. In discussing his pens, he says, "I really like the feel of a good fountain or quill pen in my hand. While I use the computer for many things, I still love to write with a pen. My favorite was owned by Mayor Cole of St. Louis. It had a lovely and delicate ebony shank with a broad golden nib with a number and date. I believe it dates back to 1821. The stroke of the pen, which must be dipped in an inkwell, is extraor-

dinary. The line is willowy, lithe, and graceful, the mark distinctive."

Anne, from WI, collects brass candlesticks and majolica, "really skillful ceramics in the shapes of vegetables." In addition, her mother and siblings also collect the candlesticks and majolica (whatever *that* is!). Leslie of Soulard collects 1904 Worlds' Fair paraphernalia. Kathy, from MA, collects gargoyles. "But, she says, "I like only cute gargoyles or ones with character. Ugly or unhappy gargoyles have no interest to me." And, of course, we can't overlook our neighborhood's Art whose can-opener collection has received widespread acclaim.

Truly, the list of what we collect is endless. There are as many collections as collectors. *What do you collect?* If you'd like your collection featured in a future column, send me a note, either by returning this slip to 6106 Kingsbury, 63112 or through the NET at TRHoerr@AOL.com.

Continued on page 7

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

**CIVE**  
**CENTRAL WEST END BANK**  
 A Federal Savings Bank  
 415 DeBaliviere • St. Louis, MO 63112 • 314-367-8800