

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 30 No. 3

September-October 1999

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

The Pageant Moves Forward

by Lana Stein

A communitywide meeting held on Tuesday, September 7, at New Cote Brillante Church of God showcased improvements happening on Delmar and new plans for the proposed Pageant concert hall. SDCC Vice President Greg Freeman welcomed the public and Commercial Development Committee Chair JoAnn Vatcha spoke about the changes we can expect on Delmar. She is hopeful that construction can begin soon on the Delmar median that will run between DeBaliviere and the Wabash station. It will resemble the median on Forest Park Blvd. She and others from the city have met with business owners on that section of Delmar to make sure that needed curb cuts were provided in the median design. They also wanted to assure access to the Kingdom Hall, the facility the Jehovah's Witnesses have on the street.

In the year 2000 Vatcha said we can expect streetscape improvements west of the station and a bike path running to the city limits. One important facet is the desire to make Delmar east of Skinker appear accessible and inviting. The St. Louis Design Alliance, an architectural firm, has purchased the



The new pageant as planned for the 6100 block of Delmar.

old A&P (or BiRite) building at DesPeres and Delmar. They have a preliminary design. They have discovered that this building is much older than most of us thought. They are uncovering the original façade and the building should be an attractive addition to Delmar.

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Council Supports the Pageant

On a 14-0 (with one abstention), the SDCC Board voted to endorse Joe Edwards and Pat Hagin's request for a variance and liquor license at its September meeting held on Monday, the 13th. Council members were pleased with plans for parking at the facility and Edwards and Hagin's efforts to work with the neighbors and their concerns.

Playground to become Reality

by Laure Porterfield

The playground planned as a addition to Four Corners Park, at Kingsbury and DesPeres, will soon become a reality. Folks throughout our neighborhood have responded to the inspiring leadership provided by Katrina Stierholz and her Playground Committee.

Faced with the very formidable goal of raising \$66,000 to construct a simple playground for kids under five, the committee launched what became an extended and exhausting effort to reach this daunting goal. With a strong committee that included Beth Bender, Joan Bender, Andy and Linda Cross, Steve and Nancy Kramer and Betul Ozmat, as well as many other supporters and collaborators along the way, grants were written, events were held, and individual contributions were solicited. Assistance from Dan Skillman, Parks Commissioner and Alderman Lyda Krewson helped to cut costs, identify in-kind services and guarantee that the proposed design is in compliance with city building standards, ADA requirement and the needs of the Parks Department. A \$15,000 grant recently received from the Dana Brown Charitable Trust pushed fundraising over the top.

But **YOUR** support, the neighbors of Skinker DeBaliviere, has been simply amazing! So many have given, too many to be listed in this article, but keep your eyes open. As construction planning continues and groundbreaking occurs, we plan to celebrate our neighborhood's success as well as the committee's accomplishments. Stay tuned for further information. And plan to join in the celebrations!

Update: On September 21, the Board of Public Service was asked by its director, Ernest Harrell, to cancel the construction permit the Board had formally awarded to Skinker DeBaliviere to construct the playground. As best as it can be ascertained, Harrell wanted only Board engineers supervising this construction which is on city-owned land and contains city monies assigned to the project by Alderman Krewson. Thanks to the hard work of the alderman and the committee which included calls to the mayor's office as well as sentiments of several Board members, Harrell pulled back his request. At this writing, the Playground Committee is going forward with its plans to begin building.

MILLIONS FOR DELMAR

The Delmar MetroLink Station took center stage on September 21, 1999, as FTA Administrator Gordon Linton presented a \$3.4 Million grant to enhance MetroLink Stations. Linton's visit to St. Louis is one of 12 stops on his nationwide tour to promote the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)'s "Livable Communities Initiative", which focuses on customer friendly, community oriented, well-designed transit facilities and services. The Initiative also emphasizes community involvement in proposed transportation improvements during the early stages of the planning process.

The Delmar Station, site of the grant presentation, is a prime example of a new kind of planning for transportation and community partnerships. Residents, businesses, neighborhood groups, St. Louis City and University City have worked since 1997 with Bi-State and the Arts in Transit Program to develop a cohesive plan for the Delmar MetroLink Station.

The FTA grant of \$ 2,786,731 will be used to enhance the Delmar Station area, including:

- The construction of a transit/pedestrian plaza to improve the appearance of the station and create a safe, attractive transfer area;
- "Traffic calming" and streetscape improvements, including safer pedestrian and bicycle access to the station with additional lighting, landscaping, bus shelters and bike racks.
- Improved signage, public art and a distinctive gateway to MetroLink to make the station more prominent and visible to Delmar Boulevard and the surrounding area.

Continued on page 16



From left, Mayor Clarence Harmon, FTA Administrator Gordon Linton, Alderman Lyda Krewson, Alderman Irving Clay, and Bi-State Administrator Tom Irwin.

Photo courtesy of Bi-State "Arts in Transit".

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

Nothing is as enjoyable than driving through Forest Park on a beautiful day and noting the great treasure at our finger tips. Some might complain that I would enter the park without intending to engage in a park activity. Sometimes life becomes too hectic, however, and a few minutes of visual pleasure is a restorative. Besides, Grand Drive will be taken out eventually and our vehicular access as well as our access on foot will be curtailed. Hence, I try to get as much park as I can before it's too late. My gripe here is not with the master plan that is changing the park landscape considerably. It is with those who use the paths for biking, jogging, and roller blading. I certainly don't begrudge anyone these types of recreation. What worries me is how many of the path users do not pay attention to the stop light at the Des Peres entrance to the park and Lindell. It makes negotiation of that territory treacherous at the least. Recently, I was exiting the park. The light turned green for me. Because and only because I was then driving a car with very little pick up, I missed hitting a biker speeding through the intersection on a red and not looking to see if a car were coming. This person was young-no more than 17 or 18-and it would have been horrible to cause her any type of injury. The moral of this story is that if you use the path, watch the lights and watch for cars. The redesign of the paths may ameliorate this problem but I now avoid the park after 5. Some would say that's a good idea. I might say that another driver could run such a risk too. And the park is precious to all of us-observers as well as doers.

On a happier note, I'm pleased to be able to congratulate Katrina Stierholz and her committee for having raised the money needed to construct a children's playground at Four Corners. Katrina's perseverance and that of her committee members has paid off. This effort should serve as a model for those who would like something to happen in our community. Following on the success of the community gardens, this is a further sign of the resilience of our neighborhood and its "can do" spirit.

Plan to join us for The Times Homecoming Party November 6! See story on page 3 and form on page 6.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Editor: Lana Stein
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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:

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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

- 9/13 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury
- 9/14 7 District Public Affairs, Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 4014 North Union
- 9/18 Balloon Race. Forest Park
- 9/27 Combined 9//10/Transportation Committee, Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury
- 9/28 Residential Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury
- 9/29 Community Garden Steering Committee, 7:30 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury
- 9/30 Delmar Business Association Luncheon Meeting t.b.a.
- 10/2 "Switchback" in Concert at Four Corners Park. Neighborhood event with food and drink sales to benefit the Playground.
- 10/5 Executive Committee. Noon. Location t.b.a.
- 10/11 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury
- 11/1 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Transportation Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury
- 11/6 **Times Party**, 6200 McPherson. 7 pm. Watch for announcements!
- 11/8 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury
- 12/16 Police Appreciation Luncheon. Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council offices. 6008 Kingsbury

Other Events of Interest

- now-
- 10/24 "Affinity of Form: African and Modern European Art" at the Washington University Gallery of Art. The exhibit examines how both African and modern artists, working in fundamentally different cultural worlds, had kindred means of expression.
- 9/14, 9/21, 9/28 Twilight Tuesdays Cabaret Style at the History Museum in Forest Park. On the 14th Denise Thimes Trio, on the 21st Hudson and the Hoo Doo Cats, on the 28th, the Jimmy Williams Quartet featuring Willie Atkins. Free.
- 9/30 Digging Up the 1904 World's Fair, a slide presentation, co-sponsored by Landmarks, 7pm. Free.
- 10/1 New City School exhibits a retrospective of the work of Preston Ewing, civil rights activist and photographer. For information contact Chris Smith at 361-6411, ext. 108.
- 10/9-
- 1/2/00 Masks: Faces of Culture, a special exhibition at the Saint Louis Art Museum. There will be 146 masks on view, 30 with full costumes, from almost 50 countries.

Clothing Giveaway to be Held at New Cote Brilliante Church of God



The women's group at New Cote Brilliante Church of God, Washington at Skinker, has been collecting used clothing to give to those in need.

Because of the generosity of donors, there is a considerable amount of clothing on hand. On Saturday, October 16, the clothing will be offered to anyone interested free of charge from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church. For more information, call 727-3550.

Skinker DeBaliviere Resident Lacy Clay Seeks Congressional Seat

William L. Clay Jr. (Lacy) has announced that he is seeking to become the congressman representing the 1st District. If successful, he will replace his father who has served in that office since 1968. Lacy Clay admits that he has been working toward this for quite some time. Clay has been a resident of Skinker DeBaliviere since 1985. He resides on 61xx Washington with his wife Ivie and daughter Carol.

Clay has two immediate goals that he would like to address as a member of Congress. First, he would like to assist and strengthen public education. He said that he has been an advocate for public education throughout his legislative career. He feels that education is the key to a brighter future for young people. He intends to push a bill that will infuse older school districts with funds to restore their buildings.

Clay is also concerned about Social Security and Medicare. He wants these programs to be solvent into the next century. He feels that it can be done with the budget surplus the nation now has, due to Clinton's economic initiatives. There has been quite a bit of economic growth and a surplus is projected. Clay wants to retire the national debt and make Social Security and Medicare sound.

Clay lived in St. Louis's 26th ward until he was 8 years old. He attended St. Francis Xavier grade school. He remembers riding street cars with his sisters when quite young. He moved to the Washington, D.C. area with his family after his father's election to Congress. Clay is a graduate of the University of Maryland with a major in politics and government. He studied under Maryland's current governor, Parris Glendening. Clay has enjoyed his years in Skinker DeBaliviere. During this period, he served as state representative and state senator. Clay noted the accessibility of the neighborhood-

to Forest Park, the Loop, MetroLink, and most points beyond. "You can get to the airport in 15 minutes." Clay called Skinker DeBaliviere an ideal neighborhood which has prospered over the last 16 years. "It has just gotten better. If I'm fortunate enough to be elected, I'll remember the good times with neighbors." In Skinker DeBaliviere, Clay found a very condu-



cive environment to raise children. "You're able to expose children to different cultures."

Responding to a question, Clay mentioned that he was very supportive of the arts and had sponsored the African American Arts Initiative. Most important to Clay is the need for a workforce in St. Louis that will attract companies that will come into the community. The key is "good schools and a properly educated young people. If they are not equipped to go to college, give quality vocational education."

The primary election is in August 2000. So far one other candidate has entered the Democratic race. He is Charlie Dooley, member of the St. Louis County Council and former mayor of Northwoods.

In Memoriam Kathleen Hamilton

Just as The Times was belatedly going to press this month, we learned of the passing of Kathleen Hamilton of Parkview on October 4.

Kathleen made a career out of this neighborhood, both privately and professionally. She and her husband Alan renovated several homes in Parkview. She also was one of the principals of the Central West End Savings and Loan, which became the Central West End Bank. She ultimately became the president of the bank, a significant accomplishment in the male-dominated banking business.

Her committed service to the many causes which advance the quality of life in our community from the arts to children's services are well known.

Beyond her professional and civic achievements, she will be remembered for her genuine sweetness, generosity and easy friendliness. One couldn't feel like a stranger around her and she lifted the spirits of all those she encountered. Many a neighborhood event was brightened by Kathleen's prowess at the piano.

The Times extends sympathy to Alan, their children, Daniel, Holly and Andrew, and to the entire family. We hope that there is comfort in the affection and admiration that so many have for Kathleen.



TIMES SPONSORS NEIGHBORHOOD HOMECOMING FUNDRAISER

A special event is coming soon, to be held at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 6, 1999, to benefit *The Times*. This is your opportunity to contribute to the updating of the neighborhood history, currently being undertaken by *The Times*. The party will be held at 6200 McPherson, Peggy Renard Droege's family home, itself a beautiful neighborhood landmark. By inviting old neighbors and new, *The Times* hopes to add significantly to the stock of photos and reminiscences of living in the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood.

A second goal of the party is to raise much-needed funds to enable us to publish the updated history when it is completed during the coming year. By contributing, you'll be making our community history come alive for our many newer neighbors and for those who will live here in years to come. Our hope is to publish the entire history in book form, with many photographs drawn from our neighbors' family albums and a variety of other resources.

You will also have the opportunity to share memories with many others who have lived here through the years. We ask that you take the time to alert old friends and neighbors to "come home" for this very special fundraising party.

Please bring your filled-in "Memories" (see the form on page 6) or a photo of a significant neighborhood event or place or people from 1900-1999. We'll return your photos if you identify them clearly. We are asking \$10 per person. There will be a cash bar, and free hors d'oeuvres donated by our TIMES staff and friends.

This is a time to look back and celebrate the progress the neighborhood has made.

Skinker DeBaliviere Resident Appointed Dean of School of Art at Washington University

Jeff Pike, a resident of our neighborhood, has been named the dean of the Washington University School of Art. Pike is an associate professor of illustration in the Visual Communication Program and had been associate dean. Pike's work has been recognized in Print, Art Direction, Creativity, and Adweek magazines. He has won several Addys and Flair awards for his creative work in advertising.



Archway Seeks Expansion and Remodeling Approval

Archway Communities has occupied the southeast corner of Pershing at DeBaliviere for 30 years. A drug treatment facility, it kept a very low profile. Consequently, few residents of Skinker DeBaliviere knew that it was there or worried about it if they did. Archway joined the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council in the fall of 1997 after Paula Sigman became its director.

This year it was learned that Archway had had the commercial tenants of the first floor of its building vacate the premises. It intended to remodel so that the 1st floor would have conference rooms and offices. In addition, Archway gained a contract with St. Louis County drug court to treat those found guilty of possession of drugs, a felony, on an out-patient basis. Archway failed to apprise the SDCC board, on which it sits, of the remodeling or of the major addition to its out-patient clientele.

Opposition was voiced at the SDCC to Archway's change in nature of service (it already has 72 patients in residence at its facility and follows up with former residents on an out-patient basis) and its change from first floor commercial to treatment and office uses. An Archway spokesperson indicated that the remodeling was part of a master plan that had taken form well over a year ago. Archway has also adopted a much more noticeable profile, encouraging media stories that give its location.

On Wednesday, September 8, about 40 people gathered at Crossroads School to discuss the issue further. Residents spoke in praise of Archway's initial tenancy in the neighborhood but some added that they believed residents would prefer that Arch-

Continued on page 19



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Council's Fundraising Efforts Continue

When the Board of Directors of Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council decided to try some new approaches to fundraising within our community, Jane Geiler, immediate past president

of Rosedale Neighbors and a member of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board, volunteered to chair the committee. After much brainstorming, a strategy emerged. Playground

fundraising would continue to receive first priority. Grant writing would continue to focus on this project. No further special events would be organized solely as playground fundraisers,

though the Playground committee would participate at National Night Out, Rags to Riches and other neighborhood-wide activities where they could continue to raise funds. The Council's ad hoc committee set out to plan a Neighborhood Walk, a Neighborhood Garden Tour, a Trivia Night, and a Friends of Skinker DeBaliviere direct mail campaign for the remainder of 1999. A new T-Shirt would also generate sales and some profits for the Council.

Then it was time for Susan Littlefield, 61XX Waterman and Andy Cross, 60XX McPherson, to take up the challenge and to organize the first (in a very long time) neighborhood Garden Tour. As always, the residents of Skinker DeBaliviere rallied to the cause. Sixteen families agreed to open their home gardens to the public on Saturday

July 17. Both the McPherson Garden and the Block Unit 1035 Garden also worked hard to be all spiffed up and ready for visitors. Garden leader Ronie Haliburton spent the morning waiting for guests to appear. If you weren't among the visitors to this lovely little spot on Westminster, across from Hamilton school, you might want to take time before the garden is put to rest for the year and check out your neighbors' hard work.

Starbuck's coffee agreed to sponsor the breakfast part of the tour, providing fresh brewed coffee and even the cups to accompany a continental breakfast that included baked ham and croissants, fresh fruits and juices. Linda and Andy Cross proved to be the perfect hosts for this part of the tour. Many hands pitched in to get things set up, and many guests seemed unwilling to leave the convivial atmosphere of the breakfast and to begin the actual garden tour. As the first walkers came back to the start point (many looking for one more cup of Starbuck's coffee) reports of the beauties to be seen on the tour lured even the most reluctant strollers on their way.

Garden Tour organizer Susan Littlefield is profuse in her thanks to the gardeners, and the Council salutes the following folks for sharing their gardens with the public:

Hal and Amy Kennedy, Elise and Bill Humphrey, Susan Littlefield, Amanda Jaspas, Willie Carlisle, Gary and Dee Joyce Hayes, Carla and Roger Duncan, Marjorie Brammeier and Ken Cohen, Karen Branding and Mike Schroeder, Katja and Mike Buckley, Amy and Amrit Gill, Steve Mnich, Tom and Beth Tyson, Frank and Flossie Driscoll and Joe and Nancy Gruneisen, and last but not least, Jane and Joe Geiler.

The Tour exceeded its fundraising goal, netting nearly \$1,200.

The Council will continue its hard work to raise funds so that it can continue to provide services to the diverse constituencies it represents and serves.

Watch for news of upcoming events! Of course feel free to call the Council office at 862-5122 with any questions or comments.



Skinker DeBaliviere Neighbors Enjoy National Night Out

Once again, on the first Tuesday evening in August, residents of Skinker DeBaliviere came to Four Corners Park to enjoy hot dogs and brats, soda and beer, and ice cream supplied by the 59xx McPherson block unit. Money was raised for the playground, a band entertained with many types of music, and neighbors became acquainted or re-acquainted. The weather was not stifling and a lot of volunteers helped to make the evening a successful one.



photos by King Schoenfeld

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Rosemarie Storey Honored for Service as 28th Ward Committeewoman

On September 16, the 28th Ward Regular Democratic Club honored its outgoing committeewoman, Rosemarie Storey, with a fete at the Forest Park Boathouse.

Over 200 people joined dignitaries Clarence Harmon, Francis Slay, Darlene Green, and Lyda Krewson in celebrating Rose's many accomplishments in city governance and neighborhood life. Several gifts and commemorative items were presented to Rose in appreciation of her long and energetic service. The weather was perfect and the setting was enjoyed by all. Many Skinker DeBaliviere residents were present.

Storey had been committeewoman for 9 years.



Above: Mayor Clarence Harmon praising Rose's character and achievements. Rose is flanked by Bill Kuehling, president of the 28th Ward Regular Democratic Club.



Left: Bill Kuehling makes some laudatory remarks and introduces 28th Ward Democratic Committeeman, Mike Quinn, and new Committeewoman Lucille Green, who is taking on Rose's role.

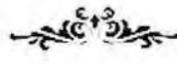
Mayor Harmon presents a Proclamation in Rose's honor. Alderman Lyda Krewson served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening.



photos by King Schoenfeld

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MEMORIES OF SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD? _____

WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE? _____

WHAT ARE THE MOST SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

WHAT ONE OR TWO EVENTS DO YOU THINK WERE MOST IMPORTANT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD? _____

DESCRIBE ONE OR MORE SPECIAL MEMORIES YOU HAVE OF YOUR LIFE IN THE SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE NEIGHBORHOOD. _____

WE ARE CREATING A NEIGHBORHOOD ARCHIVE INCLUDING THESE MEMORIES, AS WELL AS ARTIFACTS AND PICTURES OF NEIGHBORHOOD PLACES, PEOPLE, AND EVENTS WHICH WE CAN COPY AND RETURN TO YOU. PLEASE LABEL CLEARLY!

YOUR NAME AND NEIGHBORHOOD ADDRESS(ES): _____

SEND TO: THE TIMES OF SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE, 6117 WESTMINSTER, ST. LOUIS, MO 63112.

Views of DeBaliviere Blvd. in the 1960's.



West side of DeBaliviere looking north from Pershing



Rear of Parkmoor and garage looking west from an apartment on Waterman



West side of DeBaliviere looking northwest from Waterman



East side of DeBaliviere looking northeast from Waterman



East side of DeBaliviere looking northeast, showing Bickel-Moll's.

"City Living at Its Best"

White T-Shirts with neon green legend and a silhouette skyline portraying neighborhood vistas are still available for purchase through the SDCC office. While quantities are limited in some sizes, we've heard your request and now offer adult sizes S -M- L - XL and XXL, all at one low price of \$12.00. These soft, 100% cotton shirts are also great sleep shirts!

Complete the following order form and send it with your check to Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, 6008 Kingsbury, St. Louis MO 63112, or stop by and pick up your shirt during regular business hours. Questions? Call 862-5122.

Yes, please send me a neighborhood T-Shirt in the following size:

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Total quantity ordered at \$12.00 each ___ Shirts
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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(evenings) _____

Neighborhood Chronicles

The Times Revisits and Updates the History of Skinker DeBaliviere

Part 2.

The NEIGHBORHOOD A History of Skinker DeBaliviere

by Kathleen M. Harleman, Georgiana B. Stuart, Susan K. Tepas



Mrs. Jean Pierre Cabanne (Julie Gratio) and grand-children: Mary Virginia Kingsbury (Countess A. Robert De Gerville), Adele Louise Kingsbury (Mrs. A. M. Waterman), Jules Cabanne Kingsbury

THE NEIGHBORHOOD TAKES SHAPE

The year 1908 marked our neighborhood's actual beginning. Whatever the plans and schemes had intended, it was not until 1908 that people actually lived here. Gould's Directory (Blue Book) for 1908, which listed only

all citizens, their occupation and their residence. While they were certainly not the richest of the rich, these people were definitely well-to-do small businessmen (many real estate men), professional men (architects, physicians, many law-

1st Addition with directions on how to get there by streetcar. Mercantile Trust Company was in charge of the auction. The long-awaited removal of the Rock Island Railroad yards (located just east of DeBaliviere near Lindell—see map p.

Sale Begins



RAIN SHINE
Saturday, May 7th.

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THE LAST OF THE "WEST END"



Final Sale of Missouri-Lincoln Trust Co.

The Removal of the Rock Island Yards

is a reasonable certainty in the light of progress made in the past week; public spirited citizens in this section are fully alive to the importance of this project as a factor in its future welfare as a residence district, and we hope to be able to announce on or before the day of the sale the consummation of this important transaction.

De Baliviere Avenue
is the great central street for traffic into Forest Park between Skinker Road and Union Boulevard—it is the natural route, no matter whether you turn in from Delmar Boulevard or from the historic point of De Gerville Avenue. People always like to "cut across" the country, so it will be equally natural for all the traffic north and east of Forest Park to come to Union Avenue, then great De Gerville to Delmar Avenue and on out into the northern country.

You can readily conclude from these conditions, and surroundings of this magnificent tract of ground, how highly desirable a place of abode it must become as the city develops. You are conveniently located in the downtown district, surrounded by the best possible home life conditions, and have easy access to the urban districts.

Another Magnificent Civic Feature
The public square Saturday last made announcement that the De Baliviere entrance to Forest Park had been selected as the site of the World's Fair. It will be to St. Louis and the world at large what the great Auditorium is to Chicago.




It is a reasonable certainty in the light of progress made in the past week; public spirited citizens in this section are fully alive to the importance of this project as a factor in its future welfare as a residence district, and we hope to be able to announce on or before the day of the sale the consummation of this important transaction.

The building will be about 700 feet from the Walnut Railroad tracks, and this feature is the only one which seems to be a disadvantage of its location by the directors. There seemed to be some fear the tracks at De Gerville Avenue would be at present will spoil the picture, but most of the members are certain that before the building is near completion the tracks will be removed or so arranged as not to be noticeable from the building or its approach. Curves and autos entering the park at the De Baliviere entrance will have to circle the building.

HERE'S ANOTHER PLEASANT NOTE

THE press reports that the United Raily Co. is making arrangements for the removal of its storage yard and equipment at the southeast corner of Delmar and Skinker avenues, out into the country, where ground is less valuable. The recent purchase by the United Raily Co. of 35 acres northwest of University seems to confirm this statement. It would be the logical outcome, for the developing condition in this district is rapidly increasing values to a point where will be highly unprofitable for the corporation to occupy it for its present purpose, and, as yet in the past, these things will naturally "move on."

These things, with the removal of the Rock Island Yards will wipe out the last vestige of unpleasant conditions and open up a wide area. "When brought in, and every prospect pleasant."

We invite you to buy ground at this auction, with the hope that never in the future can there be reason to regret that in doing so you contribute indirectly to giving the finishing touch to the finest residence city the world today.

At this auction every effort will be made to anticipate needs and provide for your comfort. It will certainly be held, rain or shine, and if you fail to attend we believe that never again in the history of St. Louis will ever have such an opportunity to buy high-class real estate under such favorable conditions in a more desirable locality. Again we invite you to come out—start at 10 O'Clock sharp, Saturday, May 7, 1910.

JUDGE H. L. SUTTON PIONEERS COL. GEORGE S. MOORE

MERCANTILE TRUST CO. AGENT, 8th and Locust

"WHO'LL START 'ER?"

SALE BEGINS



"prominent" citizens living in the City of St. Louis and the metropolitan area, alphabetically by name and then numerically by street address, suddenly listed 17 families living in Parkview. One of these "first families of Parkview" was that of C. Marquard Forster, a signer of the Articles of Association and presumably a director of Beredith Realty. One member of the first family on Westminster was Elmore Cave, treasurer of Kilgen-Rule Real Estate Co.(8) and undoubtedly a relatively marriage of Adrian O. Rule. Rule had married Julia Cave in 1895 and had a son named Elmore.(3, p. 515) Washington Heights Subdivision (Rosedale-Skinker) had five families listed in 1908, all living very near Skinker Road. Skinker was probably the only usable thoroughfare amidst the increasing construction. In 1909, another 12 families had been listed in Parkview and 35 more in Washington Heights Subdivision. We can get an impression of our neighborhood's first residents by looking at Gould's Red Books, which listed alphabetically

yers, etc.), and the upper-level management people in large or medium-sized business firms.(8) Apparently this area was considered ripe for continued development, for on June 18, 1909, the plat for Washington Heights 1st Addition (the major part of what we now call Washington Heights) was filed with the Recorder of Deeds.(59, Book 18, pp. 56-59) This large subdivision ran from Delmar to Forest Park Parkway, and Des Peres Avenue to DeBaliviere, excepting the plot of land between Laurel and DeBaliviere, Delmar and the alley north of McPherson. The developer was not West End Realty, who had owned the land in 1907, but Nina Realty Company, whose vice president, George Wilson, and secretary, Cliff H. McMillan, were vice president and secretary of Mercantile Trust Company, respectively. On May 4th and 5th, 1910, there appeared large advertisements about an upcoming auction May 7th for lots in Washington Heights

19) was emphasized as opening up to fine residential living the lost available tract in the city's west end. A more positive incentive for moving out here was the enhancement of the area by the soon-to-be constructed Missouri Historical Society building, at the south end of DeBaliviere where the gates to the World's Fair had been. (25) Development of the existing subdivisions continued at a furious pace. When Gould's Blue Book for 1910 appeared, an astonishing number of new addresses were listed in Parkview and Washington Heights-101! Considering the painstaking methods of good quality construction, we can not only imagine the swarms of workmen everywhere, but can also readily admit the need for the limited number of basic floor plans used. Construction was managed carefully, as the surprising number of large trees still

Neighborhood Chronicles

here attest. Some of the trees are from 100 to 150 years old. The question of whether or not each landowner bought the plans and changed them to his family's specifications or whether a single builder was responsible for most of the homes, has not been settled. Many of the records of that day are still in existence but not in order. Individual research by a present-day homeowner would probably yield more information than neighborhood-wide research.

George F. Bergfeld was an important builder on the 6100 block of Kingsbury, but was not responsible for all of the homes there. An example of prices of the time can be seen when looking at three of his houses. These three homes sit beside each other (a common practice in Washington Heights Subdivision development) and all are considered a full three sto-

with a beginning of homes on the western end of the 6100 blocks. According to the Blue Books, (7) by 1910, Berlin Avenue (now Pershing) had two residences in the 6200 block, four in the 6100 block; Waterman showed eleven in the 6200 block, five in the 6100 block, one in the 6300 block and one in the 6000 block. McPherson Avenue listed 14 homes in the 6000 block, ten in the 6100 block, five in the 6200's and two in the 6300's. Washington Avenue listed 17 families in the 6200 block, 16 in the 6100 block, and 13 in the 6300 block. Westminster Place showed 24 residences in the 6100's, three each in the 6200's and 6300's and two in the 6000 block. Kingsbury Avenue (which does not go into Parkview) had 31 families in the 6100 block and seven in the 6000 block. At the cor-

pany officials (their homes may have some little extra touches), the paymaster of the Hamilton-Brown Shoe Company, the manager of Fleischmann & Co. (yeast), several men involved in wholesale or retail dry goods, the secretary of the John Deere Plow Company, a few men in the insurance business, some in banking and some in groceries, the president of Smith's Auto Repair Co. at 501 DeBaliviere, two glass company presidents, (8) and a future Missouri Governor.

As the neighborhood continued to grow, a new feature appeared in 1911 — apartment buildings. While some of the two-family homes so popular in St. Louis had already been built (NOTE: we have counted each part of a two-family as a residence), none of the "High-Class Apartments" mentioned in Parkview Realty's

16a

St. Louis Daily Globe-Democrat, Sunday Morning, May 8, 1908.



AUCTION! LIQUIDATION SALE OF THE REAL ESTATE OF THE AUCTION!

Missouri-Lincoln Trust Company in

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS

The Future Residence Center of Modern St. Louis.

110 Beautiful Residence Lots Located on Washington, Westminster, Kingsbury, McPherson, Waterman, Berlin Aves. (24 Lots on Delmar Avenue Adapted to Commercial Purposes.)

Macadam Streets, Granitoid Curbs and Walks, Sewers, Water, Gas, Shade Trees. Every Lot Ready to Build On.

SALE: SATURDAY, MAY 9th, 2 P. M. RAIN OR SHINE

EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY.

By the Missouri-Lincoln Trust Company, a limited sale of 24 lots in Washington Heights, St. Louis, Mo. The lots are situated on the western end of the block bounded by Kingsbury, McPherson, Waterman, Berlin, and Delmar Avenues. The lots are of various sizes, but all are of high quality and are well adapted for residential purposes. The lots are offered for sale at a very low price, and the sale is a rare opportunity for anyone desiring to invest in real estate in St. Louis.

Restrictions Protect Without Being a Burden.

The lots are offered for sale under a plan of restrictions which will protect the interests of the purchaser and the seller. The restrictions are of a nature which will protect the interests of the purchaser and the seller, and will not be a burden on the purchaser. The restrictions are of a nature which will protect the interests of the purchaser and the seller, and will not be a burden on the purchaser.



The beauty of the growth of Washington Heights is fully shown by the number of people who are flocking to the neighborhood. The lots are situated on the western end of the block bounded by Kingsbury, McPherson, Waterman, Berlin, and Delmar Avenues. The lots are of various sizes, but all are of high quality and are well adapted for residential purposes.

NOTE THE MAP, study the "Path of Development," the westward growth, where this ground lies in reference to the most desirable residence districts of the city.

The excellence of the location is best proven by the car service. One fare brings you there from any part of the city. Take DELMAR CAR ON OLIVE STREET west. All lines transfer to it.

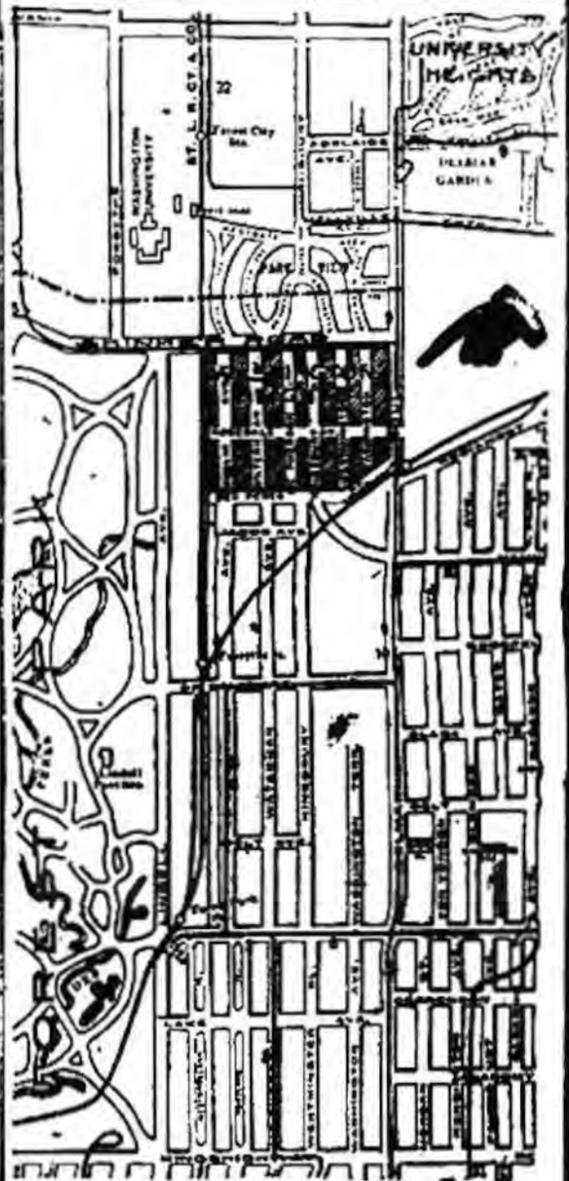
Go out and pick out the lot you want and be there the day of the Auction prepared to buy. We feel assured that not in years to come will another such opportunity be offered you.

THE TERMS ARE EASY. ONE-FIFTH CASH

Balance of the purchase price may be paid in five equal installments of one-fifth each, due at the following dates: 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 9th months after the date of the sale. The interest on the unpaid balance is 6 per cent per annum, payable in advance.

The title to the lots is guaranteed for one year. Deeds to be made at the expiration of the year. The Missouri-Lincoln Trust Company, Auctioneers.

Plans and special particulars at office. It asks on all lots to be sold.



In the Heart of the Future Residence of St. Louis.

MERCANTILE TRUST COMPANY AGENT 8th & Locust Sts.

ries today, but are listed on the building permit as two and one-half stories. All have the central stair-case plan, with a large art glass window on the landing, but they look quite different from the outside. These appear to be the most expensive homes on the block at \$7,500 each to build. (57) A side-stairway plan home, only two stories (on the 6100 block of McPherson), with a building price of \$5,000, (57) can today be insured for a replacement value of \$70,000!

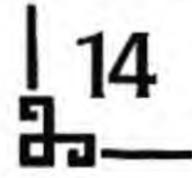
The phases of housing development of the present Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood are understandable in light of the real estate transactions we have previously explored. But, perhaps anticipating the character of our present residents, early development went against the prevailing trend to westward movement. The 6200 blocks contained the majority of first homes, followed by the 6300 blocks,

ner of Skinker and McPherson (presumably where the Sinclair station is now) stood the first residence on Skinker Road, number 400.

Who were the people who established the basic character of our neighborhood? Quite a few of them were considered important enough in the life of St. Louis to be listed by The Republic newspaper in its 1906 and 1912 editions of The Book of St. Louisans, "a biographical dictionary of leading living men of the City of St. Louis and vicinity." (3, Title page) Judging merely by surnames, our neighborhood was not only home to comfortably-fixed families of British and French origin, but also perhaps a rung on the ladder being climbed by late-arriving Germans, Irish and Italians. There were clergymen, real estate company presidents, architects, the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction for the St. Louis Board of Education, physicians, men involved with some aspect of railroad management, lawyers, lumber company and hardware com-

plans for the area in the 1903 Prospectus had been constructed. There is little doubt that the extensive range of streetcar service in the city's western end, greatly aided by the presence of Washington University and the diversions of Forest Park, made our neighborhood ideal for those whose only source of transportation was the streetcar. Automobiles at that time were for the wealthy and were unreliable enough that people who punched a time clock preferred the streetcars.

The apartment building developed first close to the car lines: in the 5700 blocks near DeBaliviere, along Skinker, Waterman and near Delmar. (7) Even today, we can see where the



The Neighborhood

small clusters of shops developed at each major streetcar transfer point. Apartment dwellers could have spacious quarters, perhaps a block or so away from the car lines which would take them downtown to work or anywhere in the city, and they could do their shopping on the way home. With no need for garages, our planners placed their buildings close together and close to the street, making the apartments large and comfortable. In later days this would mean always overcrowded streets as every family in every apartment tried to find a space to park its car, and very little room for children to play in front.

By 1912, homes had begun to spring up in Washington Heights 1st Addition, along with the apartment buildings, and the 5800 and 5900 blocks listed their first residents.(7) The final area of full development for our neighborhood were the blocks near the Wabash (now Norfolk & Western) Railroad tracks, which then ran at ground level. Once plans had been made to sink the tracks to their present level, nearby construction was rapid.

On July 22, 1915, the plat for Washington Heights 2nd Addition (a smaller part of what we now call Washington Heights) was filed with the Recorder of Deeds (59, Book 19, p. 97) by the owner of the land, G. H. Dudley, secretary of the Edward K. Love Realty Company. (8) This 2nd Addition includes only two streets, Kingsbury and Westminster, from DeBaliviere to Laurel. This area, of course, was prime for development because of the activity all around it, and probably made a nice profit for whoever actually held the land until this time.

Any fast-growing neighborhood, such as ours was from 1910 on, finds its new residents spending a few years getting settled, establishing a new pattern of living and shopping, and making appropriate adjustments in their social lives. Once settled, however, residents begin to look outward and the creation of a true neighborhood begins. Parkview Subdivision, because of the terms of its trusteeship, followed the plan set down by its developers and as early as April 20, 1910, held the first meeting of the Parkview Association at the Mercantile Club downtown, to elect its officers and director.(41)

Another element in this creation of a neighborhood was the development of a local public school. The need for a neighborhood school had become evident as early as 1913. It was so urgent, in fact, that during the 1914-1915 school year, seven frame and two steel portable classroom buildings housed 377 students and nine teachers at the corner of Hamilton and Washington Avenues. This was the beginning of our public elementary school named for Alexander Hamilton. It was the third elementary public school in St. Louis to have this name. The two previous Hamilton school buildings, one at Twenty-fifth and Davies Streets and the other at Twenty-third and Dixon Streets, had both become totally unusable by 1909.(65) In the 1915-1916 school year two more frame portable buildings, one teacher and 100 pupils were added to the new Hamilton School complex. During that same year a contract was let to construct the present 24 classroom building. There were already 772 pupils (81 in Kindergarten) in the 1917-1918 school year. The building was not completed until February 4, 1918, but by the 1918-1919 school year, 27 teachers were serving over 1000 pupils.(55)

The three largest churches in our neighborhood, St. Roch's Catholic Church, Grace Methodist Church and Delmar Baptist Church (all currently supporting members of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council), began serving residents of our area within eight years of each other. The first congregation to actually hold services here was St. Roch's with the celebration of the first Mass in the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood on September 17, 1911. Contrary to what might be expected, St. Roch's Parish was not established as a result of westward population movement from Cathedral Parish, but eastward movement from St. Ann's Parish in Normandy, Missouri. In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, St. Ann's served the forms of the north county. Eventually enough people settled east of St. Ann's to justify a second church, St. Rose of Lima in the Cabanne District. By 1902, the population south of St. Ann's and west of St. Rose of Lima called for another parish which became All Saints in University City. Since the population of this neighborhood was very sparse until after the World's Fair, St. Rose's and All Saints adequately served the Catholic population of this area.

After the Fair, Washington Heights and Parkview were growing rapidly and their inhabitants thought land for a church should be purchased while choice tracts were still available. Father Long, pastor of All Saints, agreed and in June of 1911, accompanied by a group of laymen, he called on Archbishop Glennon to present their plan for approval. The Archbishop assented and the group promptly purchased a tract of land on the southeast corner of Waterman and Rosedale for \$55.00 a front foot. The Reverend George P. Kuhlman was appointed first pastor of this "nameless" parish.

The first problem confronting Father Kuhlman was establishing a suitable temporary church. Six parishioners contributed \$100 each to outfit the church and helped Father Kuhlman find a suitable building. They eventually rented a small store at 6008 Kingsbury, installed a temporary altar, a portable organ and folding chairs. This building now houses the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council Office. Father Kuhlman moved into a room in the home of one of his new parishioners until a rectory could be constructed.

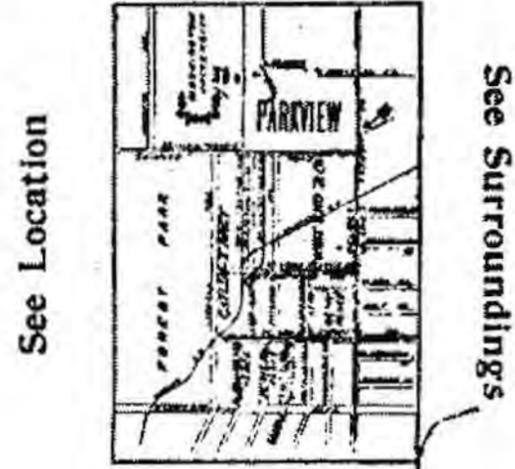
Father Kuhlman, an innovative problem solver, devised a plan that would not only provide a name for his new parish, but help raise money for its building fund as well. "He held a competition and after lively bidding in the old

Park Theatre, Hamilton and Delmar, St. Roch was chosen patron of the parish. Thus it became one of the few parishes in the city named for a canonized layman."(34, p. 4)

St. Louis Daily Globe-Democrat, Sunday Morning, May 8, 1906.

PARKVIEW

AN IDEAL PLACE FOR A HOME.



Located at Parkview is, adjacent to Washington University and within a short distance of Forest Park, it abounds an unsurpassed residence district. No flats or stores can be erected, and the social surroundings will always be the best. In addition, Parkview property will be benefited by the hundreds of thousands of dollars which will be spent in beautifying Forest Park and the grounds of Washington University.

Three car lines—the Olive, Delmar and Suburban systems—pass in close proximity to the property.

Look at the ground. View the surroundings. Consider the advantages. Think of the likelihood of appreciation in value. Learn and weigh all the facts in the case. Then you will build a home in

PARKVIEW

Select your lot to-day, you will never regret it.

There is but one Forest Park.

There is but one Washington University.

There is but one fully improved restricted residence subdivision with such a location.

Salvation on the grounds.

McGORMICK-KILGEN-RULE
REAL ESTATE CO.
204 CENTURY BUILDING

A year after his arrival at St. Roch's, Father Kuhlman was able to celebrate Mass in a temporary chapel in the completed school building on Waterman. The structure cost some \$50,000 and included the chapel, four classrooms on the first floor and living quarters for Father Kuhlman. By 1915, the rectory was completed. Seven years later the present church at Waterman and Rosedale was dedicated for services. (34, pp. 1-8)

Grace Methodist Church was the second of these three churches to hold services in our area. Although ground was not broken for the church on the northeast corner of Waterman and Skinker until March 13, 1913, the congregation and even this very church building go back to the nineteenth century. The history of the congregation begins with Union Methodist Episcopal Church, which stood "at Garrison and Lucas Avenues in a location called Piety Hill" (37, p. 3) because of the numerous churches in the area. Since many of its members were leaving the old neighborhood to build homes farther west, the Official Board of Union Church appointed a

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committee to look into the matter of establishing another Methodist church west of Vandeventer Avenue.

At this time Lindell Avenue was quickly becoming one of St. Louis' most fashionable streets, and it was here that the committee chose a site for the new church. The exact location was the southwest corner of Lindell and Newstead, the land being "some lots recently carved from Lindell's farm." (37, p. 4) When the new Lindell Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church held its first service in the new chapel in 1892, the membership was about 100 with 80 of these members having transferred from Union Church. Five years later in 1897, the main church was completed and dedicated.

During the next 15 years another shift in population took place, and the congregation decided to again follow the western trend. However, they decided to take their new church with them to the corner of Skinker Road and Waterman Avenue. Mr. Fred C. Bonsack, an active Board Member of Lindell Church was the architect for the removal and rebuilding of the church. The original plans of the church could not be obtained because the architect, Mr. Theodore C. Link, had died. Consequently, hundreds of measurements and innumerable photographs had to be made of the existing church to assist in its re-erection. The auditorium was rebuilt on Skinker just as it stood on Lindell, but a few changes were made in other parts of the church. (37, pp. 4, 5-15)

Former Lieutenant Governor Edwin O. Stanard (first President of the Board of Trustees of Lindell Church), who helped secure outstanding visiting preachers during the World's Fair, made possible the removal and rebuilding of the Lindell Church. He donated the lot at Skinker and Waterman on condition that the church be moved and rebuilt free of debt. In compliance with this condition, all the money necessary for the moving and rebuilding was subscribed before the work started. (37, p. 11)

Since the church was changing location, the congregation voted to change its name to Grace Methodist Episcopal Church. It remained that until "Episcopal" was eliminated when the three branches of Methodism united. (40, p. 5)

Ground was broken on March 18, 1913. "As the old edifice was torn down, the new one was erected in the new location, the top stones of the old church becoming the bottom stones of the new church." (37, p. 5) First services were held in the rebuilt chapel on September 21, 1913; the church was completed on October 11, 1914. The building is distinguished by its beautiful art glass windows. The Niedringhaus Memorial Window is one of the few Tiffany windows in St. Louis. (37, p. 22) Another unique feature of the building is that a brick from the Great Wall of China is built into the west wall of the auditorium. The brick was a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Hanford Crawford, active church members, who brought it back from Nankow Pass in 1913. (37, pp. 33-34)

Delmar Baptist Church was the last of the three churches to locate in our neighborhood, but is the oldest of the three congregations, dating back to 1877. Like Grace Methodist congregation, Delmar Baptist's roots lie around "Piety Hill." On Garrison Avenue between Lucas Avenue and Morgan Street, 37 Baptists met and organized the Garrison Avenue Baptist Church. The congregation constructed a small chapel, and Dr. W. Pope Yeaman became its first pastor.

Two years later the congregation was notified that it must remove its chapel from the leased land it occupied. The decision was made to move the chapel rather than destroy it.

The church was put on wheels and started its two-week journey two blocks west to Compton and Morgan. One Sunday with the building still on its wheels, five feet above ground level and right in the middle of the street, members trudged through snow to hold services as usual in their chapel. The next day's newspaper dubbed the church "The Church on Wheels".

Although the church building was never again actually "on wheels", the congregation did move several times before establishing itself at Skinker and Washington. The first move came in the early 1880's. In planning this move, officials first chose the corner of Grand Avenue and Washington as a new site, but this changed when a liberal contributor offered a substantial donation if the church would locate at Delmar and Spring. In 1884, the congregation moved into their new quarters and changed their name to The Delmar Avenue Baptist Church.

Within a few months Third Baptist Church moved to its new location at Grand and Washington. This precipitated a crisis for Delmar Church. Two Baptist churches were now within two blocks of each other, and Delmar Church was a much smaller congregation. Just two years after Delmar Church opened, representatives of

Baptist churches in the city met and decided to disband Delmar. However, Delmar refused to be disbanded.

The problem of where to go and how to move without money was solved with a generous contribution toward a new location if the church would act immediately. A lot was purchased at Delmar and Pendleton Avenues, and first services were held in 1892.

After 23 years at this location, the decision was made to "move west" again. The church building was sold to the First Christian Church, and a lot was purchased at Skinker and Washington in 1916. World War I interfered with construction plans, and the new building was not completed for three years. At first the congregation used a gymnasium on the third floor of Lenox Hall, a girl's school at Washington and Trinity Avenues. Then they temporarily joined with Immanuel Baptist Church at 5850 Cates. Finally they rented the auditorium of the Clendenen Dancing School in Arcade Hall near Belt and Vernon Avenues. Construction of the present Delmar Baptist Church was begun in 1918 and completed in June of 1919. The "Church on Wheels" had found a place to rest. (33, pp. 4-12)

THE NEIGHBORHOOD MATURES

Until 1920 the events which shaped our history were recorded in public documents or private papers. As the neighborhood has matured, the pertinent facts have not as yet gone into the public record. Events subsequent to 1920 are recorded mostly in human memories and personal papers. It is from 1920 to 1960 that we would most like friends and neighbors to help us fill in the many gaps we found in years so closely past.

The Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood seems to have prospered with the rest of the United States during the "Roaring Twenties". From all reports it has apparently always been considered a great place to grow up, with plenty of friendly homes and small shops, open ground in Forest Park and at Washington University. Judge Daniel B. Tammany and his family moved into the 6100 block of McPherson in September, 1918. Along with his adventures on the banks of the River Des Peres, he recalls that there were not as many children living here as there are now, and that he and his friends could play marbles in the middle of the street for an hour or more without a car passing by to disturb them.

William L. Rose moved into the 6100 block of Kingsbury in 1910, his parents being the original owners of their house. Mr. Rose lived there until the mid-1960s. He states he did not pay much attention to what was going on in the neighborhood until he was older, in the 1920s. He recalls that most of the residents were business or professional men and that almost everyone had a cook and/or a maid. Many people had automobiles, but many also used the street-cars. The neighborhood was considered to be very far out from downtown St. Louis.

Catherine Baier, who lived in Maplewood at the time, recalls this as the area where wealthy people lived. Judge Tammany says some people had daily household help, but he can recall no one who had help living in. There was a private night watchman for the (now) Rosedale-Skinker area.

The neighborhood seems to have been alive with small neighborhood businesses. For example, at the southwest corner of Kingsbury and Des Peres there was a fruit and produce stand. Next to it, where the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council office is now located [6008 Kingsbury], there was a grocery store where Judge Tammany worked as a clerk when he was a teenager. Jacob Mauer was the meat man and Martin Gorman was the grocer. Next to the grocery store was Bill Schottgen's Bakery, where The People's Clinic is now located [6010 Kingsbury].

Josephine Bureau had a building constructed in the 6100 block of Delmar in 1923, to house her Parisian Laundry. Mrs. Bureau and the laundry are still there, specializing in "fancy work"—pleated lingerie and dresses, fine linens, curtains and blankets. Another business that Richard C. Hart says has been "forever" on the south side of the 5900 block of Delmar is Chester's Pipe Shop. It has a walk-in humidor where cigars and tobacco are kept in top condition. A few blocks farther east on Delmar, at DeBaliviere, was Moll's Grocery Store, "the" place for people from all over the West End to shop and distinguished by its large clock standing at the curb in front of the store. After Moll's, this became Bickle-Moll's grocery store until the building was torn down in the late 1960s.

Garavelli's famous restaurant, still located on the corner of DeGiverville and DeBaliviere (now owned by Byron Tompras), was one of the first restaurants in town to have curb service. You could park your car on either side of DeGiverville, and a waiter would come out, take your order and bring it to your car when it was ready. (52)

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There was a Kroger store on the south side of the 6100 block of Pershing near Des Peres. Judge Tammany walked in there on a Saturday afternoon in 1927, and the proprietor exclaimed, "Lindy made it!"

The above local businesses are just a few of those mentioned by Dick Hart and Judge Tammany. The point is that the residents of Skinker-DeBaliviere did not have very far to go to obtain most of the necessary services.

During the Depression of the 1930s, our neighborhood again seemed to follow the pattern of most of the rest of the country. A three-

Judge Tammany was first elected Magistrate Judge in 1950. He remembers our neighborhood as always politically active as well as being the home of political leaders. In 1940, the candidates for governor were Lawrence McDaniel, Democrat, and Forest Donnell, Republican. Mr. McDaniel lived on the south side of the 5900 block of Waterman, and Mr. Donnell lived in St. Louis County. Both were members and leading laymen at Grace Methodist Church. The present alderman of the 28th Ward, John G. Roach, and Steve Vossmeier, State Representative, 86th District, now reside in our neighborhood, as do Judge Carl Gaertner and election commission-

several night clubs flourished. The Winter Garden provided an indoor skating rink. An afternoon of bicycling in Forest Park began at a bike rental store next to the present International Market on DeBaliviere.

Along with this consistency there was one obvious change. Our neighborhood was in the midst of a "population boom". With the war over, college enrollments rose. The convenience of the area to both Washington University and St. Louis University attracted many new residents, some of whom were students and some faculty members. As the Fifties progressed, a building boom in the county eased the post-war housing shortage and continued a trend of "westward movement" that had been interrupted by the World Wars. As we have seen throughout this history (which necessarily involves the history of the larger metropolitan area), the trend in St. Louis population movement has been westward. We saw how Daniel Catlin at the age of 79 was "moving on" from Vandeventer Place to Westmoreland Place. The stories of both Grace Methodist and Delmar Baptist congregations are classic examples of this movement. Added to this historic "westward population shift" in the Fifties, there was a very real reason for moving west. Urban decay had taken its toll in areas east of Grand Avenue. Large areas such as the Mill Creek Valley were declared blighted. With the buildings scheduled for demolition, residents had to move.

It is probably the less obvious factors connected with our population boom and the renewed westward movement that were most important to what happened in the neighborhood later. During the years of housing shortages many owners of rental property occupied one of the dwelling units of their own buildings. As the housing supply increased, it was often the owners of rental property who made the move to the new houses beyond the city limits. Thus many buildings lost the supervision of an owner who was close

at hand. Another result of the population boom was that it kept the demand for housing in our area high in the Fifties. Consequently, the emergency housing measures taken after the war continued to operate. The small apartments that had been carved out of the larger ones could still be rented, as could the "rooms to let" in the private homes. As the Fifties drew to a close, some rental buildings were beginning to show the strain of a decade of over-occupancy. A change in the concept of a "desirable location" went hand-in-hand with the western movement to the suburbs in the Fifties. Not only home buyers, but also commercial establishments looked to the suburbs as a place to move. For the most part, real estate people readily promoted this idea. For support of their position, they pointed to the advance of urban decay along Page Boulevard toward the Cabanne District adjoining our northern border. With the rental properties in our neighborhood already strained by overcrowding, they decided urban decay would be inevitable here.

In the late Fifties some residents of the neighborhood realized that the problems of our area had to be tackled. At this time two neighborhood organizations developed. Washington Heights Neighbors' first murmurings in the fall of 1957 were over a backyard fence between several neighbors. (43) The murmurings soon developed into a letter sent to



Garavelli's in 1932. Is that a real nest and a real giant bird on the peak of the gable?!

story house in good shape was sold for only \$3,500. Dorr and Zeller moved out in the 1930s. It was located at the northwest corner of Waterman and DeBaliviere (now the site of the Technical Education Corporation), and was famed throughout the city for its ice cream, bakery goods and catering service.

One story that all the people we talked to recall is that of The Gardenia. The Gardenia was a flower shop (a frame building with no basement) which would be right in the center of what is now the intersection of Forest Park Parkway and Skinker. It was very popular with local boys for corsages because it was handy and the prices were reasonable. When, after legal battles, the building was torn down to widen the street, it was learned that the proprietor was really a "squatter" and had never owned the property on which he had built his business.(42)

The 1940s brought World War II, and Judge Tammany and Dick Hart recall that during the war the apartments in the neighborhood were mainly owner-occupied and well maintained. It was after the war, in the late 1940s and early 1950s, that the owners began to move from their buildings. Apartments were subdivided (quietly!) because of the housing shortage and rent ceilings.

ers of the City of St. Louis James S. McClellan and Wayne Millsap. Our neighborhood has always been in the 28th Ward. Judge Tammany commented that in the 1940s and 1950s the Republicans almost always carried the ward in city elections and the Democrats almost always carried the ward in national elections.

As we moved into the Fifties, the quality of neighborhood life seemed fairly consistent with that of preceding decades. The neighborhood was still characterized by residents as a "good place to raise a family". It was convenient to the principal shopping and commercial center—downtown St. Louis. Neighborhood stores provided residents with a variety of services. There were several drugstores, groceries, a bakery, cleaners, hardware stores and even an open-air fruit and vegetable market next to the present A & P (Tony Sansone's). A pet store, Mrs. Turner's Flower Shop and a sporting goods store offered some of the "extras" residents might desire. As for entertainment, residents were surrounded by choices. Restaurants provided food to fit almost any desire, from a Parkmoor hamburger to a pizza at Sorrento's to roast beef at Garavelli's. There were several convenient movie theaters. Neighborhood taverns offered places to get together with friends over a beer, and

Neighborhood Chronicles

neighbors on January 2, 1958 which set forth the reasons why an improvement organization was needed:

Dear Neighbor:

Perhaps you, too, like some of your neighbors have been talking about our neighborhood. We have come to the conclusion that ours is basically a good neighborhood, and that we want to keep it that way.

We believe that the only way for us to prevent blight in our neighborhood is for us to act together. (45)

One month later the Washington Heights Neighbors (made up of residents in the area bounded by Delmar Boulevard, Pershing, Des Peres and DeBaliviere Avenues, the Washington Heights 1st Addition and 2nd Addition subdivisions discussed above) was formally organized and moved against housing code violations. Legislation by the Rooming House Association was about to be pushed through the Board of Aldermen, and Washington Heights Neighbors joined with a city-wide organization of neighborhood associations to work against the bill. The neighborhood associations showed overwhelming

organize. Concerned primarily with the continued existence of full-scale rooming houses and numerous single-room rentals in private homes, these residents formed the Rosedale-Skinker Improvement Association. Annoyed by housing code violations, association members began a campaign of finding out where rooms were being rented illegally. Although their tactics, keeping track of who went in and out and even a record of license numbers, were often referred to as "snooping", the residents persisted and were successful.

From their interest in this one housing code violation, the association members moved against other housing code violations and then toward improvements such as alley lights as well as barriers to slow and reduce the flow of traffic on their streets. (49)

Although there were some urban problems evident in our neighborhood during the Fifties, Dorothy Hogan, who was in grade school and began high school during this time, remembers this as a good place to grow up. It was a very "close-knit" neighborhood from Parkview to DeBaliviere. With a large number of friends

some that the Skinker-DeBaliviere area was a "changing neighborhood" with all the negative connotations of that phrase and its prediction of ultimate doom. The neighborhood did change. Some people moved out, but the change became a revitalization. The remaining residents and the new residents believed it possible for diversified groups to live together. They believed that urban problems could be combated. They believed, as had residents throughout the decades, that the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood was a good place to live and raise a family.

From the late Sixties to the present, stronger and more cooperative neighborhood feeling has grown up. This is evidenced by the birth of a number of neighborhood organizations and events. In the latter months of 1965, it became clear to many residents that their efforts would have more impact if they formed an area-wide umbrella organization with a budget so that a small full-time staff could be employed. It was felt that such a staff could concentrate the nec-



Delmar Air Dome at Delmar and Hamilton, an outdoor "walk-in" theatre!

strength; despite zero weather, the attendance at the hearing for the bill was so large that it had to be moved to Kiel Opera House. The proposal was soundly defeated. (45)

Washington Heights Neighbors concentrated on four other areas of neighborhood concern: Police Action, Traffic, Recreation and Education, and Sanitation. The beautification efforts of the association made news in 1961. Working in cooperation with the Washington Heights Garden Club and the St. Louis Parks Department, residents landscaped three plots of ground: "A triangular area at the intersection of Waterman Boulevard, DeGiverville Avenue and Laurel Street, and two circular tracts at Nina Place and Waterman and Nina Place and McPherson Avenue. (22) Washington Heights Neighbors initiated the practice of an annual house tour and again received publicity; their 1963 tour featured ten homes east of Des Peres. (23)

West of Des Peres Avenue, residents of the 6100 blocks of Washington through Pershing also felt the need to

available, drugstores, Forest Park, and movie theaters within walking distance, the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood was a great place for a teenager to live.

As the Sixties dawned, our increased neighborhood population needed more community services. Both the public school and the Catholic school entered the decade under the strain of increased enrollment. In 1961 Hamilton School added two steel portable units and then in April, 1963, opened the eight-classroom Hamilton Branch 1. (65) That same year, St. Roch's Church broke ground for its school annex which contained six classrooms, a large gymnasium, faculty rooms, a school office and increased library space. (34, p.19) The St. Louis Public Library opened the Des Peres Branch October 15, 1963, in response to citizen urging, with an initial book collection of about 5,000. (44)

In the mid-Sixties, the self-serving predictions of the real estate companies ten years before appeared to be coming true. The "strained" buildings were in much worse condition than they had been ten years earlier. It seemed to

essary effort in mobilizing the area resources that are so important for the welfare of the community.

The Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council was formed in March 1966, as a joint effort by the following:

The Rosedale-Skinker Improvement Association

Washington Heights Neighbors

St. Roch's Church

Grace Methodist Church

Delmar Baptist Church

Washington University

The Parkview Agents became a supportive member of the Council in the fall of 1968. James L'Ecuyer was employed as the first Director of the Council, a position he admirably filled until late 1970. The new staff and the Board of the Council quickly turned their attention to those issues of the area that was by then designated by boundaries of Forest Park on the south,

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G Parkview on the west, Delmar Boulevard on the north and DeBaliviere Avenue on the east. The first office of the Council was located in the 5800 block of Delmar. Later the office was moved to two locations at 425 DeBaliviere. The first site was a second floor office and later, to gain more space, the Council moved its office downstairs into a commercial space that had been used by a drug store. A fire totally destroyed the building and the Council then moved to 404 DeBaliviere. (61)

In 1967 Susan M. Roach, a new resident to the area, organized the first neighborhood Art Fair, using St. Roch's parking lot to display the paintings. That year there were 36 entrants contacted by leaflets left at art supply stores. Entrance fees were used to pay a judge and to award three \$25.00 prizes. The next year an older custom, a neighborhood house tour, was revived by Joanne Budde in conjunction with

the Art Fair. The location of the Art Fair was moved to the 6100 block of Kingsbury Avenue, and the number of entrants grew. By this time the neighborhood had the assistance of several resident artists who could either serve as judges or recruit fellow artists to volunteer as judges. From that point on, the Art Fair—House Tour has supported itself, using the profits of one year to defray costs for the next year. On Mother's Day every year, many hundreds of people from all over the metropolitan area came to our neighborhood to participate in this event. (67)

Thomas W. Flynn, age 20, who moved here at the beginning of the Sixties, has fond memories of growing up in our neighborhood during that decade. He remembers some of his schoolmates moving away, but there were always "a lot of kids" so there was never a lack of friends. Everyone on the block knew each other, and they especially liked outdoor games. He and his friends played Johnny Cross or British Bulldog every night after school. With longer daylight hours during the summer, early evenings were fine for kick-the-can although "neighbors yelled" if the players ran across lawns. For indoor fun there were classes at Jefferson Memorial and Saturday matinees at the Tivoli (now the "Magic Lantern").

As our neighborhood entered the Seventies, cooperation among the various organizations was so effective that Ralston Purina was convinced by residents that it would be detrimental to our neighborhood to have a "Jack-in-the-Box" restaurant located at Skinker and Delmar. The action taken against this large corporation indicated the determination of residents to exercise some control over the fate of the neighborhood.

The establishment of the Residential Service in the spring of 1970 is further evidence of this determination. Realizing that our neighbor-



Garavelli's formal dining room.

hood was not being properly represented by real estate companies, Susan Roach and Patricia Kohn organized the Residential Service. This is an entirely volunteer organization. It was originally established with six functioning divisions: promotion; block-unit real estate coordination (which sought to make block residents interested in real estate transactions on their own block); research and records (directed at identifying owners of property and avoiding straw party sales); available property records and research (which kept record of all rental and saleable property in the neighborhood); code violations (which involved a system of reporting and follow-up on code violations); beautification and sanitation (which aimed at improving the appearance of the neighborhood). (46, 68)

In the first year of its organization, the Residential Service found that an overwhelming amount of time was necessary to keep accurate records of available rental and for-sale property. The decision was made to concentrate efforts on property for sale. Several members volunteered to take over this task and became in effect a "not-for-profit real estate service". They kept accurate records on what was for sale and showed the houses to prospective buyers. The 1972 statistics show that the Residential Service was responsible for the sale of 22 homes in the preceding year. It is primarily "word-of-mouth" advertising which has been so successful. (54)

Although the other goals of the Residential Service have been preceded in importance by the sale of property, the Service did sponsor a neighborhood beautification project—the construction of a Tot Lot on vacant ground at the northwest corner of Pershing and Des Peres Avenues. With the design help of a group of Washington University architectural students known as Street Revival, donation of materials

from local businesses and the energies of neighbors, the Tot Lot was constructed in the spring of 1971.

As the various parts of the neighborhood worked in closer cooperation, a need arose for a more comprehensive means of communication than the telephone or meetings. Thirty interested residents met in April of 1970 to organize a community newspaper. *The Paper*, as it is titled, is published approximately ten times a year. Editors and reporters are strictly volunteers. Although advertising is solicited, *The Paper* has not been entirely self-supporting. It is subsidized by money from the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, The Parkview Association and occasional individual donations. (63)

In 1970, both the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council and Des Peres Branch Library moved to new quarters. In November 1970, in order to be more centrally located in the area it served, the Council office was moved to its present location at 6008 Kingsbury Avenue. In that same year there was a major change in the structure of the Council Board. To broaden the area representation on the Board, it was expanded by ten members who are elected from designated sections of the community. Presently, sixteen of the eighteen members of the Board are residents of the neighborhood. In January 1971, Calvin B. Stuart, Jr. became Director of the Council.

The Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council continues to serve as an umbrella organization working closely with the residents and institutions of the area. The Council holds area-wide issues as its priority with a present emphasis on housing. The volunteer efforts of neighborhood residents are major factors in maintaining both neighborhood stability and growth. With this volunteer and institutional support, the Board of the Council is able to work towards meeting and solving those area issues that must be met to insure the diversity and

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quality of urban living that is so well represented in the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood. (61)

The library was moved to the southeast corner of Des Peres and Kingsbury in 1970 to be housed in what was previously the Kingsbury Market. Added space was utilized to greatly expand the book collection, more than 20,000 books at present. The library circulates about 35,000 books per year or about five and one-half books per resident. With the move there was an expansion of services. Library users can borrow framed art prints, posters, records, magazines, newspapers as well as current best sellers. Special programs (magic, puppet and animal shows, plays, story hours, vacation reading club for school children) became regular features. (44)

In June of 1972 still another service grew up in response to the needs of the residents of our area and that immediately west of us. The Loop West End People's Clinic is located at 6010 Kingsbury. The clinic grew out of the interest and work of two groups—the Medical Committee for Human Rights and Community Collectives. The first of these is a national organization of people in the medical field. Community Collectives is a group of west area residents who organized to provide community services such as a food co-op. The clinic is entirely financed by donations, initially from interested contributors and now from patients as well. It is staffed by volunteers who are doctors taking their residencies at Barnes and Firmin Desloge hospitals and one physician who is in private practice. Volunteers from the neighborhood do the clerical work. The clinic cares for approximately 250 to 300 patients a month. (69)

Probably the most important development of the late Sixties and early Seventies was the return to neighborhood ownership of rental properties. Not only did many residents of the area begin buying local properties to revitalize, but outside funds also became available for use under the supervision of neighborhood groups through the efforts of both a private organization and the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council.

One private organization began such a movement here in 1970. West End Townhouse, Inc. was formed in the latter part of that year as a subsidiary of Continental Telephone Company. Philip Lucier, president of Continental Telephone, was primarily responsible for the formation of West End Townhouse. Based on the premise that existing urban neighborhoods can survive and grow if there is significant new outside investment, West End Townhouse initiated its program of renewing and maintaining rental property in this area.

After Mr. Lucier was killed, the West End Townhouse corporation was turned over in trusteeship to the people of St. Roch's parish. It is now managed through a Board of Directors and trustees, and is responsible for the operation of approximately 126 dwelling units in the neighborhood. Recently

Washington University and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Louis pledged

to guarantee mortgage loans of the corporation in the amounts of \$200,000 and \$100,000, respectively. (51, 66)

The Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council also felt the need to move against the abandonment and dereliction which had occurred in buildings in a portion of our neighborhood. Although the area is not large, it was felt that the deterioration was a threat to the rest of the neighborhood. As a result, it was proposed that the highly blighted area be designated for redevelopment. The proposed designation was discussed at many area meetings and once it had been determined that there was a favorable consensus, an ordinance was approved by the Board of Aldermen designating several areas of the city, including that in the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood, as available for redevelopment.

The Board of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, Inc., chose to sponsor and design a redevelopment plan for the area in its neighborhood. With the aid of the Washington University School of Urban Design and a planning group, Team Four, Inc., a thorough plan was submitted to and approved by the Board of Aldermen. Primarily, the approval of the plan meant the naming of the Kingsbury Redevelopment Corporation as redeveloper of the area.

The Kingsbury Redevelopment Corporation is presently solely owned by the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, Inc. Its purpose is to plan, develop and finance approximately 200 units of new housing of the town house style, for mixed incomes. Eventually the Kingsbury Redevelopment Corporation may maintain ownership and management, but this is subject to change according to the necessities of the availability of financing sources.

The process of developing the program has been tedious and slow. This has much to do with the usual difficulties of residential development, the difficulties of not-for-profit sponsorships, and a recent slow-down and freeze of federally-insured housing through the Department

of Housing and Urban Development. The necessary funds for early planning have been raised and the program will soon be submitted to the appropriate groups for funding and insurance.

Although the program has been the cause of some controversy in the area, it is generally felt to be an important factor in the continuing growth of the neighborhood. It is difficult to be absolutely sure of the outcome, but there is a sense that the effort of many people has been worthwhile and well expended. (61)

Even though adult residents have brought about these new organizations and events within our neighborhood, perhaps the best summary of neighborhood feeling can be found in the words of a current six-year-old resident: "One thing about our neighborhood is there are lots of friends here and lots of kids. I like the big houses—they look pretty and neat, and there are lotsa places to hide."

Acknowledgements

We again want to acknowledge the assistance of the Missouri Historical Society's Karen Goering. Photographs of Garavelli's, The Delmar Air Dome, The Municipal Bus, and The Garavelli's formal dining room were provided by the Missouri Historical Society. We are grateful for their support of our effort with these images.

Join us again in November for the final installment of 1973's *The Neighborhood - A History of Skinker DeBaliviere*



The Municipal Auto Bus (a Packard) in front of the Jefferson Memorial Building. No date provided, but clothing suggests a period between 1915 and 1925.

PAGEANT

Continued from page 1

Vatcha also mentioned the building owned by Mary Gore on the 6100 block of Delmar immediately to the east of Church's Chicken. It has been in a state of disrepair, particularly at the rear of the building. Officials are working with Ms. Gore to see that conditions improve. At the same time, there is a new tenant there-Afrocentric Books. This highly regarded business just moved to Delmar from Olive Blvd.

Joe Edwards and Pat Hagin were then called on to discuss the augmentation of their plans for the Pageant which they hoped answered some of the concerns of the neighbors. A principal concern has been the adequacy of parking for the Pageant and for existing businesses and nearby residents. Edwards explained that they had tried to work with the city to get additional places because the Pageant will be located where a city lot originally was planned. The Pageant building will have 2 floors of office space. They hope to be able to announce the name of their tenant in a couple weeks. There will also be 2 storefronts designed for retail businesses and they have spoken with likely tenants for this space too.

Edwards and Hagin are buying an additional lot to the east of the proposed Pageant from Mr. Mehlmann. This will become parking as will lots in the back of the Pageant. Patrons wishing to park will enter the Delmar lot and then be filtered back to the other lots. (See map below.) In addition, BiState has given the Pageant permission to use their lot for overflow parking. Counting spaces on the street, that gives us 686 parking spaces. The pageant is a concert venue/night club. They will book touring bands that perform all kinds of music from folk to jazz to rock to country. There will be a tiered concert area on the 1st floor

which will provide good sight lines. The Pageant's central location may make it possible to attract bands that otherwise wouldn't come to St. Louis. The venue will hold 750 to 1500 people. They hope for an average of 1,200 people 3 1/2 nights a week. There will be a balcony as well. It will be possible to have reserve seats on the balcony.

Edwards and Hagin still need to get permits and liquor licenses and will be collecting signatures. They are working to see that no sound bleeds into the neighborhood. There will be 32 feet between a concrete wall of the concert hall and the front of the building. They are working closely with sound engineers.

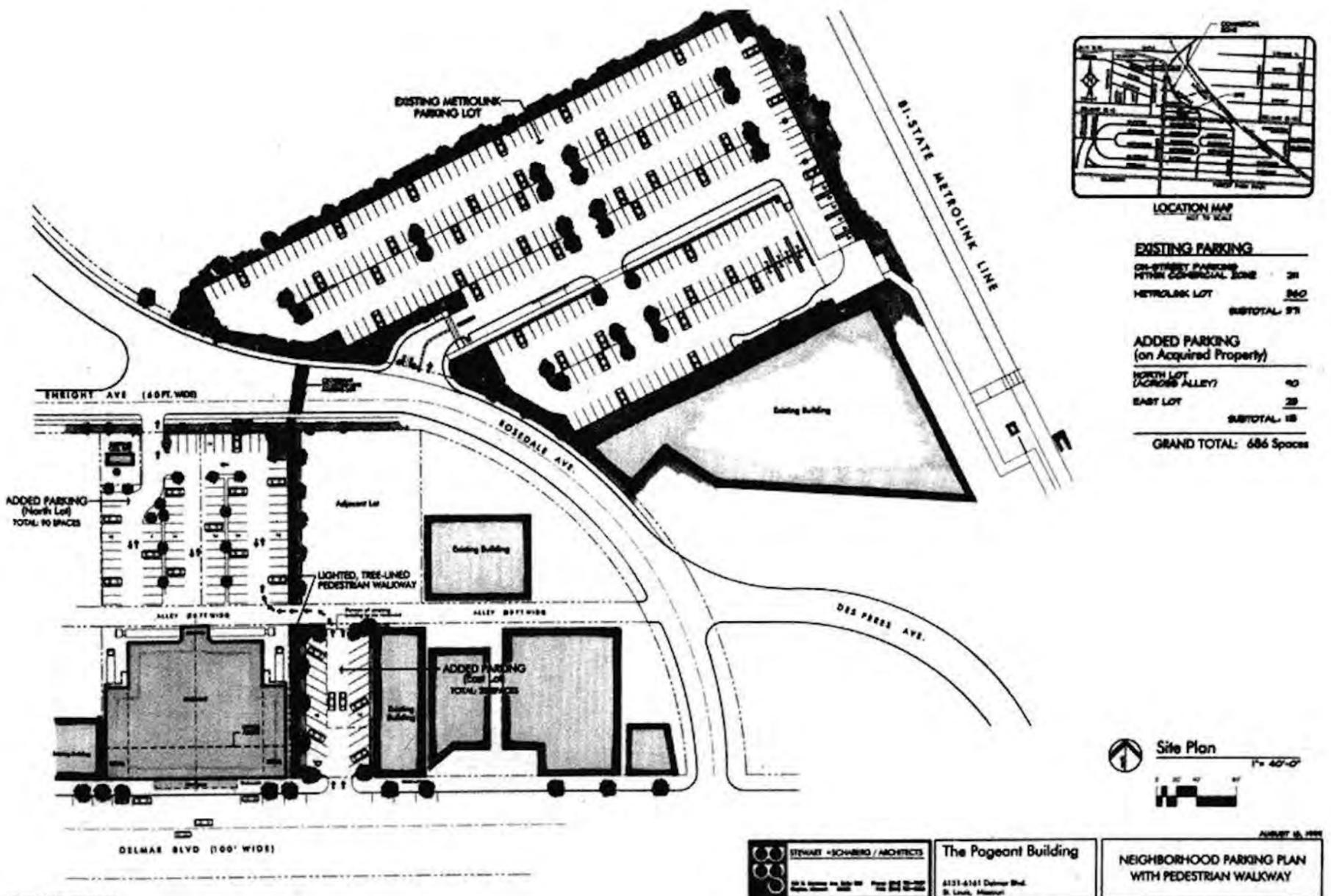
Edwards said that they will serve some food, 2 or 3 items an evening.

They may employ a catering firm. There is no room for a full-size kitchen. Arts in Transit is looking into the possibility of having the parking area and walkway decorated with interactive lights and sculpture.

A police officer from the 7th district and a number of neighbors spoke positively of this development and of Edwards' reputation.



The original Pageant Theater at 5841-5855 Delmar in 1942. Photo from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, provided by Joe Edwards.



STEWART-SCHMIDT ARCHITECTS
 The Pageant Building
 4337-4341 Delmar Blvd.
 St. Louis, Missouri

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKING PLAN WITH PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY

AUGUST 16, 1999

Ground Broken for Nina Place Townhomes

On a lovely warm June day, Skinker DeBalviere residents assembled as developer Gary Bierman of Town and Country Homes and Alderman Lyda Krewson broke ground for the first phase of townhomes at Kingsbury and Hamilton.

Comptroller Darlene Green joined the festivities and she and the alderman noted that this will be the final phase of the Nina Place redevelopment that has been long awaited. Nina Place residents Earl Bonner, Susan Talley, and Lana Stein were present as well as close-by neighbors Gwen LaZard and Ronie Halliburton. Since that time, the first four units are nearing completion and have all been sold. There is already a reservation for a unit in the second phase.



Above: The graders prepare the lots for the new townhomes.



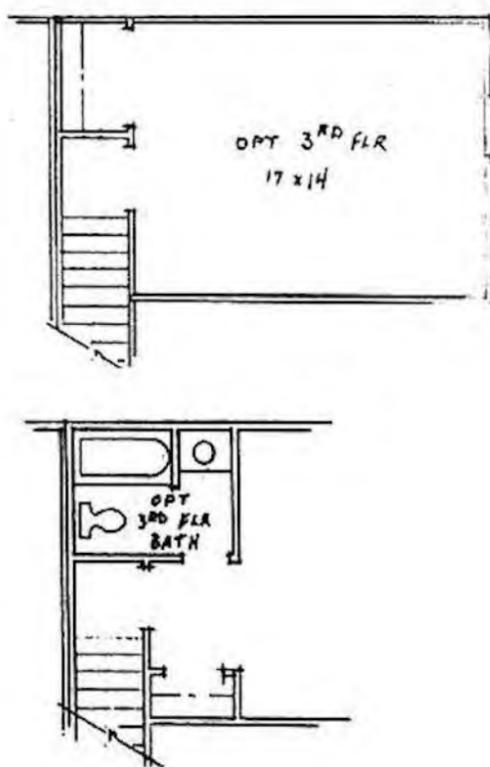
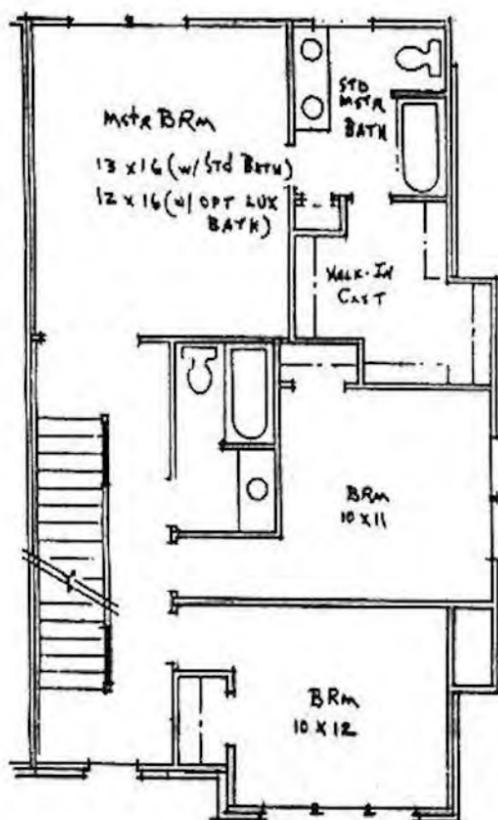
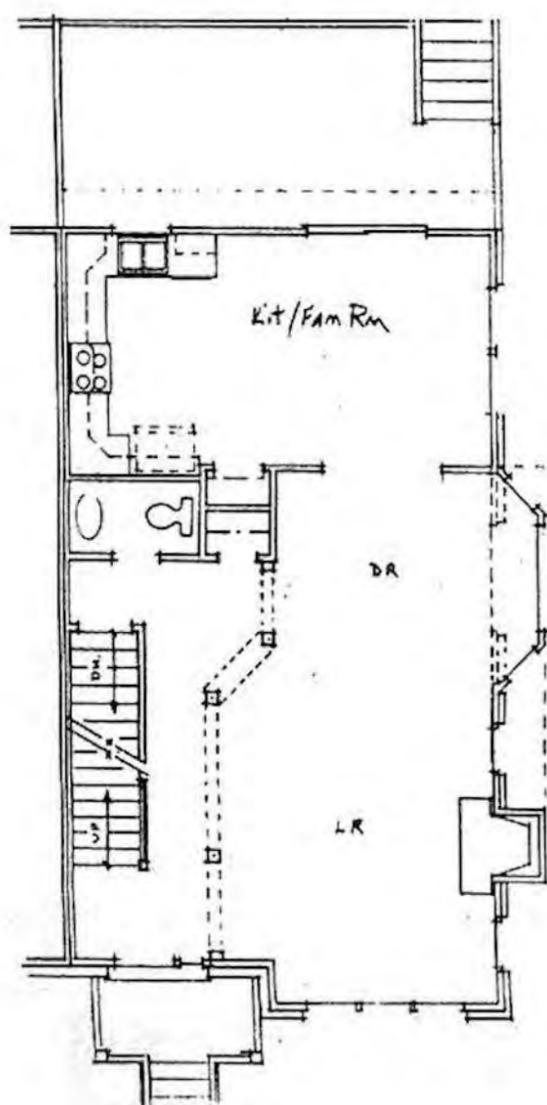
Above: Karleen Hoerr, Susan Talley, and Alderman Lyda Krewson have some intense communication as developer Gary Bierman brings the traditional groundbreaking equipment.



Above: Lyda Krewson and Gary Bierman attack the turf while Jill Claybour, Comptroller Darlene Green, and others look on. All took the time to demonstrate the fashion limitations of the hard hat. Photos of groundbreaking by Lana Stein.



Left: Since the groundbreaking, much progress has been made. Photo by Karleen Hoerr.



Nina Place Townhomes Selected Floor Plans

Continued from page 1

FTA grant funds will be used with other funds, already allocated by the state of Missouri and the City of St. Louis, to complete the planned streetscape improvements both east and west of the station. East of the station, a landscaped median will be built from Hodiamont to DeBaliviere. West of the station, widened sidewalks will make the transition to the city limits

both business owners and neighborhood residents.

FTA Administrator Gordon Linton, who had visited the site early in his tenure at FTA, noted the importance of transit-related development across the country. Travelling extensively, Linton sees first-hand the resulting ventures, such as day-care facilities and other quality of life services. He articulated



FTA Administrator Gordon Linton receives a decorated tile from Delmar's "Tilelink" from the Delmar Commercial Committee's Dennis Townsend and Jo Ann Vatcha.

Photo courtesy of Bi-State "Arts in Transit".

consistent with the Loop. Also attending the ceremonial check presentation was Mel Sundermeyer, Director of Multimodal Operations for the State of Missouri Department of Transportation, MODOT, which is also a key partner in the funding for the project.

\$ 612,447 of the overall \$ 3.4 million grant will enhance the Busch Stadium Station, in conjunction with the Cupples Station renovations underway. \$ 215,000 will be used to do landscaping and signage at the Wellston Station. \$ 435,161 will be allocated to signage at all the existing Metrolink Stations. A prototype of the new signage program has been installed at the Wellston station.

Leading the grant presentation at the Delmar Station was Bi-State Director Tom Irwin, who introduced speakers Mayor Clarence Harmon, Alderman Irving Clay, Alderman Lyda Krewson, businessman Dennis Townsend, and resident Jo Ann Vatcha, who all thanked FTA Administrator Gordon Linton for the grants and the recognition given the community planning effort which has resulted in this cohesive plan for Delmar. Alderman Krewson asked the assembled group to "look closely at Delmar now...in a short time, people will say what a beautiful street it has become. But we will remember how much hard work it took to make it a reality."

Alderman Clay took note of the tremendous potential Delmar has to become a prime commercial location. He also described how he became involved in the legislation creating a redevelopment plan, "because neighborhood residents like Jo Ann Vatcha brought me into the planning process. Together we came up with a plan that will work."

Dennis Townsend, speaking on behalf of the many long-time businessmen on Delmar, remembered how his parents had had the vision to believe that someday our business climate would improve. Being a part of the planning committee for nearly ten years, Townsend noted, has been a rewarding and positive experience for

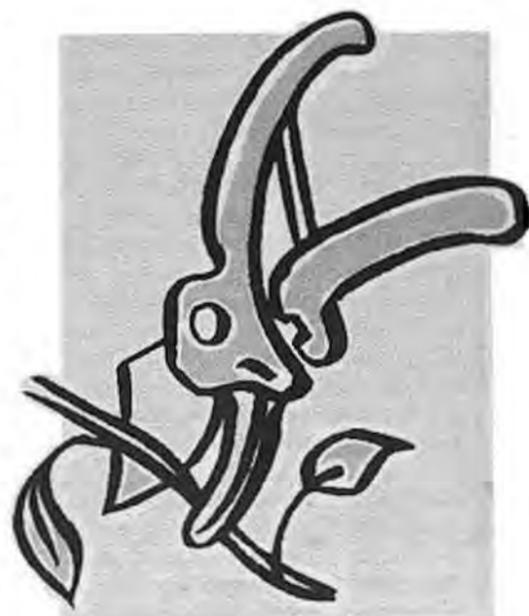
the administration's belief that "transportation is more than concrete, asphalt and steel", and his emphasis is on improving the efficient transit systems that help "support the sustainable development that keeps livable communities alive." Linton, who served six terms in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives prior to become FTA Administrator five years ago, clearly enjoyed his trip to the Delmar Station, a perfect day in the autumn sunshine for MetroLink and for Delmar.

McPherson Community Garden Continues Its Award-Winning Ways

McPherson Community Garden was awarded First Place for Best Community Garden in the Post Dispatch - Gateway Greening - KTRS Great Greening Contest. The Garden received \$160.00 in coupons from area nurseries—Frisella's, Garden Heights, Cottage Gardens (Piasa), Diatelmaus (\$40.00 each). The coupons will purchase plants and bulbs for the public areas of the garden.

A story about the McPherson Garden along with other community gardens was featured in Post-Lifestyles (July issue), written by neighbor Becky Hohmann. Photos of all the winning gardens were on display at the Kemper Center for Home Gardening at the Missouri Botanical Garden. McPherson Garden, which was funded since its beginning by Gateway Greening, won Honorable Mention in this same contest last year, when the garden was barely a year old.

Head gardener Andy Cross and the many hard-working gardens who put so much time and effort into the public areas of the garden as well as their own plots deserve thanks from everyone in Skinker DeBaliviere.



Support Dogs of St. Louis Need Your Help

Support dogs receive training so that they can be companions to people with disabilities. A number of dogs are now receiving training in St. Louis.

Trainers would benefit greatly if people could donate their old towels to the Support Dogs to help with clean-up, etc. If you have some towels you are able to give away, call Georgi Fox at 862-0768.

Library's Charles Lamkin Honored by Rosedale Neighborhood Association



Julie Schoemehl, president of the Rosedale Neighborhood, and Charles Lamkin, librarian at Charing Cross Library on Skinker. Julie was presenting Charles with a plaque in honor of his service to the neighborhood.

Photo by Dave Schmidt

SKINKER DEBALIVIERE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

BOARDS OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MAY 10, 1999 MINUTES

In Attendance: Greg Freeman, Vice President; Directors Ann Smith Carr, Lara Doyle, Peggy Droege, Jane Geiler, Amy Gill, Steve Givens, Ronie Haliburton, Ruth Johnson, Gwen Lazard, Susan Littlefield, Maggie Hart-Mahon, Shirley Polk, Dan Schesch.

Guests: Dan Bailey (Kingsbury Square), Andy Cross (Beautification Committee Chair), Brenda Davis (Block Unit 1152), Paul Hohmann (Transportation Committee Chair), Larry Isom, (NSO), P.O. Terry Kowalczyk, Alderman Lyda Krewson, Claudette Manns (Epworth Children's Home), Shelly Goel-Parker, Sarah Smith (Bi State Arts in Transit), Karen Sprogan (Convent House-MO), Katrina Steirholz (Playground Committee Chair), Meghan West, Marian Wolaver (Convent House-MO), Gary Boehnke (Housing Corporation Project Administrator), Laure Porterfield (SDCC Executive Director).

Absent: Gary L. Hayes, Shashi Kara, Lana Stein.

Meeting was called to order by Greg Freeman, Vice President, at 7:03 p.m.

Welcome and Introduction of special guests:

A. Sarah Smith of Bi-State brought plans for the DeBaliviere MetroLink parking lot. Plans call for paving and landscaping with approximately 127 parking spaces (loss of 25+spaces). Work to begin in June and take up to four months. Final plans and construction schedule to be available in Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office.

B. Kevin Drollinger of Epworth Children and Family Services discussed future use of the property at 6186 Kingsbury. Epworth would like to lease to Convent House for a residential program serving up to eight residents (age 17 to 21) and 4 staff. Further discussion to be held with adjacent neighbors.

Security Terry Kowalczyk, St. Louis Metropolitan Police

1. Arrests were made in 58XX and 59XX Pershing after working with FBI to recover stolen property.

2. An arrest was made on Union of a suspect who had license plates and tabs from garage break-in on Kingsbury.

3. Request for more copies of safety tips.

4. Request for police to stop speeders.

5. Problem with people driving over cul-de-sac at 57XX DeGiverville.

6. Problem with people seeking donations in the intersections especially at DeBaliviere and Forest Park.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved after attendance was corrected: Dan Schesch was absent at April meeting.

Treasurer's Report - in Lana's Stein absence report made by Laure Porterfield.

1. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report as submitted.

2. A motion was made to reallocate funds from the Whittaker Grant (\$2000), Community Fund (\$1000) and Youth Cycles account to the Playground account. Motion made by Amy Gill, seconded by Gwen Lazard. Passed.

3. Fundraising report submitted. Jane Geiler announced the following

Calendar of Events.

Garden Tour July 5

Rags to Riches in August

Trivial Pursuits in October

And on-going T-shirt sales

Neighborhood/Committee Reports

A. Playground Committee: Katrina Steirholz reported that:

1. Enterprise Leasing has donated \$10,000 to the Playground.

2. Three more grant application submitted.

3. Letter to be sent to Parks Department requesting the maintenance fee be waived.

4. Switchback concert refreshment sales brought in over \$1,000.

5. Rosedale Neighborhood Association donated \$250.00. The challenge grant was matched by the Gills and Benders.

6. Playground committee will participate in 61XX Westminster yard sale on June 5 and liquidate supplies from Youth Cycles.

A. Rosedale report /Lara Doyle announced that:

1. Julie Schoemehl stepped down as president. Thanks for all her contributions and her in help making our community better. We'll miss you.

2. Amy Gill will finish Julie's term.

3. Katrina Steirholz is vice-president

4. All other officers and reps remain the same.

5. Quarterly meeting TBA; they will set agenda for the year.

6. Amy Gill was welcomed to the Board.

A. Transportation/Paul Hohmann, Chairman, reported that:

1. Approximately 300 people attended the public meeting at Grace Methodist on April 26.

2. A public hearing is scheduled June 8, location t.b.a.

3. East West Gateway staff to make their recommendation in early June.

4. Final decision to be announced June 30.

A. Commercial Development/Laure Porterfield reported that:

1. A meeting is tentatively planned for residents of 61XX Washington to discuss development plans for the Pageant theatre.

2. Looking for solutions to parking problems by proposed Pageant and for other businesses. Pageant has a tentative agreement to use the Bi-State MetroLink lot, but it must be approved by the F.T.A. Environmental study is being done.

3. Work to begin on 60XX and 61XX Delmar to improve pedestrian crossings.

4. Clean up of lot on Delmar at Laurel discussed.

5. Archway Communities is expanding; ground floor businesses will become office space for Archway. Work expected to be completed within 6 months.

6. A letter is to be sent to Talayna's to revisit the agreement and conditions of liquor license.

7. Concerns expressed about the Country Store (located in the 26th Ward) at Delmar and Hamilton.

Residential Committee/Lana Stein, Chair

A meeting is scheduled on May 20 at the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office at 7:00 p.m. Topics to include the Arthur Building. A question arose as to who can attend. This issue will be clarified by mail prior to next month's board meeting.

Beautification Committee/Andy Cross

Blitz Day was a success. Thanks to all who helped. New planters and planting are planned for the Rosedale barriers. Our new bulletin board is now up on the east side of

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council offices. Please sign up for the watering schedule at Four Corners.

Washington Heights/Shirley Polk

A pancake breakfast fundraiser is planned (May 22) at St. Louis Rib Company on Delmar to pay for the annual neighborhood picnic to be held on August 22 in Forest Park, picnic area 8. A moment of silence for the passing of Leon Strauss. Council to send Mary Strauss a letter of condolence.

Executive Director's Report/Laure Porterfield

A written report was submitted. Gary Boehnke reported that the Housing Corporation was buying three Operation Brightside trashcans and requested that Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council buy one. The board will consider the request.

New Business

Concern expressed about the lot on the southeast corner of Forest Park Parkway and Skinker being over-grown and collecting trash.

SKINKER DEBALIVIERE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

JUNE 14, 1999

In Attendance: President Gary L. Hayes, Directors; Lara Doyle, Greg Freeman, Jane Geiler, Amy Gill, Ruth Johnson, Gwen Lazard, Susan Littlefield, Shirley Polk, Dan Schesch, Lana Stein. **Guests:** Dan Bailey (Kingsbury Square), Andy Cross (Beautification Committee Chair), Paul Hohmann (Transportation Committee Chair), Larry Isom (Neighborhood Stabilization Officer), Alderman Lyda Krewson, Katrina Steirholz (Playground Committee Chair). **Staff:** Gary Boehnke (Housing Corporation Project Administrator), Laure Porterfield (SDCC Executive Director).

Absent: Ann Smith Carr, Peggy Droege, Steve Givens, Ronie Haliburton, Shashi Kara, Rev. Miki Merrit, Maggie Hart-Mahon, Paula Sigman.

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 by Gary L. Hayes, President.

Welcome and Introduction:

Dan Bailey was introduced by Ruth Johnson. Dan will be replacing Ruth as Kingsbury Square representative. Ruth will now serve as the alternate. Thanks to Ruth for all of her help; we'll miss her. The Board approval this change.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were read and approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report, Lana Stein

1. Majority of institutions have yet to make their payments. Letters have been sent Director to contact St. Roch.

2. Need to further limit spending on office supplies.

3. Our first fundraiser, the Neighborhood Walk, was a success; the event netted over \$1000 after expenses.

A. Fundraising Committee Jane Geiler/Debbie Hall. Committee recommends that we work to improve how we handle and track monies received at our special events. The Board passed a vote of thanks to Debbie Hall for her efforts to make this event a success.

B. Garden Tours, Susan Littlefield/Andy Cross, co-chairs. Have looked at approximately 30 gardens; 11 responded to date. Plans are moving ahead. Date is set for July 17 beginning with breakfast at McPherson Garden from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Advance ticket sales are encouraged. Adults \$10, Kids (10-15) \$5, under 10 are free. A motion was made by Ruth Johnson, seconded by Greg Freeman to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Security

A Washington University student was the victim of an armed robbery. An arrest was made in 61XX Westminster of a suspect in connection with car related crimes. Multiple car break-ins east of DeBaliviere. A murder in the 5700 block of DeGiverville.

Neighborhood/Committee Reports

1. Larry Isom (Neighborhood Stabilization Officer) is working on more or larger dumpster where needed.

2. Letter of thanks to Larry Isom and police who helped in our Brightside Alley Clean-up.

Rosedale Neighbors, Amy Gill

A special Rosedale meeting was held to decide if a zoning variance should be granted so that Covenant House could lease property at 6186 Kingsbury from Epworth Children's Home. After Covenant House made their proposal. Rosedale residents voted that the property should not receive a variance and should return to a single family dwelling.

Transportation, Paul Hohmann

No meeting last month. Two public hearings of importance- June 15 at Wydown Middle School at 7:00 p.m. and June 21 at Maplewood High School at 6:30 p.m. Still waiting for the release from the City Street Department of their study at neighborhood intersections.

Commercial District, Lana Stein

Delmar improvements should begin this fall; signals and crosswalks will make area more pedestrian friendly. The Pageant plans are moving forward and parking problems are being addressed.

Beautification, Andy Cross

A working day is scheduled at the 1035 Garden on June 19; McPherson Garden took First Place in the Post-Dispatch garden contest. Congrats Andy! Kingsbury planter at Rosedale is completed.

Playground, Katrina Steirholz

No response from Anheuser-Busch. Resubmitted request to Dana Brown. Sonnie Glassberg has expressed great interest and willingness to help with the project. Youth cycle sales raised over \$700. New Cote Brillante pledged \$500 and is seeking a match from their sister church. Parker Wines to donate a percentage of a day's profit. Special sale set for June 17th.

Washington Heights, Shirley Polk

Pancake breakfast was very nice. Thanks to those who shared and supported it. Picnic will be held in Forest Park on August 22.

Residential Development

1. Washington University is seeking to demolish Arthur Building and replace it with a similar type structure. Before the Council takes a position, a motion was made by Dan Schesch and seconded by Amy Gill to: request Washington University to allow representative of the Council with our experts to tour the building's interior to make an assessment of the conditions. Motion passed.

2. A motion was made by Greg Freeman and seconded by Dan Schesch that the request Washington University's chancellor Mark Wrigton be invited to address the Council to explain long range plans for the neighborhood. Letter to be written by Lana Stein. Motion passed.

3. Parking issues for 60XX and 61XX Waterman have been put on hold.

Executive Director Report Laure Porterfield

1. Will write an article for the Times explaining what the Council is and how to become involved.

2. A new roster was included in packet; however an update is needed due to changes in Kingsbury Square representation. Board asked that E-mail addressed be included where feasible.

3. There will be a picnic/planning meeting in Four Corners for block captains to discuss National Night Out, block organization.

4. Will plan a security meeting for fall targeting Washington University students. Housing - in Gary's absence please see written report (attached).

Executive Committee

Report only activity was to set agenda for this meeting.

Motion to Adjourn passed at 9:12 p.m.

**SKINKER DeBALIVIERE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JULY 12, 1999**

In Attendance: President Gary L. Hayes; Directors, Ann Smith Carr, Dan Bailey, Peggy Droege, Amy Gill, Steve Givens, Ronie Haliburton Maggie Hart-Mahon, Shashi Kara, Lyda Krewson, Susan Littefeld, Miki Merritt, Shirley Polk, Lana Stein.

Guests: Andy Cross (Beautification Committee Chair), Paul Hohmann (Transportation Committee Chair), Larry Isom (Neighborhood Stabilization Officer), Katrina Stierholz, (Playground Committee Chair). **Staff:** Gary Boehnke (Housing Corporation Project Administrator). Laure Porterfield (SDCC Executive Director).

Absent: Lara Doyle, Jane Geiler, Ruth Johnson, Dan Schesch, Paula Sigman.

The meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. by President Gary L. Hayes. Because of a number of unexpected guests and announcements we would not follow the written agenda. Lana Stein passed out Memories of Skinker DeBaliviere forms for us to fill out. There may be a book published with an updates history of the neighborhood.

Welcome and Introduction:

Ken Cohen a neighborhood resident and member of the Forest Park Advisory Committee, spoke about MetroLink and the Forest Park master plan. Concerns about the intersections of Lindell at DeBaliviere and Lindell at Des Peres and possible street closures or rerouting of traffic were discussed. Bi-State will be in charge of this and it was suggested that we go to Bi-State Director, Tom Erwin, to state our concerns or suggestions. Vote was called to send a letter from Gary L. Hayes to ask for a meeting with Erwin Neighbors to discuss noise abatement/traffic flow and landscaping. Moved and passed.

Lana Stein - Treasurers presented the report - Playground fundraising going great. Whitaker fund money move from Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council general checking account to the Playground account. First half received donation from New Cote Brillante. Washington University is annual fees paid in full. Still waiting St. Roch's contribution. Report accepted as submitted.

Security - No representative from 7th District present. Issues with purse snatching in Parkview and on Pershing. Both times the attacker was fought off. All were daytime incidents and police were alerted.

A new computer was discussed for the council office as well as E-mail access. An ad hoc committee include Shashi Kara and Dan Schesch will be formed.

Lyda raised concerns about Covenant House, which we thought was a dead issue since neighbors were so opposed. Covenant House went ahead with similar project in the South Side so we must be prepared. A letter was suggested to confirm our position, which Laure and Amy are to draft. It will go out under Gary's signature.

Evaluation forms for the Executive Director are to be redesigned by the committee.

And ready for distribution in September. Gary L. Hayes reported for the Executive Committee. No major decisions made.

Paul Hohmann Transportation Committee - As discussed earlier about Metro Link - give planners a chance to look at visuals along FPE. Meeting Monday, July 26 at 7:30.

Commercial District - Joe Edwards has not closed yet on the property. He is still working on parking and will not close until deal is set. Lots of concerns have been raised - some neighbors filed a petition with liquor license people but project are still in planning stages. Delmar property owners have been increasing prices. 6172-78 Delmar - lots of code violations - Afrocentric Book would like to move in but no occupancy permit will be issued until owner repairs property.

Arthur Building is still an issue - Letter was sent to Chancellor Wrighton to meet and go through building. He sent back letter acknowledging ours. A meeting to be set between board members and Washington University. Discussion was held on who should attend the meeting. Circulated a response form for interested board members. Laure will work out a date.

Rosedale - Need to work with Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council on Rags to Riches. Flyer is going out trying to get bake-off started.

Playground Committee Katrina Stierholz - turned down by "Turtle Lady" but still trying. Lyda suggested going to the Rams again. Fund is up to \$42,000.00. We have applied to Ronald McDonald and are going back to Whitaker Foundation for finish money. Wine tasting raised \$200.00 from Parker's Tables.

Washington Heights Shirley Polk - would like money for neighborhood picnic. Money was discussed because last year board gave extra funds out of bingo money but that is not available this year. Moved that we give \$150.00 as always and will ask Executive Director to approach businesses for contributions. Peggy Droege offered help with paper products.

Motion passed.

Residential Development - 5766 Pershing and 5768 both are vacant and owners have walked away. 5816 Waterman is vacant after a fire. Discussed having Larry check into status of these. Garden Tour - big cleanup day at the garden on Saturday - Advertising going up in neighborhood and loop.

McPherson garden won 1st Place in Post contest. Photos will be in the Post soon. Also included on display in Kemper Home Gardenia Center. Public relations for the tour going well - Volunteers recruited. Board Members asked to sell/purchase two tickets each promises to be a great event.

Laure - Blitz day moved to March - no date as yet. New CDA monitor. City Centre group made an inquiry about us but we have no info on them will forward info to them about the neighborhood. National Night Our is August 3rd. All are urged to attend and participate.

Housing Corporation - see report.

Faithfully Submitted - Amy Gill.

Nancy Farmer Launches Campaign for Missouri State Treasurer

Nancy Farmer, former Director of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council and three-term State Representative for the district in which Skinker DeBaliviere is located, has kicked off her campaign to take the lead in the state office in which she served as Assistant Treasurer for nineteen months. State Treasurer Robert Holden is running for Governor. She also served for a time early in the administration of Mayor Clarence Harmon.

She will contend with three other candidates for the Democratic Party nomination for the post.

Nancy has opened a campaign office and is planning an energetic run for the nomination. She and her husband, Darrell



Hartke, reside on the 5800 block of Waterman.

Community Council Office "Wish List"

Despite the generosity of institutional members, neighborhood residents, and income from CDA, the Council is a not-for-profit and always seeks way to reduce expenses. Contributions of any of the following items would be much appreciated:

- sturdy bookshelves
- 5-drawer legal size file cabinets
- disposable paper goods (paper towels, toilet tissue, Kleenex, napkins, plates and cups)
- an upright vacuum cleaner
- 8 1/2x11 copy paper in reams (white or colors)
- snacks and sodas for meetings
- other miscellaneous office supplies
- cleaning supplies
- office furniture

We happily recycle and reuse large mailing envelopes, mailing tubes, plan binders, etc. When in doubt, please give us a call at 862-5122.

"Rags to Riches" Moved to August Date

Were you as confused as some neighborhood children who planned to attend the balloon race that sunny August afternoon?

Moving to an August date was a big change for this very traditional neighborhood yard sale. But for the Rosedale Neighborhood Association and Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, co-sponsors of the neighborhood-wide sale, the change paid off, with nearly a \$900.00 net profit after expenses.

Rosedale Neighborhood President Amy Gill attributes this financial success in great part to the leadership of grillmeister Sam Green and his ever - so successful "Café Westminster". The reintroduction of a "celebrity" Bake Sale also helped the profit, if not the waistlines, of our neighbors. Kudos to 7th District P.O. Don Reynolds for his prize-winning cookies. Many other bakers also contributed to this tasty event. With 39 paid vendors this year, our committee will have to work really hard to stage an even bigger and better event come the millennium.

ARCHWAY Continued from page 3
way sell its building now and relocate to some other neighborhood.

Billy Handmaker, headmaster of Crossroads School and neighborhood resident, expressed concern that Archway's contract with St. Louis County would bring first-time drug offenders to the neighborhood for treatment. He said that this particular population was not desired so close to a school.

Representatives of Archway said that they did not want to offer services in a neighborhood where they were considered unwelcome. There were also concerns that Archway has no parking spaces at the Pershing location.

Someone at the meeting suggested Archway relocate to Regional Hospital. One Archway spokesperson said the surrounding neighborhood was a

bigger problem than the Archway clients. A physician on Archway's board finally suggested that a committee be formed to help Archway relocate to another facility.

At its regular meeting on September 13, the SDCC Board discussed the Archway issue. The board voted its lack of support for a variance to allow Archway to remodel, said it would take nominations for people to help to assist Archway in moving, and also voted in favor of asking Archway not to increase its out-patient load by adding people referred by St. Louis County Drug Court. Archway director Sigman indicated that Archway may reconfigure the 1st floor of its building, possibly to avoid the need for a variance.

Alderman Krewson indicated that she did not favor the variance or the additional out-patient traffic.

In Your Ear

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

Well, we did it. After a score of years living in our clock-laden, shoe-strewn home on Kingsbury Avenue, WE RE-DID THE KITCHEN.

I know, gentle reader, you're probably asking the most logical and fundamental question, especially if you know us: *WHY?* Indeed, that's a question I've asked myself many times. Many, many times. It would be like me buying new golf clubs knowing that I haven't played golf, don't presently play golf, and don't want to play golf in the future. You see, the first wife (f.w.) and I redoing our kitchen is a bit like the NASA spending money to improve the terrain on Jupiter, a place where humans have never been and don't plan to go. It's like the Illinois government putting even newer technology in the airport they just built in Mascoutah, 35 miles east of St. Louis, the one that has no planes landing or taking off and no prospects for any either. I mean, huh?

How did this journey down the crooked path begin? A few months

ago the f.w. said, "I think we need to redo the kitchen."

I looked up from my newspaper, knocking some ashes from my cigar into my lap and spilling a bit of my Diet Coke there, too. "What kitchen?" I responded.

She replied while gently polishing a pair of shoes she had just purchased, "You know, that room on the first floor that has a stove and sink in it!"

"Oh, *that* room," I said, putting down my newspaper and grabbing my trusty dictionary, "but if you look up the definition of 'kitchen,' it says that it's a room where food is prepared. We haven't prepared food there for years unless you count using the kitchen phone to call Domino's."

"HA!" she retorted, "What about when we have bagels for breakfast?" Knowing she had caught me, she began buffing another pair of new shoes furiously in her excitement.

There was a pause, then I nodded and continued, "but if you exclude using the microwave and toaster for morning bagels, and if you don't count using the kitchen phone for ordering

food, and if you eliminate warming our holiday store-bought Turkeys, when is the last time we actually, you know, prepared food there?"

There was a long pause. Finally the f.w. said, "But if the kitchen was renovated, then we would prepare food there!" (Yeah, I thought, and if the terrain was better on Jupiter, maybe we'd go there for picnics.)

It was hard to argue with this logic, at least publicly. Our kitchen has been underused for so long that, to be fair, it is difficult to imagine it being inviting to any chef, cook, or hamburger-flipper. The phrase "use it or lose it" applies to our kitchen; it's not used and been lost! How lost?

Years ago after our annual frantic hunt for the personal property tax receipt so that we could take it to AAA and get our auto licenses renewed, we decided we needed one place for storing all of our personal records and documents, somewhere secure where papers would be safe. Yep, we decided to use the oven to store important papers. It was a stroke of genius. Since

then we know right where every valuable tax receipt and file is!

And for years we kept a portable mini-billiard ball table mounted over the stove. That was great fun but, realistically, it made it hard to cook. It was such a hassle to remove the billiard table and then reinstall it the next morning. Realistically, the stove didn't appear for months. So maybe the f.w. is correct. Maybe it's time, I thought, to bite the biscuit, I mean bullet, and redo the kitchen.

I pulled at my beard, trying to look wise, for a moment and then said, "Let's do it." She jumped for glee, dropping two or three pairs of her new shoes. I asked how long this would take, foolishly figuring that it was maybe a month's worth of work.

"Oh, they should be out by the fourth of July," she responded. Older but not wiser, I failed to ask her which Fourth of July. Many moons, sports seasons, and MetroLink debates have passed since that initial discussion and the start of work.

The workmen are gone, as I write in summer 1999. We celebrated four birthdays with them and two national holidays. Granted, the four birthdays were divided among three people, and granted, the two national holidays included the final game of the NBA playoffs, but lemme tell you, they were here a loooooong time. The dogs came to view them as friends, the post office delivered their mail here, and twice I awakened to find a worker downstairs in his pajamas, making coffee while installing a cabinet. One worker was married, divorced, and remarried during our renovation. Even though the second marriage was a quickee — they met at the bowling alley when her ball wound up going down his lane — this represented a long time. The project that took only a little less time and money than the building of the Panama Canal.

To be fair to the f.w., the renovated kitchen is a marvel. The new microwave actually talks! In a robotic Disneyesque voice it announces, "Your coffee is warmed" and "the bagels are de-thawed." I'm sure it would say other things too, but I don't know how to work it. There are all these buttons! It's a bit intimidating, so thus far I've only pushed the BEVERAGE WARM and PASTRY DE-THAW buttons. (Actually, it's pretty versatile. I've learned that you can do a Weight Watchers meal by pushing BEVERAGE WARM three times in a row.)

Our old kitchen was sort of dark; you could always identify the north side of the room by the moss growing on the wall next to the refrigerator. The new kitchen has so much light that I have to put on tanning lotion if I'm going to be there more than 30 minutes or so. But at least I no longer have to put on my glasses to dial Domino's.

We also have a new sink that is really deep. It's so deep, in fact, that we have been able to stack eight days worth of dirty dishes in it. That's pretty cool. But what I like most about our renovation is that we have moved the stove and the refrigerator so that there's a lot more room in the kitchen. I don't know what we'll do with all this extra space but I saw an ad for a combination snooker ball and shuffleboard table that doubles as a roulette wheel. I need to measure it but it looks like it might sit quite nicely on top of our new stove.

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

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