

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

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Washington University Changes Incentive Program for Purchase of Homes Here

by Lana Stein

On Tuesday, October 10, Chancellor Mark Wrighton of Washington University held a community forum for the university's neighbors in Clayton, University City and Skinker DeBaliviere. In his remarks Wrighton mentioned the construction taking place on the school's east campus which will result in five new buildings and an underground parking structure. He also announced an item of particular interest to the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood.

Several years ago, the university had made available forgivable loans to faculty or staff who bought homes in our neighborhood. The loans were to cover closing costs and amounted to either \$4,000 or 5 percent of the down payment, whichever was less. If the purchaser stayed in his or her home for five years, the loan was forgiven. However, there was another criterion for receipt of the loan that created con-

siderable consternation among Skinker DeBaliviere residents. Each loan carried with it a right of first refusal. If the property were to be sold, Washington University had the first right to buy the property and this right was to be of 30 years' duration. It also applied to subsequent owners of the property during that 30 year period.

There have been 12 loans issued to buyers in Skinker DeBaliviere since the program's inception. Two people receiving loans have subsequently sold their homes and the university did not exercise its right of first refusal.

To many on the Community Council and other concerned neighbors, this right of first refusal seemed to be a method to control more land in the neighborhood. The university had said it did not want to acquire single family residences here and it did not wish to purchase property east of DesPeres.

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PLAYGROUND GRAND OPENING SET

A neighborhood-wide party will be held on October 28th from 3:00-5:00 p.m., to celebrate the Grand Opening of the long-awaited Playground at Four Corners Park. Neighborhood children are already thronging to the playground with parents in tow. The kids were using the equipment even before the finishing work around it could be done.

Katrina Stierholz, Chairman of the Playground Committee, salutes the very long list of contributors and workers who have made the playground

possible. Neighborhood residents, friends and families of the committee, Alderman Krewson and Parks Department staffers led by Dan Skillman, corporate and foundation donors, and most importantly, the children, are invited to attend.

Live music, face painting, balloons, prizes, food and more are promised. Be there for a truly FUN celebration of our successes and of the community that makes it all happen.



JOE EDWARDS' PAGEANT OPENS ON DELMAR!

by Lana Stein

On Thursday, October 19, crowds of officials, neighbors, and music aficionados flocked to the grand opening of the Pageant at 6161 Delmar. A twenty-one guitar salute highlighted the ribbon-cutting. Throngs of people entered the new building and marveled at the size and the design and the perfect visibility from any location. Congressional nominee Lacy Clay, former

mayors Bosley and Schoemehl, city treasurer Larry Williams, U City council member Paul Schoomer, and Alderman Irv Clay shared the joy of the event. A number of SDCC members, Commercial Committee members, and other neighbors including the pastor of St. Roch, Msgr. Polizzi, also were part of the crowd.

Continued on page 8



ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE SET FOR NOVEMBER 4

Social Service Committee Co-chairs Lara Doyle and Shirley Polk are at it again. The annual Fall Food Drive to benefit the food pantries at four area churches will be held on Saturday, November 4. The Food Pantries are located at Grace United Methodist Church, Grace and Peace Fellowship, New Cote Brillante Church of God and St. Roch. Advance drop-off bins are positioned at Hamilton School, The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, and the lobby of the Bi-State Bus Garage on DeBaliviere.

Look for a different twist this year: Mr. Magic, a community volunteer who supports efforts like the food drive by contributing his time and talent, will entertain kids at Four Corners Park starting promptly at 11:00 a.m. Children are asked to bring a few cans of food as an "admission" fee. All children are welcome. Look for lots of fun and some surprises.

JoAnn Vatcha's update of the neighborhood history,

Part III, "THE SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE ART FAIR AND HOUSE TOUR YEARS" continues in this issue on page 5.

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

Please accept all of our apologies for the tardiness of this issue. Those of us who work most closely on this newspaper no longer have the time we did a decade ago to devote to reporting, writing, editing, and production. We need some new blood to come forward and assist us in getting the paper to you. We're a friendly group and we're open to suggestions of any kind.

Although much has changed since the founding of this paper, there's still a need to share information and publicize events. Many younger people have become part of Skinker DeBaliviere and we would love to have a few work with us on a one time or reoccurring basis. Our contact numbers can be found on this page. Let us hear from you.

Otherwise, I have numerous gripes in this autumnal season but it would be very boring for me to kvetch all the time. Too often we seem to oppose and complain. This is probably a vestige of the times when the neighborhood had to fight and fight ingeniously for its very survival. That makes us wary of new developments. We don't want the stability we have achieved threatened in any fashion. But, it would be nice to see more efforts like the playground or the community gardens which bring people together to produce new assets for the neighborhood. And, perhaps, those from outside our borders who place new demands on our enhanced but vulnerable neighborhood ought to study its lessons. If they could appreciate how much has been accomplished, maybe they could be more sensitive to our fears and hopes and our quality of life.

Washington University to Acquire Angelica Property

Angelica, a manufacturer of uniforms, owns considerable property east of Skinker and north of Delmar. Washington University has entered into a contract to purchase Angelica's holdings. However, there will be no major change in use there for some time. Angelica will lease its facilities back from the university. Washington University chancellor, Mark Wrighton, said that the site might be used in similar fashion to the university facility at the old Famous Barr building in Clayton, for back-up services staff. He noted that the Angelica property is closer to his office in Brockings Hall than Forsyth and Big Bend.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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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

- 10/10 Washington University Neighbors meeting, Steinberg Hall, 7:00 p.m. On-going communication with neighborhoods surrounding the University
- 10/12 MetroLink Extension Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Crossroads School. Questions and Answers, Input from Neighbors, Design Charette. TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS AND GET ANSWERS REGARDING THE EXTENSION. VOICE YOUR IDEAS AND HELP DEFINE THE STATION DESIGN FEATURES FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. Please RSVP to 923-3050 or e-mail cfarroll@bsda.org.
- 10/16 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, SDCC Office, 6008 Kingsbury. 7:00 p.m., Monthly Board Meeting, Open to the Public.
- 10/18 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation Board Meeting. Noon. SDCC Office, 6008 Kingsbury.
- 10/28 Grand Opening Ceremonies, Skinker DeBaliviere Playground Ribbon Cutting, at Four Corners Park, Kingsbury and Des Peres. 3:00-5:00 p.m. Speeches, Music, Cake, and More. Free. Open to children of all ages.
- 10/31 Rosedale Neighbors Annual Halloween Party at St. Roch's Gym. 5:30p.m. -6:30 p.m. TRICK OR TREATING until 8:30 p.m.
- 11/1 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation Board Meeting. Noon. SDCC Office, 6008 Kingsbury.
- 11/4 Annual Food Drive to Benefit Neighborhood Food Pantries. Bags of food on your front porch by 10:00 a.m. Special Kids Program from 11:00 a.m.-noon at Four Corners Park (right beside the new playground). Kingsbury and Des Peres. Bring three or more cans as your admission fee to see Dr. Magic. Food can be dropped off at this location by adults too!
- 11/13 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, SDCC Office, 6008 Kingsbury. 7:00 p.m., Monthly Board Meeting, Open to the Public
- 12/11 Skinker Debaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, SDCC Office, 6008 Kingsbury. 7:00 p.m. Monthly Board Meeting, Open to the Public.
- 12/14 Annual Police Appreciation Luncheon. Watch for details.

Other Events of Interest

- now- "The Nazi Olympics Berlin 1936" is a special exhibit at the Missouri History Museum. The exhibit is a careful look at Nazi ideology, the Nazification of German sports, Hitler's repressive measures against Jews, and the role of 18 African-American athletes. Tickets are \$5/adults, \$3/children (those under 6 free), and free to members of MHS.
- 10/26-11/16 Jazz at Holmes Series at Washington University in Holmes Lodge, Ridgely Hall, 8:30-10:30pm, 10/26 is Rob Hughes trio; 11/2 is guitarist Tom Byrne; 11/9 is New Harmonica Jazz Quartet; 11/16 the William Lenihan Quartet. All concerts are free to the public.
- 10/26-10/27 Films of Vincent Price at the History Museum. "House on Haunted Hill," "The Masque of the Red Death" and "Theatre of Blood." \$3. Call 746-4599 for more information.
- 11/4-1/7 "Painting on Light: Drawings and Stained Glass in the Age of Durer and Holbein," at the Saint Louis Art Museum.
- 11/16 Urban Forum Lecture at Missouri History Museum: E. Terrence Jones, political scientist will speak on "Metropolitan Governance: What St. Louis Can Teach Other Regions," 7pm in the Lee Auditorium at the Museum in Forest Park.
- 11/19 Holiday Fair at the History Museum. Local authors will be hand to greet fans and sign copies of their books, noon-5pm.

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A Poet in Our Midst: William A. Brady

When he was a year old, **William A. Brady** became a resident of Skinker DeBaliviere. His family had bought a home on 61xx Washington and Brady enjoyed growing up there. He was a 1986 graduate of Soldan High School. Brady learned that he had a gift for writing verse when he started taking classes at Forest Park Community College. It started as a class assignment and he has been writing poetry ever since.

Although he has worked at other trades to support himself—currently the U.S. Post Office—he keeps writing poems. His mother Ernestine has championed him and broadened his horizons.



A book of his poems, "State of Mind," was published this summer. Brady had a well-attended book signing at the Legacy bookstore at 6172 Delmar.

Brady's award-winning poem, "Homeless Man," can be found in the "State of Mind" volume. This poem received top honors from the National Poets Society, based in Maryland, and the Poetry Guild of New York City. Another volume of Brady's poetry will be published in June.

Brady's poetry continues to be available at Legacy Books and is also on the web at poetry.com under his name. Brady reads his poetry at two places in St. Louis. On Wednesdays at 10:00pm, he does an open mike at Troy on the Park, at Park and Mississippi. On Friday nights at 9:30pm, he is at Legacy Books.

Brady remains in the neighborhood on Washington. He is part of an ever-expanding group of published authors. We'll be hearing more from him.

Homeowner Questions Appraisal

Note: This letter was sent to the Times for publication.
To the President of Central West End Bank:

I wish to contest the recent appraisal report submitted on my property at 59xx Kingsbury, by Donald E. Roach of the St. Louis Appraisal Company. The value of the property, in Roach's view, declined by thousands of dollars from its value in 1995 despite the facts below:

- Income (rents) from the property increased 22% since 1995
 - Additional improvements have been made including six new furnaces purchased in December 1998.
 - An unbiased inspection would conclude the property to be in good condition and well-maintained.
 - Within the same block, two vacant 6 unit buildings have been renovated and two additional vacant buildings torn down since 1995. There are no more vacant buildings and vacant weed-filled lots in the block where the appraised property is located.
 - In place of two vacant buildings and two vacant lots, eight new town homes have been built; the latter ones are directly across the street from the property in question. The townhouses are advertised to sell at \$201,050 each.
 - A few yards down the street at Nina and Kingsbury, the last vacant building in the immediate area was torn down and replaced by another four townhouses of similar quality and value.
- Given these all-around improvements since 1995, it is strange that my

property at 59xx Kingsbury now has less value than five years ago.

It is also noticeable that in listing the sale of comparison properties for appraisal purposes, Roach found it convenient to go outside the area. While numerous similar properties in this Skinker-DeBaliviere area have been sold recently, including some to Washington University, Roach did not treat any of these properties in his report.

I do realize that property, in the end, is worth what other people are willing to pay for it. Interestingly, on the surface, Roach took this approach in his appraisal document. In justifying why he took the "sales comparison approach" instead of his concluded higher value indicated by income generation on the property, Roach writes:

"Greatest weight has been placed on the Sales Comparison Approach as it considers the actions of buyers and sellers in the subject's immediate neighborhood and these actions reflect the definition of "Market Value."

Despite his justification for appraising at lower value than his concluded income generation would have given, Roach did not base his appraisal on the market activity in the "immediate" neighborhood, declining to use properties sold in Skinker DeBaliviere. Instead, he used properties located on Enright, Cates, Eastgate, and Westgate to arrive at "comparable value." I am left to conclude that Roach deliberately

Ann Stapenhorst Completes 50 Years in City Government



Ann Stapenhorst, a longtime resident of Skinker DeBaliviere, has just retired from almost 50 years of employment with the City of St. Louis. Stapenhorst, of 61xx McPherson, began work as a clerk typist with the Housing Authority in 1951. From 1974 to 2000 she served as an executive secretary to the director of the St. Louis Development Corporation. Her work involved her in the building of Busch Stadium, the Arch, and the Convention Center.

On the 29th of September, Mayor Harmon proclaimed "Ann Stapenhorst Day" and she was congratulated by him and St. Louis's three living former mayors.

Neighbors Victorious at Polls

Two Skinker DeBaliviere residents sought elective office in the August primary. Both were successful and each face Republican challengers in November.

State Senator **William Lacy Clay, Jr.**, a 16 year resident of 6100 Washington, bested several opponents to win the Democratic nomination for the 1st District congressional seat. Clay is

grateful for the support from Skinker DeBaliviere and the 28th ward and also the district as a whole. He is working to ensure Democratic victories in November. If he is successful then he will work on education, health care, and increasing home ownership in his district. On a personal note, Clay and his wife Ivie are expecting a second child in December.

Nancy Farmer, a past director of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council and state representative, bested two opponents to become the Democratic nominee for Missouri treasurer. Farmer, a resident of 58xx Waterman, was grateful to her friends and neighbors for their votes and their considerable help. Farmer faces a tough battle in November but notes that her experience as Deputy Treasurer should help her cause.

devalued the property at 59xx Kingsbury, and, I so charge him. As such, he operated in a biased, unethical and incompetent manner.

In filing this protest, I request, among other things that the \$600 check for appraisal fee be returned to me. In addition, I request that no appraisal fee be folded into the loan requested from the bank. To use my monies for this bogus report is in effect to use my own monies against me. Further, it is clear to me that a "windshield survey" of the type once conducted by Team Four on neighborhood properties would have yielded a similar, if not higher, appraisal value.

Finally, it is my hope that Central West End Bank, which has helped to finance stabilization of the the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood in the past, is not now a party to any broader efforts to devalue some property in the area to the detriment of some and the benefit of others. In addition, I am requesting that Central West End Bank reconsider its use of this person and his company in future appraisals of properties in the neighborhood, particularly those belonging to people of certain characteristics. It is the year 2000, not the year 1861.

Sincerely,
Ethel Sawyer



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Notes from the Gardens

by Andrew Cross

Big winners this year at the Block Unit 1-35 Community Garden (5800 Westminster) and the McPherson Community Garden (59XX McPherson). In the Gateway Greening Urban Garden Contest, the Block Unit 1035 Community Garden took first place for the "Best Community Garden." Individual winners from the Block Unit 1035 Garden for "Best Raised Beds" were Jesse Brown and Katrina Stierkoltz. The McPherson Community Garden won honorable mention in the same category with individual winners recognized for "Best Raised Beds" Abram Ware, Ann O'Brien, and Heather Ranier all taking prizes. The gardens were awarded with gift certificates to local nurseries and the individual gardeners received memberships to the Missouri Botanical Garden. The Block Unit 1035 Garden also won the prize for the "Best Non-Traditional Scarecrow;" Mrs. Dever's "Bride and Groom" scarecrows were seen earlier this year



at the Breakfast Garden tour where they were a big hit.

The McPherson Community Garden was a host garden in the Post Dispatch Great Garden Tour held this summer. Celebrity Host Glen Kopp from the MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN greeted tourgoers and answered their gardening questions.

More recently, the McPherson Garden hosted an evening event called "Dessert and Discussion in the Garden," addressing the needs of the "end of summer gardening." The University Extension provided the speaker for the event with Gateway Greening. Albert Hersen, a master gardener/Horticulturist offered many suggestions on how to care for lawns and gardens as the warm season winds down, and how to take advantage of the changing temperatures to make the most of the cool season crops and



care of grasses, trees, and plants. Thanks to Ann Gachuhi, Horticultural Specialist with University Extension at the Kemp Center at the MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN, who helped us create this event.

Congratulations to the many neighbors who contribute to the constant success of our neighborhood Community Gardens.



HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES PLANNED KEEP IT SAFE!

All neighborhood kids 12 and under are invited by the Rosedale Neighbors Association to attend the 32nd Annual community Halloween Party in the gym at St. Roch School. The party starts promptly at 5:30 p.m. Children accompanied by a parent or other adult will be welcomed to the party, entertained by Magician/Humorist Larry Levin, judged by a special panel of neighborhood volunteers and awarded prizes for Best Costumes (ten prizes to be awarded in all.)

In keeping with long-established tradition, trick-or-treating commences at 6:30 p.m. immediately after the party and ends at 8:00 p.m. Neighbors who wish to participate in Halloween Trick-or-Treating are asked to turn on their porch lights between 6:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. You are encouraged to turn off your light and close the door at 8:00 p.m. We ask that as many adults as possible be out on their porches or in the street with flashlights.

An adult should accompany children under ten. Costumes should be checked for fireproofing, masks for visibility, and hemlines for curb clearance. Dark costumes should be highlighted with reflective material. If possible children should carry flashlights or glow-sticks.

Let's all work to assure yet another safe and fun Halloween for children and adults.

National Night Out

Beautiful weather, a neighborhood hero, and a very energetic committee all contributed to the success of this year's National Night Out celebration in Skinker DeBaliviere. Veterans of this neighborhood-wide street party asserted that this was the largest crowd ever - though the committee working the event was too busy trying to keep up with the food line to even begin to get a good count.

Representatives of many neighborhood organizations came to Skinker DeBaliviere's celebration at Four Corners to take advantage of the opportunity to reach out to the community they serve. Some were looking for volunteers to work their programs. Some were looking for members or clients who would benefit from knowing about their services. Among those participants were the 5900 McPherson Block Unit, the T.A.G. Youth group from Grace United Methodist Church, the Women's Shelter at Grace and Peace Fellowship, and S.A.D.D. (students against Drunk Driving). All left the event proud to be a part of our neighborhood.

When Fire Chief Sherman George presented Jonathan Reese with a special award for his heroism during a house fire at his grandmother's home in the 5800 block of DeGiverville, all of those present shared in a sweet moment of thanks that this young man and his even younger brother were with us at this moment. Others took time to honor John as well: Principal Gloria Openlander from St. Roch School, where he is now a fourth grade student, presented Jonathan with a gift certificate from K-B Toys and a heartfelt hug. Mike FitzGibbons, representing

Kingsbury Square Association, awarded Jonathan with a check and warm congratulations on his heroics. Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board members Shirley Polk and Ronie Haliburton conceived of the idea to honor Jonathan at the Night Out celebration. Board President Dan Schesch and the event Chairman, Katrina Stierholz, coordinated the details with wonderful support from the Fire Chief's office.

Event Chairman Katrina Stierholz introduced Alderman Lyda Krewson as Master of Ceremonies. Taking over the "Big Red Wagon" stage for just a few minutes from the musical entertainment of John Thomas and Friends, our Alderman faced quite a task when she agreed to recognize the many "notables" in attendance at our event, which occurred immediately prior to this year's primary elections. Sighted in the crowd in addition to Chief George were political candidates Lacy Clay, Nancy Farmer, and Bob Holden. Comptroller Darlene Green, a neighborhood resident, bought yet another Skinker DeBaliviere T-shirt (thank you Darlene!)

TV coverage was great, with most of the major stations here. Channel 16, the City cable station, worked the crowd, getting good footage for their Montage piece about Skinker DeBaliviere.

Our event was recognized by the Neighborhood Stabilization Team and the Mayor's office at special ceremonies in September in the "Keeping Kids Safe" category. A new banner will be installed immediately adjacent to the recently completed playground at Four Corners Park.

GLIMPSES OF RAGS TO RICHES 2000



Ed Stout and Georgi Fox, ready to cope with the weather, confer about business. Ed was not actually selling brains.



Some entrepreneurs displayed their wares at the parking lot at Skinker and Westminster.

NEIGHBORHOOD CHRONICLES

THE HISTORY OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD, PART III: THE SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE ART FAIR AND HOUSE TOUR YEARS

by Jo Ann Vatcha

Every Mother's Day for over a dozen years, the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood was home to a remarkable Art Fair and House Tour. Long before other historic St. Louis neighborhoods started their house tours, ours was a stunning success emulated all across the area. It all started with a new resident, an energetic and effervescent young stay-at-home mother named Susie Roach [Feinberg], who convinced Father Peet to let her use the St. Roch parking lot for an Art Fair. Designed to bring attention to the neighborhood and bring people in the neighborhood together, Susie modeled the fair after a similar event in Chicago's Hyde Park, from where her family had moved to St. Louis. In 1968, she organized other neighbors and started the event with 32 artists on the St. Roch parking lot.

Judges were recruited by Susie, giving real credibility and competition to the art fair. As time went by, local artists, many associated with Washington University, were participants in the fair. Bill Kohn, Peter Marcus, and Gene Hoefel are a few of the professors and professional artists who helped make the event a success. There were over a hundred booths at most of the fairs, including many crafts, and many people who were children in that era remember the special event as the place they went to buy mother's day presents. Photographers, painters, metalworkers, leatherworking, sculpture, and many more skills were represented. Cherie McKee, from the 6100 block of Westminster, brought her mother from Buffalo, NY, to show wonderful ceramics. Marj Weir's mother Frances also participated, bringing her incredible miniatures to the fair.

By 1974, the seventh year of the Art Fair, there were 132 artists at booths all along the 6100 block of Kingsbury, requiring precise organization and a large number of people to help. It became a highly organized fair which had chairmen and committees working nearly year-round to ensure success. Following Susie, the job of Art Fair/House Tour Chairperson was held by Gee Stuart, Joe Lange, Rich Lake, Karen Brown, Sam Green, and many others. One year there was a "committee" consisting of Tom and Karleen Hoerr, Sam and Lu Green, and Neville Vatcha and spouse. Several other years saw "Co-Chairs", as the event outgrew the time available to most volunteers to manage the event. Rich Lake was the most frequent Chairperson, working with a wide array of neighbors.

The memory one chairman, Sam Green, relates is of the time spent with other neighbors on such essential but unglamorous tasks as erecting the Art Fair fencing, on which art would hang and which served to divide the booths from the residents' yards. The "Fence Committee", was a group of several men, led by Brad Weir, who erected the "snow fencing" on the day before the fair on both sides of the 6100 block of Kingsbury, then took it down again before the new work week began. As Sam Green says, "everyone working together was the best thing about it."

The House Tour was added in 1969, the second year of the fair. As Susie Feinberg recently stated, "One of differences (between Skinker DeBaliviere and suburbs, even Univer-

The idea of diversity—of housing styles and size, of people of different economic groups, as well as ethnicity, was key to the success and unique quality of the Skinker-DeBaliviere House Tours. As in every volunteer effort of the 70's, the House Tour leaders took pains to ensure that every part of the neighborhood was on display, including houses owned by African-American families and gay homeowners, even a commune one year, showing the rest of St. Louis what a truly diverse neighborhood was like. And it didn't hurt that we were all obviously having a lot of fun.

Just a few of the Washington Heights homes on the House Tours were these: 5959 Waterman, a Joe Mensing rehab of a HUD-owned house, showed the great potential of a



"Chief Worrier" Karen Brown, with House Tour Chairperson Carol Watkins (and Shana) and Venita Lake, Artists Chairperson, 1979. Photo by King Schoenfeld.

sity City) is that all the blocks in the suburbs are either single-family or apartments. There are really no neighborhoods like this one, where there are various types of housing on the same block. In Chicago, blocks are all mixed-up like St. Louis City. That's the way cities are." The house tour was begun in part to show that off, that Skinker-DeBaliviere was truly a CITY Neighborhood.

Many, many volunteers were needed to make up a successful House Tour Committee. The committees worked hard year after year to find suitable houses distributed throughout the neighborhood, lived in by families of all types, many owner-rehabbed. The tours were, as Gee Stuart wrote in 1974, "designed to advertise, highlight, and promote the charm and livability of our neighborhood". During this same period of time, neighbors like Sue Tepas and Carolyn Toft were leading the research that resulted in the neighborhood becoming a certified Historic District. Clearly, the interest in historic preservation was greatly enhanced by the real-life families who opened their homes to outsiders, demonstrating that historic houses could be more than museums.

vacant building (1974); Horace and Anna Busch opened their beautifully decorated home on the 5700 block of Pershing to visitors from all around the St. Louis area who saw—probably for the first time—what living in a diverse neighborhood really meant. (1974). In 1975, George and Karen Brown, who had done most of their own rehab work, displayed their home at 5826 Pershing, and close friends and later co-leaders of the Art Fair/House Tour Rich and Venita Lake opened their Mensing rehabbed home on the 5800 block of Waterman. Mensing, a prolific rehabber who sparked development on several streets in the neighborhood, completed homes on Waterman, as well as 5815 Pershing, owned by Dorothy Roper, on tour in 1977. Other memorable Washington Heights homes on tour included Floyd and Pat McKissack's own innovative rehab at 5900 Pershing, John and Linda Thomas' home on the 5700 block of Waterman, and homes on the 5700, 5800 and 5900 blocks of DeGiverville.

Parkview also participated from the beginning of the house tours. Leaders of each and every house tour obviously taking great pains to include the larger Parkview homes, which shared the spotlight with more modest houses in

ART FAIR

Continued on page 6

NEIGHBORHOOD CHRONICLES

Rosedale and Washington Heights. In Parkview, the Millsap, Watkins and Martin families on the 6200 block of Waterman were on view; the Morros and Siegel houses on the 6200 block of Washington, Alan and Kathleen Hamilton opened their home on 6252 Westminster in 1976, and 6232 McPherson in 1978. B. J. and Nancy Young's home at 6237 McPherson was on the final tour roster.

Rosedale was possibly the most varied. Several single-family renovated homes were included, both the 6100 and 6000 blocks: 6140 McPherson (under two different owners), 6103 Westminster, 6136 Waterman, 6050 Westminster, 6154 McPherson, 6039 Waterman, 6131 Westminster, 6109 McPherson, 6147 Westminster, 6137 Westminster, 6116 Westminster, 6042 Pershing, 6167 Washington.

A dramatic turnaround was shown at 6154 Washington, which Roy Bell and Pat McLafferty had rehabbed their single-family home. Westminster Company (Stan Jones and Jim Bartl) rehabbed 6016 Washington, then lived in by Paul and Katie Kurtz. Two homes completed by rehabber Jim Mitchell, were on tour: 6144 Washington and 6047 Westminster. A townhouse at 6047 Kingsbury—a totally new concept for the neighborhood, executed by a Roach/Kohn partnership was on tour, with its unique conversion of a 6-family building into two 3-story townhouses. Most years highlighted one home on the "Art Fair Street" of 6100 Kingsbury, including 6106 Kingsbury, 6170 Kingsbury, 6116 Kingsbury, 6185 Kingsbury, 6150 Kingsbury, 6142 Kingsbury.

Besides the single family homes, tours also included: St. Roch's Church in 1979, Delmar Baptist Church in 1980, 321 Rosedale (then, the convent for Sisters of St. Joseph, where St. Roch Principal Sr. Leo Ann and others lived) in 1978. Apartments included 6101-03 Washington, 6175 Waterman in, 6124 Pershing, and

Art Fair Judge and neighbor Peter Marcus. Photo by Suzanne Johnson.



One booth at the Art Fair inspired both puzzled and bemused expressions from our definitely 70's spectators. Photo by Suzanne Johnson.

even a lavish suite at 316 No. Skinker, probably the only time many of us have ever seen the inside of that beautiful grey stone building.

In 1975, the tour included 6194 Washington:

"This is the only house on the tour that is run as a collective. This means that

the people who live here share common space and responsibilities without sharing as many aspects of each other's lives as might be true of a commune." As co-owner and resident Kurt Lorenz put it: "This house represents a life style

HOUSE TOUR

6254 WASHINGTON

Photo by Suzanne Johnson



6254 Washington

Before you begin your tour of the home of Boyd and Lucy Morris and their 6-year-old daughter, take a careful look at the exterior. Notice the variety of gables, peaks and angles on this Tudor-style three-story house. This exterior appearance is also represented on the inside by many rooms which are not the traditional four walls at right angles to each other. Boyd and Lucy both grew up in this neighborhood and were attracted to this house because of the Tudor style, the side entry which provides for an extra large living room, and because the rooms on the second and third floors have a unique character. The Morrisons' interest in different shapes can also be seen in a sculpture in the living room, called "Kansas and Wood" which was done by a friend. As you leave the Morrisons' home, you may still be unaware of the character which attracted them.

INTRODUCTION
Considerably more houses are included on the 1978 House Tour than has been the pattern in past years. The ten residences, which will be open from noon until 5:00 p.m. on May 14, illustrate the variety of housing types, styles, and sizes in Skinker/DeBaliviere. There is an apartment, a flat, a convent, and seven houses, some of which have been extensively rehabbed or modernized, others of which have proved less alteration.

As in the past, bus transportation will be provided for "house tourists" as part of the ticket price. That price has been raised to \$1.50 this year in order to help cover increasing costs.

The year's House Tour Committee was headed by Mary Jo Coniglio, with Barbara Nibbrig. Members included Tom Howe, Rick Lake, Neville Vaché, Arlene Webb, and Mary West.

Each of the residences on the tour is described below in more detail. Photographs were done by Suzanne Johnson and King Schreyfild.

6116 Westminster

Photo by Suzanne Johnson



6116 Westminster

Renovating a house can involve plenty of unexpected problems, but few people have to face what Nick and Denise Golubski have in the two years since they bought their house at 6116 Westminster.

When they first began work on the house, it was in need of many of the standard repairs and improvements that a house over 60 years old needs. After many months' investment of personal labor during their after-work hours and considerable expense in contracted electrical, plumbing, heating, and flooring work, the Golubskis were ready to move into their beautifully restored house. One week before they move a fire broke out, destroying most of the first floor and stairwell and generally erasing the beautiful changes that all their work and money had produced.

Turning a disaster into an opportunity, the Golubskis began again, this time with a contractor, Joe Mensing. The result is a harmonious blend of new and old, of contemporary trends and traditional details. The facade provides the first example of this combination. The dramatic two-story window, a modern element, is accented with woodwork details reminiscent of the period in which the house was built. The new portico also echoes the design of originals of the period.

The interior is well-suited to entertaining in large or small groups. After the fire several interior walls were removed along with the living room ceiling, an expression of the contemporary value placed on open space. The resulting altered plan on the first and second floors allowed for creation of new storage areas



Photo by King Schreyfild

and new traffic patterns, as well as larger spaces. The kitchen and bath have been completely modernized and the basement finished.

In all areas, however, elements of the original design style of the house have been preserved or copied and replaced. In the entry area, living room, stairwell, and dining room, (exclusive of the ceiling beams) all woodwork is new as are all the stained glass windows except for the center of the bay in the dining room.

This house is testimony to the enduring and dynamic quality of our old houses and to the determination and imagination of Nick and Denise Golubski.

NEIGHBORHOOD CHRONICLES

The Johnson family and friend enjoyed the Children's Art Fair. Photo by Suzanne Johnson.



Some of many ads in THE PAPER for fundraisers at the fair.

the Paper

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NEIGHBORS
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ST. ROCH'S SCARLOT HALL
319 Rosedale (at Waterman)
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CASH BAR RECORD SPIN
DENISE & THE '78' CONNECTION DANCE GROUP

President: William Bolden, 726-3188
Dance Chairman: Horace Busch, 863-4019

that we believe is more in keeping with the economic and ecological realities of the post-industrial age in American, than the nuclear family."

Owned by teachers Nancy Nonnenkamp and Kurt Lorenz, other residents included Peter Muckerman, Administrator of the People's Clinic; David Haynor, a med school student; Susan Sante, teacher at Forest Park Community College, and her two children. Members of the collective also belonged to the Limit Food Co-op, which was extended to many in the neighborhood.

By opening their homes to outsiders, residents of the SD neighborhood demonstrated to the entire St. Louis community how proud we were to live in such a diverse and lively neighborhood. As House Tour leaders Venita Lake, Blanche Reel and Kathy Harleman wrote in 1976, their criteria for selection included: "1) geographical distribution throughout entire neighborhood, 2) specific architectural interest, special historical importance, or interesting feature; 3) on one house, an emphasis on exterior or garden or patio...Vacant houses must be ready for occupancy and only one may be on the tour."At the height of its popularity, well before many other neighborhoods had started their tours, over 800 tickets were sold in 1977.

The popular "Art Fair/House Tour" generated activities beyond its original intent. Several nonprofit organizations began fundraisers which also served to support the popular Mother's Day events with food and drink and opportunities to socialize.

An amazing variety and number of these activities sprouted up: the first was the Boy Scout Hot Dog stand, later the "Scouts Garden Café" in Rick and Joan Bender's back yard on Kingsbury. A Mother's Day favorite was the Washington Heights Plant and Flower Sale, spread out over George and Rose Storey's front porch and lawn on Waterman and DeGiverville. Then there was the "Fat Crepe Café", a wonderful pancake breakfast benefiting THE PAPER

and the stomachs of the busy fair volunteers, held at Tepas' side yard by the carriage house at 61xx McPherson.

There were also the Hamilton School plant sale and The Neighborhood School Flea Market, a taco stand to benefit the People's Clinic, the illustrious Washington Heights Neighbors' BBQ, even a "Pre-Art Fair Dance at St. Roch's; box lunches for sale at Grace Methodist Church. The Girl Scouts sold popcorn and lemonade, and the World Community Center sold polish sausage and beer. There were genuine Mexican burritos, and food booths from the India Association and the Vietnamese Society.

In addition to the non-profit fundraisers, there were Open Houses at the Aquarian Center (later called the Yoga Center), our small Library, first aid at the People's Clinic, open house at the World Community Center, and an interesting "Writers in Residence" Display.

In 1976, the fair day began with a lovely choral program under direction of Orland Johnson, Washington University Music Professor, with wife Suzanne and children Adam and Kristina, from the 6100 block of Westminster. And one activity which has endured even into the new millennium was the Rosedale Neighborhood Association's "Men's Liberation Bake Sale", which began as a fundraiser at the Art Fair and continues on at the "Rags to Riches" annual yard sale. Some years, there were "extras", such as in 1980, when THE PAPER reported:

"A highlight was the presence of Alderman Vince Schoemehl at the Male Chauvinist Pig Water Balloon Throw. Like all politicians, Vince has been on the receiving end of some abuse, but his time in the booth had to make

politics seem easy. Before he escaped, his nieces, nephew, sister, mother, and even his wife each took a shot at him."

Keeping in mind that the following year was the successful mayoral election, which involved many of those same volunteers, the spirit of both Art Fair and other activities was most lively.

In 1981, the Fair was well organized and enthusiastically planned as usual, but the weather claimed the day. Torrential rains caused a delay from Mother's Day until Father's Day a month later. When the rains again caused cancellation of the fair, it seemed to spell the end. It was a lovely tradition which lasted for a dozen years, throughout the 70's, when neighborhood volunteers worked together to make the most of our historic and energized neighborhood.

NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR: We are still assembling artifacts and photos of the Art Fair/House Tours, as well as other memorable neighborhood events. If you have a special memory or photo or artifact, please contact me at 726-6974, to have it included in the upcoming History of Skinker-DeBaliviere.

Clang Went the Trolley

Thirty community, business and civic leaders recently visited Memphis, Tennessee to learn about that city's trolley system. The one day trip was part of a study that is being conducted for Bi-State Development Agency by STV Incorporated to examine the feasibility of restoring trolley service along Delmar.

Restoration of trolley service along Delmar is one of several strategies identified through a collaborative community planning process that resulted in a revitalization plan emanating from the Delmar MetroLink station. This plan identified a series of infrastructure improvements that would better link the Delmar Station to surrounding neighborhoods including the Loop and spur transit-oriented development and employment opportunities. The plan will also improve pedestrian and bicycle friendliness in the area and enhance the area's visual appearance.

Memphis' trolley covers a five mile circular route. Thomas Fox, Director of Planning and Capital Projects for the Memphis Area Transit Authority noted that, "The trolley system was a strategic public investment designed to provide a transportation link and help spur development in downtown. Since ser-



An old-fashioned trolley runs directly behind single-family homes in downtown Memphis.



St. Louis tour participants ride the meticulously restored antique trolley in Memphis.

Pageant

Continued from page 1

The opening act was the Motown Revue. The sounds of the Temptations, Four Tops, and other groups cheered the attendees, many of whom were from the Baby Boom generation.

Just after 9:00pm, Joe Edwards took the stage to welcome the crowd. He introduced his partners Pat Hagin and Steve Schankman and thanked JoAnn Vatcha and other neighbors for starting the revitalization of Delmar. The applause for Edwards' words was long and heartfelt. 28th Ward Alderman Lyda Krewson who followed Edwards summed it up. Edwards was adding a venue that would be important to the music scene. Its location is very important to the city and surrounding neighborhoods. And, Edwards is linking our East Loop to the existing

West Loop to extend that successful development. As Krewson noted, Edwards has had a marvelous knack at revitalizing and this will be another example of his magic. Then, Mayor Clarence Harmon echoed these positive sentiments on behalf of the city of St. Louis.

Then, it was time to rock and roll. The main act was rock legend Chuck Berry who performed many of his hits. His son and his grandson assisted. The crowd was in the groove. The dance floor filled and many enjoyed the familiar wonderful sounds. Spotted doing those steps from an earlier time were Dan and Jill McGuire and Dee and Gary Hayes. Looking good.

On Friday night, the Pageant opened as a regular venue. The group

Hanson played to a packed and enthusiastic house. For those of us in Skinker DeBalviere, we can be permitted a sigh of gratitude. The long struggle to get Delmar moving again has moved to a new and very positive phase. Blueberry Hill, the Tivoli, and now the Pageant. Thank you Joe!

vice began in 1993, unprecedented new development has occurred in the CBD core and redevelopment has spread outward."

JoAnn Vatcha, chair of the SDCC Commercial Development Community, found that the Memphis trolley is an important part of that community's redevelopment strategy. The Memphis trolleys have been carefully restored to their original early 20th century elegance, while modified to meet contemporary safety standards.

Joe Edwards, owner of Blueberry Hill and developer of the Pageant, had proposed such a trolley for Delmar. He believes that it will stimulate commercial activity.

The trolley study, to be conducted over a 3 month period, will explore whether the trolley is physically and financially feasible and will identify strategies for implementation. Trolleys would not be new to Delmar. In the mid 1800s, horse drawn trolleys were a fixture on Delmar. Electric trolley service followed. In 1963, as in many other American cities, the trolleys were replaced with bus service.

This study is funded by the Federal Transit Administration, the St. Louis Convention and Visitors Center, Bi-State, and the cities of St. Louis and University City.

Questions and concerns from the St. Louis contingent included observations on funding, whether the potential for a trolley would delay improvements planned for Delmar (it won't!), and whether the overhead wires required for a "real" trolley would be compatible with the Forest Park Master Plan. Although the feasibility study won't be completed for a few months, perceptions are already changing of what Delmar can become in a few years. Clearly, consideration of a trolley is a subject worth a second look.

Yes, It is the Law!

Dog owners are reminded that it is a city ordinance that your dogs are leashed when you are walking them and that, of equal importance, you are responsible for cleaning up after your pet. Whether he or she chooses to utilize a tree lawn or the neighbor's front yard, YOU are to do the clean up. Please consider your neighbors and friends and assure your pet's continued welcome in our community.

Multicultural Family Night at Grace Methodist



Under the leadership of its pastor, the Rev. Mary Harvey, Grace United Methodist Church continues its outreach to the community. On June 24, the church held a Multicultural Family Night. Displays, music and a vast array of ethnic foods helped to celebrate the diversity in the Grace community. Cultures represented included the Cherokee nation, Jamaica, Japan, Nigeria, Romania, Sweden and Thailand.

Raymond Cody and daughter Rene Cody Murph with the extensive display presenting their family's heritage as part of the Grace Church Multicultural Night.

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LAWYERS FIND SKINKER AND DELMAR

Skinker and Delmar is busy once again as the former Boys-To-Men Clothing Shop (known to long-time neighbors as the Miriam Shop Build-

The building at 621 No. Skinker has been renovated in keeping with the regulations imposed by the Delmar Link Commercial District Redevelop-



The main entrance to the new offices of Schwartz Herman and Davidson has been moved from east to the north side of the building.

ing) will soon become home to several lawyers. Mary E. Davidson and Robert Herman, partners in Milton, LLC, the company that purchased and developed the project, will soon relocate to the building with their firm, Schwartz Herman and Davidson. Their limited liability company is named for their original partner Milton L. Schwartz, who died several years ago of brain cancer.

Joining them in this newly renovated space will be sole practitioners Newton G. McCoy and John L. Boeger, as well as Sottile & Goldfarb, LLC, which consists of Andrew J. Sottile, Jeffrey A. Goldfarb, Partners, and Robert A. Samuels, Of Counsel. These law firms and individuals will of course be joined by other paralegals and support staff, adding quite a number of professionals to the lunchtime crowd on Delmar.

ment Plan, which includes such details as retaining the appearance of windows and doors along Skinker, even though the main entrance has been moved to the north side of the building. The new entrance has been designed in keeping with the scale of the building and the colors and styles seen in nearby buildings.

According to Newt McCoy, who has served for many years as a City Municipal Court Judge and was an active member of the 28th Ward Executive Committee for several years, residing in the "old" 28th southern edge. "We are delighted to be moving to this area where our clients can better reach us and we can be a part of the continuing revitalization of the City's great Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood and the Delmar Loop." Welcome to our new attorney-neighbors!

St. Roch School Holds First All-Class Reunion

The history of St. Roch School is a long one. Its first classes were held in a storefront on 6000 Pershing. Individual classes have held get-togethers but the school did not hold an all-class reunion until the weekend of September 30th. Getting ready for the event required a great deal of effort. For many years, lists of class graduates did not exist.

Volunteers tried to find at least one graduate per year and discover who else graduated at that time. There are now 2,000 names in the data base. Neighborhood stalwarts were active in planning this reunion. Maggie Hart-Mahon, class of 1968, co-chaired the alumni committee with Ann Horan-Hageman, class of 1942. Maggie's sister, Jane Avar, served as chief operating officer for the reunion. Joe Keaveney was treasurer. Andy Cross made all of the banners for the reunion. Arline Webb, whose mother had been a kindergarten teacher at St. Roch, was in charge of the Sunday Reunion Mass. The McCarthy family—which numbered 13 St. Roch students—was in charge of the food. In addition, Christina Fleener, a second generation Skinker-DeBalivierite, created and sold t-shirts for the event.

Attendance at this reunion was excellent. Almost 800 people attended the Saturday night dinner at the Chase ballroom. Every seat was filled at the Reunion Mass the next morning. Then, a thousand graduates with spouses and children came to picnic in the church yard that afternoon and toured the school. Current school principal Gloria Openlander supervised the tour and had every current teacher in place to meet the alumni. Many also toured the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood and were pleased at how well things looked. Many alumni were happy to see Sister Leo Ann Bub and Sister Charles at the reunion. Reunion planners were pleased to find a history

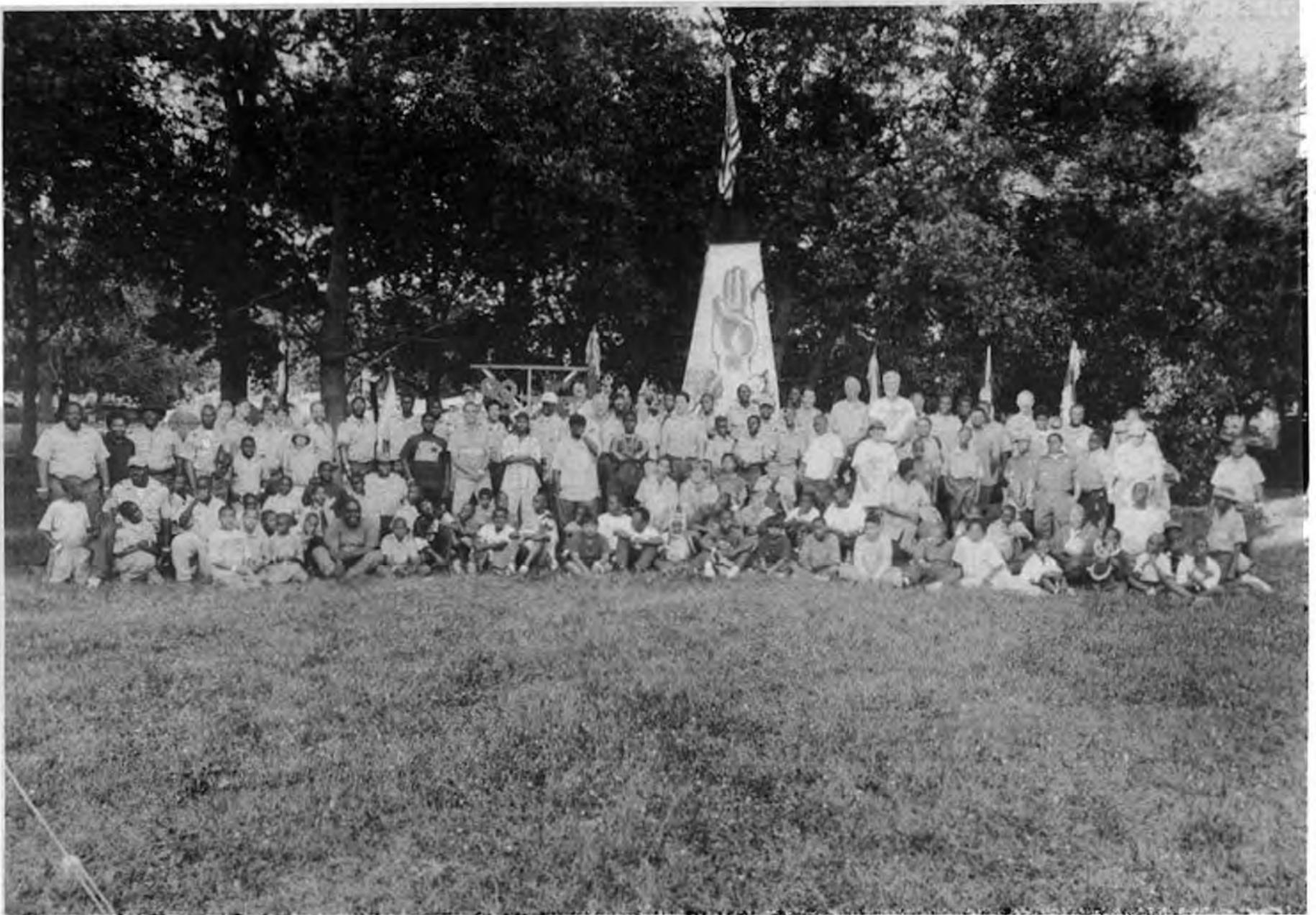
of the parish that Jean Eberle, class of 1968, had put together in the 1960s.

The Renards, Schillers, Harts, and McCarthys have all seen more than one generation of their large families at St. Roch. Maggie Hart-Mahon noted that she and her seven brothers and sisters were all alumni.

Everyone thanked Washington University for supplying free parking on their campus on Sunday and shuttling reunion participants to St. Roch and back from 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This event brought back wonderful memories to many and points out again to all of us the important role St. Roch and St. Roch School has played in this neighborhood.

Opportunities for Local Artists as Part of MetroLink Expansion

Arts in Transit and the Bi-State Development Agency seek proposals from artists and artist teams for a number of temporary public art projects related to the Cross County MetroLink extension. Sites include the green spaces south of Forest Park Parkway at DeBaliviere, the chainlink fence running along the north side of Forest Park Parkway between DeBaliviere and DesPeres, the bus shelter on the southeast corner of the Millbrook/Forest Park Parkway and Big Bend intersection, etc. Submissions may be received no later than 4pm on Nov. 20. For more information, go to the Bi-State web site, <http://www.bi-state.org> and click on "Call for Entries."



June 2000 Forest Park, Xtreme Scouting 2000, Greater St. Louis Area Council, Keystone District Scouts and Leaders (Central corridor of St. Louis including Skinker DeBaliviere)

Summer Camp 2000

by Graham Tucker
Troop 98 Boy Scout

As the yellow school bus pulled up to the S-F Scout Ranch, I knew I was in for a week of fun. As I stepped off, I was thinking of the great times that were in store for me. The first thing we did was to set up camp. The lofty tents rose one by one as each scout helped each other. We then went and had a delicious dinner prepared by the delightful camp staff. After that, we watched the hilarious camp staff put on funny skits. We woke the next morning preparing a delicious meal over an open flame. Then we went to our great merit badge courses. We had a great lunch and then did some merit badge courses and then we had some

dinner. Tuesday was the same ol' same ol'. But on Wednesday, there was the water carnival. We did a lot of great stuff for us to do; such as the match relay where we had to keep a book full of matches above water and then light a match after finished racing. When

Thursday rolled around, it was time to get serious, it was the Order of the Arrow ceremony. Scouts voted other scouts into a very select group. That night, our parents came and got to see a fantastic ceremony. That Friday we had closing ceremonies. The next day

we left with great memories. This is one of many exciting events that you can do if you join the Boy Scouts of America.



Left: Canvas over wood tower made by Bill Christman, Tom Sleet, Rick Barchek, Arron Barchek, Sam Christman, Kevin Christman, and Jake Horner. The tower is now on display in front of the St. Roch Gym.

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Meeting on MetroLink Expansion Held

On Oct. 12, a meeting regarding the design of the DeBaliviere Station to accommodate expansion was held at Crossroads School. The first hour was devoted to questions and answers from neighborhood residents. Every speaker expressed concern that the expanded line will cause considerable traffic congestion and perhaps impede safety when the train crosses DesPeres at grade level. Under the proposed plan, no one will be able to make a left from the Parkway going east onto DesPeres. This will increase already heavy traffic on Skinker. Most of the speakers wanted the train to run underground. BiState said that was infeasible because of the tunnel containing the River DesPeres. Experts in the neighborhood disputed BiState's conclusion. BiState will examine the situation only if it receives direction from its CEO and its board.

After a brief break, neighbors and BiState staff and consultants took part in a charette to gather ideas for the design of the reconfigured DeBaliviere station.



Washington University

Continued from page 1

But, it had rights of refusal on these types of properties.

After entreaties to the university by the council and working with the Chancellor's neighborhood council members—Karleen Hoerr, Billy Handmaker, and Gary Hayes—as well as Alderman Lyda Krewson, university administrators decided to significantly modify the right of first refusal. From this point on, the right of first refusal would be coterminous only with the five years a person had to occupy property before the loan was forgiven. Skinker DeBalivierites attending this meeting were pleased with the news and the reaction from SDCC President Dan Schesch was also positive.

At this meeting, Wrighton also introduced Leah Memfield who will be Washington University's new director of community relations. Rose Windmuller will serve as director of state relations and local government affairs.

There was a lengthy period of questions and answers. Some in the audience asked about loud parties. Another inquired about the university acquiring so many multifamily buildings in University City and our neighborhood and removing them from the tax rolls. Wrighton maintained his aplomb throughout.

Washington University has applied for a permit to demolish the old Talayna's building (the Arthur building) and would like to erect a three story facility to house administrative offices and shops at ground level. Some on the Council object to this demolition, preferring to save a historic structure. Creating a precedent for other Washington University demolition of residential buildings was feared. Others would like to see a new and occupied building at the Parkway and Skinker. There will be a hearing before the Cultural Resources Board in November and then the board will decide whether to accede to the university's request to demolish the building.

SDCC HOLDS FIRST ANNUAL MEETING AT CROSSROADS SCHOOL

On Saturday, September 23, approximately 75 neighborhood residents gathered at Crossroads School for the first Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Annual Meeting. Format for the meeting was deliberately unstructured so that neighborhood residents would help define the issues which the Council will address now and in the future.

Council President Dan Schesch presented a brief overview of the Council's activities during the past year. Several representatives of the St. Louis Public Schools were in attendance at the meeting to answer questions regarding the AAA-Academy middle school program that will be housed at "Little Hamilton" on Des Peres beginning in

January 2001. Neighbor's concerns focused on plans to provide security, transportation, and supervision of a large number of students being brought into the neighborhood each day.

Access to and from the neighborhood continues to be a hot issue with neighborhood residents. In addition to the loss of the left turn capability at DeBaliviere and Lindell Boulevards, upcoming construction plans on both Delmar and Forest Park promise to making coming and going in the neighborhood difficult for both the short and the long term. The Council is committed to working diligently with all the appropriate agencies and city departments to minimize inconvenience while assuring safe movement of both ve-

hicles and pedestrians through our neighborhood.

Joe Edwards, whose Pageant Theatre will open in October, attended the meeting and was recognized and applauded by those in attendance for his willingness to work with us to assure that the neighborhood's concerns are addressed.

A variety of materials were handed out at the meeting, including the revised and updated CDA brochure describing our community, a map of potential congestion points due to the proposed construction projects and a calendar of upcoming neighborhood meetings and events. Stop by the Council office for any of the print material.

IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

Grab a plate of cookies and your favorite beer. I've got an important issue to discuss: diets and weight-loss! Is there any topic that takes more column-inches, more minutes of Infomercials than shedding those unwanted pounds? Ok, aside from the President's indiscretions, is there any topic that takes more column-inches, more minutes of Infomercials than shedding those unwanted pounds? And it will get worse. In a few months we won't have William Jefferson Clinton to kick around any more. He and his wife will simply move to New York and be off the radar screen forever. I doubt if we'll hear a peep out of either of them. (And if you believe that, please contact me immediately because I have a great deal for you on some land in Florida.)

As a culture, we are obsessed with thin. Thin is in, fat is nat (a little poetic license, thank you). Oddly, more and more of us are overweight, yet more and more of us want to be slender and spend time on weight-reducing aids and exercise fads. Gosh, come to think of it, maybe the two are related.

The Surgeon General's office just announced that 84% of the adult population is overweight and 31% are morbidly overweight. Now those figures seem high, and granted, there is a problem, but still, you have to factor in their criteria. As defined by el Surgeono Generalissimo, overweight means that you can't comfortably sit in a Ford Escort while holding two inflated beach balls or Richard Simmons. (Why you would want to do either is beyond me but, hey, I'm not el Generalissimo, I was only in the Army Reserves.) Morbidly overweight means that if you go to the beach, people will pay you not to take off your shirt, regardless of gender. Theirs or yours. The chunky problem is getting worse each year. I'm convinced that one way to make a fortune is to produce a clothing line that is intentionally mislabeled, i.e. marked small. A shirt that is extra-large would say LARGE, a size 11 dress would be labeled SIZE 9, and pants with a 38 waistline would say 34. Regardless of color or cost, people would be buying those suckers left and right!

There are come rather complicated theories about why folks are packing on the pounds. Hypotheses range from the decreasing ozone layer in the

sky causing calories to burn more slowly to high frequency sounds from cell-phones which subliminally cause the person talking to feel hunger to global warming which increases ice cream sales to the MetroLink being above ground at intersections to sedentary life styles caused by cable television. Some think that run-on sentences contribute, too, to people eating more because they have difficulty discerning the author's meaning as sentences go and on and on and on, but, personally, I've never subscribed to that theory and believe, in fact, that longer sentences are better sentences although, I'm the first to admit, not everyone agrees with me but that's ok because agreement, or at least consensus, has never been high on my list, just like I've never been fond of short sentences even though they might contribute to weight-loss.

Personally, while all these scenarios for possible causes of EL CHUNKERINO resonate deeply with me - I've never understood how a microwave cooks my turkey dogs or caramel-covered popcorn, much less how all those tiny people get inside the television set - I think the major culprit is sititis (sit-I-tus); that's Latin for "remote channel-changer." I mean, how attractive can running in the sunrise be when the alternative is 300 channels of mish-mash? Exercise or walking the ferret simply can't compete with CNN's talking heads, the exciting forecasts on the Weather Channel, or watching games that took place more than a decade ago on ESPN Classic. Bottom-line, it's pretty simple: a net calorie gain means weight goes up while a net-calorie loss means that weight goes down. Of course, that formula gets very fuzzy (fuzzy as in arcane, not fuzzy as in fuzzy-math) when one considers the actual calories in some of the things we love to eat. It should be simple to regulate calories and lose weight but nooooo. Even normal stuff is laden with more calories than you can shake a Nordic Track at! Here's a simple table, copied from *The Economist*, that shows how much exercise is required to negate the calories in everyday, common-place food.

SIMPLE FOOD	EXERCISE NEEDED
chocolate ice cream, Hydrox cookies, and chocolate syrup	running up 45 flights of stairs while carrying a 16" television
lobster tails in a white wine sauce with cheese cakes and potatoes rolled in butter	doing 7 hours of continuous jumping jacks while wearing a plastic suit
buttered pasta with clam sauce, garlic cheese bread, apple turnover	walking from St. Louis to Columbia, MO and back 11 times in a 16 hour period
6 waffles with molasses and butter, covered with Hershey's chocolate-chip sauce and pecans	climbing Mt. Everest while listening to a Jane Fonda workout tape with the complete works of William Shakespeare in your backpack

With these sorts of hidden calories, you can see why the average Joe and Josephine have so much trouble keeping the waistline in check. Or in plaid for that matter.

Personally, being a chunkerino is a topic without much significance to me. I've been fortunate to stay around the same weight for most of my life. That means that I can eat just about whatever I want and stay the same weight. The proof is in the pudding. I weigh less now than I did in high school. (Of course, an alternative theory would be that I was a porker, even in high school. I guess it's more accurate to say that the proof is in the pudding, cake, and chocolate-chip cookies.)

Oh, I've tried all the diet fads. For a while I subsisted on Slim Fast. I have no doubt that this is a successful eating regime, but talk about boring! It makes Regis look exciting. After a week of Slim Fasts, Ritz crackers and

carrots were a delicacy. I tried the Weight Watchers diet too, but the portions were so small that I found myself eating two, three servings at once. Amazingly, that wasn't successful for me either. A friend told me about the garlic diet - you eat raw garlic before and after each meal - which is probably my next venture. (You may or may not lose weight, but no one will get close enough to you to know.) My greatest success has been with, get your pens and pencils ready, the bagel diet. I eat a bagel with each meal, figuring that I fill up a bit on bagels, a relatively non-caloric food. I eat less baloney, cookies, frozen concretes, bacon-melts, lobster au Heineken, chocolate cheese cake, and corn dogs. Granted, bagels don't go particularly well with a frozen concrete or corn dog, but that's the price I pay for being svelte. No one ever said that being glamorous was easy.

MORE GLIMPSES OF RAGS TO RICHES 2000



The weather didn't dampen the crowds who came to find a bargain.



Hardly a "Rag", this wedding dress illustrates that treasures are available at the sale.



Dan McGuire, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, holds several of the tributes he received from Forest Park Forever and from former aldermanic colleague Joe Roddy. McGuire was honored for his efforts to improve Forest Park at the BalloonGlow party put on by the Central West End Association.