

The *TIMES* of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 32 No. 1

Summer 2001

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

Record Turnout on March 31st for Blitz Day

BrightSide Blitz Day 2001 saw a record turnout of workers due to the coordinated efforts of the beautification committee, block captains, and the SDCC office. The beautiful weather so early in March certainly didn't hurt. Blitz Day trash bags were distributed to participating block captains and neighbors on Blitz Day, many of whom came out to assist with the cleanup as activity spread throughout the neighborhood.

The Community Service Workers assigned through the Seventh District worked on the Pershing/Forest Park alley and provided support to Mark Gorman, Anna and Horace Busch, and others in the 57XX block. 58XX and 59XX Pershing saw block captains Carmen Fowler and Donetta Kee, along with Sheri Speed Gray and a group of kids working very hard. Phil Duckett once again organized the Parkview group.



On other blocks, teams of neighbors cleaned up behind their own yards and other neighbors' yards as well. In the 60XX and 61XX blocks of McPherson, Kingsbury, Westminster and Washington block captains Andy Cross, Katrina Steirholz, Katie Kurtz, Erich Friessen and Tim Schoemehl played a major role in these clean up efforts.

Continued on page 4

Joe Edwards to Work More Magic on Delmar

Joe Edwards has acquired new properties on Delmar. Edwards, successful entrepreneur and impresario, already is owner of Blueberry Hill, the Tivoli theatre, and the recently constructed concert hall, the Pageant. In less than a year of operation, the Pageant has been very successful in drawing bookings and filling the house.

Now Edward turns his attention to the other side of Delmar, across from the Pageant. He has purchased the Olivet M. B. Church which has been at its Delmar location for several decades. The Church has long wanted to expand and has found a suitable location in North County where it has purchased 40 acres. The church will not move until the end of July.

Edwards is working with a number of philanthropic organizations and foundations to raise money so that the church building can be used as a non-profit theatre, offering a venue to groups that have no permanent home.

He hopes to make this a genuine cultural attraction, using it for a children's theater, dance groups, and other educational uses. Edwards said he was very excited about the possibilities of making it something new and filling a niche.

Clay Asks Bi-State to be More Receptive to Neighborhood

On May 18, Congressman William Lacy Clay wrote to Tom Irwin, the Executive Director of Bi-State Development Agency, regarding the expansion of MetroLink along the Forest Park Parkway. Clay lent his support to charges that Bi-State has studied alternatives in the county for this expansion but not in the city portion, directly affecting Skinker DeBaliviere residents. He wants BiState to study having the extension running under DesPeres, "preserving the four way Des Peres intersection without an intrusive grade crossing." Clay said he was "deeply concerned about any perception that Bi-State has been more receptive to the concerns of St. Louis County residents." He feels that "Bi-State has an obligation to make every conceivable effort to address the interests of the Skinker-DeBaliviere community and every reason to achieve a mutually agreeable resolution of the issues" neighborhood residents have outlined. As this goes to print, there has been no response from Bi-State.

TRADING PLACES?



According to the timetable originally supplied by Washington University, the old Arthur Bldg. (former home to Talayna's) should be no more, and the structure pictured below, designed by George Johannes, should be taking shape. Washington University purchased the site several years ago along with a sizable number of multifamily dwellings. They implored the SDCC Board to allow demolition of the Arthur Bldg. and erection of a structure to have university offices on the top two floors and retail at the street level.

With some reluctance the board acquiesced. Washington University obtained a demolition permit and Spirtas began readying the structure to come

Continued on page 3



Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

"Why is somebody always picking on me?" is a common refrain, particularly of children. However, it is quite valid for our neighborhood to ask the same question. Too many events over which we have had far too little control are boxing us in our environs. First, Grand Drive is no more. Our cut through Forest Park with its greenery is no more. Not only is the road gone to make way for new and enhanced golf, but 200 some trees will be felled. Skinker DeBaliviere loses access and passive space. Many commuters as well as our residents used Grand Drive. It is interesting that government is moving oh so slowly to put a light at Lindell and Skinker. That intersection has long been an accident waiting to happen and will be more heavily utilized now.

No matter what form MetroLink expansion takes, the Forest Park Parkway will be closed for over a year. If Bi-State continues to not explore the option of going underground at DesPeres, we lose access to Lindell and, incidentally, are not permitted to go left at Lindell because it safer for users of the Forest Park paths. Where will we be able to go? Delmar will be closed for a number of months to repair the bridge by the Wabash station. Gridlock. Our motto of "We're close" turns into "We're trapped." Although we may have different experiences, I see far more problems from path users who ignore signals than from us making a left turn at Lindell.

There is a final insult. The SDCC deliberated and finally decided with great difficulty to acquiesce in the replacement of the Arthur (old Talayna's) building with a new edifice containing offices and stores.

Washington University received its building permit and carried out certain tasks preliminary to demolition, making the building look even less attractive. And then—nothing. They are postponing demolition for several months because of their cash flow situation. Meantime, during peak real estate season, we are graced by an unpleasant sight for all passers by.

We don't deserve these various vexations. We are a neighborhood that has overcome adversity and offers a diverse atmosphere for its residents. It has always been a strong neighborhood that has produced citywide leaders.

To the powers that be, think about how what you're doing impacts a neighborhood. We are as worthy and necessary as any park institution or any link to Clayton. And, we are involved.

NEW HOUSING CONTEMPLATED

The development team of Martin Jaffe and Marc Jaffe are eager to begin a new project in Skinker DeBaliviere. They have acquired some empty lots on the 5700 block of McPherson and have told the SDCC that they wish to erect single family homes on those lots. This project is still in a preliminary stage. The Jaffes have developed the lion's share of Kingsbury Square. They are also the developers of the Maple Acres project in our vicinity.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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

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

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

Printing: Arcade Printing

Advertising Rates:

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

Guidelines for Submitting Copy

The Times welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of The Times has always depended in large part on submissions from non-staff area residents. All material - articles, letters, notices, classified ads - must be typewritten on opaque paper, double-spaced, and signed. Copy may be submitted on computer diskette if the diskette is in DOS format or on high density Macintosh diskettes. Submissions on diskette should be accompanied by a printout of the article, the name of the word processing software in which it is written, and the full name and address of the party to whom the diskette should be returned. The signature on correspondence to the editor may be omitted by request. Calendar listings should be phoned in to the editor at 721-7532, or mailed to 5953 Pershing Ave., 63112.

The deadline for all copy is the 18th of the month.

The writer is responsible for the accuracy of the data, including times, dates, locations, and particularly the spelling of names. Pictures or illustrations should be in black and white. Color photographs often do not reproduce well.

The editor retains the right to omit or alter any material.

Calendar



Neighborhood Events and Meetings

- 7/9 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:00 p.m. Open to the public.
- 7/12 Women's Only Safety Seminar, 6008 Kingsbury, Pre-registration required. Class III. 6:00-9:00 p.m.
- 7/19 Women's Only Safety Seminar, 6008 Kingsbury, Pre-registration required. Class IV. 6:00-9:00 p.m.
- 8/7 National Night Out. Four Corners Park. Neighborhood-wide event. Music, entertainment, more. 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Other Events of Interest

- now -
- 2/2002 The Missouri Historical Society is featuring a special exhibition: Miles: A Miles Davis Retrospective. The exhibition features music, interviews, artifacts, and photographs of a jazz legend born in East St. Louis.
- now -
- 12/31 At least through the end of this year, the Saint Louis Art Museum is featuring two dinners a month representative of a particular ethnic and/or chronological cuisine and a discussion of the art of that epoch as well.
- 7/8,7/15,7/22,7/29 Washington University presents free outdoor concerts at Brookings Quadrangle, located just west of Brookings Hall, near the intersection of Brookings Dr. and Hoyt Dr. The Gateway Festival Orchestra presents music of Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Rossini, Gershwin. All welcome. Concerts begin at 7:30pm.

SDCC and WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY CO-SPONSOR Personal Safety Seminar

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council and Police Officer Gwen Patton of the Washington University Police Department are jointly sponsoring a Women's Only Personal Safety Seminar. The 12-hour, four session curriculum affords women the opportunity to work in a small group setting and to learn personal safety techniques that can be used in daily life as well as in threatening situations.

Students enrolling in this Seminar will receive a free workbook/reference manual as well as twelve hours of instruction with Officer Patton, who is a certified instructor in the RAD Defense system. This comprehensive course begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance, and then progresses to the basics of hands-on defense training. Please note: this is NOT a martial arts class.

Your class commitment includes four evening sessions, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury. Classes will be held June 21, June 28, July 12 and July 19. Students will receive an official certificate upon completing their course work. Class size is restricted, so if you are interested in participating, please phone to register at 862-5122. Students must be at least 12 to enroll. Mother-daughter teams are encouraged. Age is not a barrier. Even those with limited mobility can participate. Enrollees are asked to wear loose-fitting work-out-type clothes and to bring a water bottle.

Code Compliance Help

by John H. Thomas, Jr.

Help to meet Code Compliance requirements is available. Call 863-1992 ask for John Thomas during working hours to sign up for the Code Compliance Assistance Initiative. "All people need is their citation letter from the city and proof that they own the home. Priority will be given to senior citizen owned single then two family homes. We will confidentially work with homeowners to identify what work is needed, estimate materials and if needed arrange to do as much work as our project team of volunteers (handy person types) can do. We also have a team of high school students coming in the first couple of weeks in August to assist our team with some of the more labor intensive code and improvement items like fencing, landscaping etc." stated John Thomas program organizer. Cost depends on the ability of the homeowner to pay. Partners in the project include Grace Church, St. Roch's Parish, New Cote Brillante Church of God, community volunteers and students. Referrals to city and other housing support services will also be available. Brochures and more information are available at any of the participating congregations or Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office

at Des Peres and Kingsbury. "Our motivation for this is very simple, we want everybody in the neighborhood to have a nice home and to stay here for as long as they want to."

Home Improvement Money For You

by John H. Thomas, Jr.

Grants for up to \$250.00 are available to homeowners in the Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood who have made code compliance related improvements to their owner occupied homes. Applications are available at the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Office Des Peres and Kingsbury or call 862-5122 for more information. The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council has made available \$9000.00 to be distributed to help Skinker DeBaliviere homeowners meet the code citation requirements. If more than \$9000.00 in grant applications comes in, a lottery will be held in early July to identify the grant awardees. Receipts for repairs, proof of home ownership and the code citation letter will be required.

LOCAL RESIDENT GETS AN EARLY START ON CAREER

Named "most likely to become an actor" in his yearbook, Jeff Schoenfeld, son of Rev. and Mrs. King Schoenfeld, 61XX Westminster, graduated from Metro High School last month. Jeff has been active for the past two years in drama at Metro and at the Tin Ceiling, an independent theater group at 2700 Macklind on The Hill. He recently played the title role in Metro's production of "The Man Who Came to Dinner." His own play, titled "ME," played to enthusiastic audiences at the Tin Ceiling during May.

Jeff, who attended both New City School and St. Roch's School, is a member of the National Honor Society and a National Merit Scholar finalist. While at Metro he headed the creation of a new literary magazine. Accepted by five midwest colleges, Jeff decided to attend Webster University, planning to major in creative writing in the English Department.

According to parents King and Dee, Jeff's brother Jeremy, who just completed his fifth year as an architecture student at the University of Cincinnati, is headed to Cambridge, MA, for the summer as a coop student at Chan Krieger and Associates. Jeremy was also a student at New City School and St. Roch's, graduating from St. Louis University High School in 1996.



Jeff Schoenfeld (center being carried), playing Sheridan Whiteside, irascible 1940's radio personality, grimaces after injuring himself at a midwestern home. Jeff, a life-long resident of Skinker-DeBaliviere, played the lead in the comedy, "The Man Who Came to Dinner," recently performed at Metro High School.



Jeff Schoenfeld (center with white shirt), takes a bow with other Metro High School cast members after their performance of "The Man Who Came to Dinner" in April. The comedy, originally produced in 1939, was recently revived on Broadway, starring Nathan Lane.

Teen Summer Fun

by John H. Thomas, Jr.

Are you a teen or know a teen looking for something fun and interesting to do this summer? What about if the cost was FREE? What about if it were free and in your neighborhood? TAG short for Teen Action Group kicks off its fifth summer of excitement on June 19, 2001 at Grace Church corner of Skinker and Waterman. TAG is about equipping and exposing teens to things that will improve their chances for success at home and school while having fun with new friends and concerned adults. TAG meets from 9:30-3:00 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday every week from June 19-August 2, 2001. Teens entering the 7th-12th grades are eligible. The theme this year is Growing and Learning. Registration is happening now! Call John or Michelle at 863-1992.

TRADING PLACES

Continued from page 1

down. And, then nothing happened. The university claims that the costs were larger than expected—\$7 million compared to \$4 million—and they can't afford that. Maybe there will a smaller building on the site. When? No one knows. The university administration says it's not a high priority. Other construction work at Washington University continues apace. But, our neighborhood is faced with a worse eyesore for the foreseeable future.

For Sale

Antique dining room set. Walnut with burl inlays. Spindle leg. China cabinet, buffet, table with leaves, six chairs. \$600 firm. Call to see. King and Dee, 863-0152; leave message.

Betty Klinefelter Remembered

by Marjorie Weir

On June 9, the family and extended family of friends met at Grace United Methodist Church to honor the life of the extraordinary person who was Betty Klinefelter. Betty died in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in late April, having lived into her mid 80's.

She was remembered as a person who not only gave of herself with amazing energy, but also inspired and recruited many others to challenge themselves to the same extent. Many of those who are still involved in Scouting were brought into it (or dragooned, as they lovingly recalled) by Betty. She was active in both Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts, leading both of her beloved troops to excellence. She was the first in our area to be awarded the Silver Fawn, the counterpart to the Silver Beaver, given in honor of outstanding leadership in Scouting.

Among those who spoke formally of their experiences with Betty was Beth Bender, who found among her youthful diary entries a reference to Betty as "God's Right Hand." Others spoke eloquently of her energy, passion, and dedication to the many missions she undertook. Many of those present were parents of children who attended Grace PreSchool, which Betty helped to found and in which she worked well into the 1980's.

I knew Betty best when we served together on the St. Louis Board of Education from 1977 to 1983. She was a potent force for doing what was in the best interest of the children of the district. She chaired the Instruction Committee for much of her term and brought those meetings to individual school's to give area parents the opportunity to see the work of the board members. Each member was informally assigned to one of the districts into which the system was then divided. Betty not only went to parent meetings in her district, she went to scores of basketball games and other activities to cheer on the students in those schools. She had a strong "nonsense detector," but always behaved with grace and probity. I saw her demonstrate real courage in standing up for her principles when a powerful politician tried to bully all of us. Betty was not daunted by much, but was not one to grandstand or seek the limelight. I always sensed that she knew how to get the most out of life, while trying to make sure others did, too.

All who knew her congratulate her children, Karen, Gary and Ruth, on their excellent choice of a mother, and wish them the solace of the admiration and affection of so many for the great woman Betty was.



Meet your friends for:
Hamburgers • Jerk Chicken
Vegetarian Specials
Appetizers • Chili • Salads
NEW Veggie Burger • Soups

• BREAKFAST (from 11 am)
Bacon, Sausage & Eggs
Golden Waffles • Biscuits & Gravy
Fresh Fruit • Blueberry Muffins



"I LOVE THIS PLACE!"

6504 Delmar • 727-0880

DELMAR CLEANERS

Your neighborhood cleaner with complete cleaning & laundry service.

6142 Delmar Blvd.
Call 727-6600

OFF. 721-5600
RES. 862-5071



BROKER & ASSOCIATE

KARLEEN O. HOERR
LIFE MEMBER MILLION DOLLAR CLUB
LIFE MEMBER MULTIMILLION DOLLAR CLUB

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

NEIGHBORHOOD CHRONICLES

Msgr. Polizzi Honored for Twenty Years of Service

Late Thursday afternoon on May 31, a crowd of more than several hundred people assembled at the wind-swept World's Fair Pavilion. The crowd included clergy, elected official, top brass from the police, family and friends, and many Skinker DeBaliviere residents. They had all come together to honor St. Roch's pastor, Msgr. Salvatore Polizzi, for his 20 years of faithful service at St. Roch to parish and community. Although the wind was fierce, it did not dampen the spirits of those in attendance. They were each greeted by Msgr. Polizzi and mingled while enjoying excellent refreshment. The formal program began close to 7:00 p.m. Emcee Kevin Farrell introduced several speakers who extolled Msgr. Polizzi's contributions to his parish, to Skinker DeBaliviere, and to the city.

Archbishop Justin Rigali was first to ascend the podium. He commended Polizzi's work. Following the archbishop was the mayor of St. Louis, Francis Slay. Slay noted that the monsignor had played a direct role in his life. Polizzi had married Slay to his wife of 21 years, Kim, and had in fact baptized Kim when she was a baby. Slay read from a proclamation that made May 31 Sal Polizzi Day in St. Louis and highlighted the monsignor's accomplishments with regard to the church, the St. Roch school, and our very successful neighborhood. Alderman Lyda Krewson followed the mayor to the podium with similar words of praise and presented him with an aldermanic resolution. Longtime Skinker DeBaliviere resident Rose Storey spoke last as a parishioner of St. Roch. She referred to Polizzi as a shepherd and the congregants as his flock. Her tribute was moving. Farrell then acknowledged the presence of Congressman Richard Gephardt and his wife in the audience. Then, Msgr. Polizzi approached the microphone. He spoke of how deeply honored he was by this event (which he had tried to discourage). He spoke of St. Roch



*Monsignor Salvatore E. Polizzi
Celebrating 20 Years of Service to St. Roch Parish
Recognition Reception
World's Fair Pavilion*

May 31, 2001

Office of  the Mayor
City of Saint Louis

Proclamation

Where as

MONSIGNOR SALVATORE POLIZZI HAS SERVED AS PASTOR AT ST. ROCH PARISH FOR 20 YEARS AND HE HAS CONTINUED AND STRENGTHENED THE TRADITION OF ST. ROCH AS THE ANCHOR OF THE REGION (SALVATORE NEIGHBORHOOD, AND

WHEREAS, MONSIGNOR HAS BEEN HEARTY AND DEVOTED TO THE SUPPORT OF SEVERAL SERVICES (SALVATORE AND HAS PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN CREATING THE TRULY AND VALUABLE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT SERVES (SALVATORE IN TODAY, AND

WHEREAS, UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, ST. ROCH SCHOOL HAS BECOME ONE OF THE PREMIERE SCHOOLS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION, SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL ENRICHMENT AND A SAFE AND LOVING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE CHILDREN OF ST. ROCH, BY A PERFECTLY MAINTAINED SETTING, AND

WHEREAS, UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, ST. ROCH PARISH HAS BEEN SERVED, LITURGICALLY AND PROBABLY, IT HAS ALSO ACCRUED MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATED LEVELS CREATING A PASSIVE FAMILY THAT SURVIVES ALL OF US. THE BUILDING HAS BEEN REBUILT AND MAINTAINED LEADING THE REBIRTH OF WATERMAN AND ONCE AGAIN, HIS LEADERSHIP HAS PUT ST. ROCH ON SOUND FINANCIAL FOOTING, AND

WHEREAS, THE PEOPLE OF ST. ROCH EDUCATION THAT MONSIGNOR POLIZZI HAS PROVIDED MORAL AND SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP DURING DIFFICULT TIMES, CELEBRATED ACCOMPLISHMENTS WITH HIS PASTOR AND NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILY, SOLICITED US AND LOVED US, PROVIDED COMFORT WHEN WE WERE SICK, PERFORMED DAILY ACTS OF SERVICE, SUPPORTED OUR DREAMS AND SERVED OUR DREAMS, AND

WHEREAS, THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS IS AN EVER BETTER PLACE BECAUSE MONSIGNOR SALVATORE POLIZZI IS HERE. WE THANK HIM FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANCIS G. SLAY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM
MAY 31, 2001, AS

"MONSIGNOR SALVATORE POLIZZI DAY"
IN THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED TO BE AFFIXED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF SAINT LOUIS, THIS 31ST DAY OF MAY, A.D. 2001.



Francis G. Slay
Register

Francis G. Slay
Mayor of the City of Saint Louis

Monsignor Salvatore E. Polizzi
20 Year Service to St. Roch Parish Recognition Reception

The St. Roch School Scholarship Program has been established. Those who wish to voluntarily contribute in honor of this special occasion may send their tax-deductible gift to: St. Roch Parish • Attn: St. Roch School Scholarship Program • 6052 Wetmore • St. Louis, MO 63112

being part of a very successful integrated neighborhood and introduced the Rev. Mary Harvey of Grace United Methodist Church. He also mentioned how unique it was that St. Roch had "social Catholics" as part of its family. In the audience were parishioners and numerous social Catholics. Msgr. Polizzi was then presented with a stunning glass work by Steuben and an inscribed pedestal.

Despite the wind, no raindrops fell and it was a lovely gathering. Farrell, Joe Shaughnessey, Kevin Short, and John Hungerford had put together a very special celebration of Msgr. Polizzi's 20 years at St. Roch.

BLITZ Continued from page 1

Residents from Block Unit 1035 (58XX DeGiverville) worked hard as usual to get their alleys clean. Other block captains as well as neighbors too numerous to mention put forth a grand effort.

At the conclusion of the workday, a hard-earned lunch of hot dogs and chips was prepared with assistance from Robert Wood and Stephanie Schiller for workers who gathered in Four Corners Park.

Thanks to each of you for your hard work and neighborhood pride.

BrightSide flowers were distributed along with free grass seed and wood chips on Saturday, May 5th. Once again, block captains and residents turned out at Four Corners Park and throughout the community to beautify our public spaces with flowers. Many residents also thinned their flowerbeds and shared the bounty at our very-informal Neighborhood Plant Exchange. Ten Japanese maple saplings left for new homes, along with a host of other perennials that will be lovingly tended for years to come. Volunteers have also been busy planting in the playground at Four Corners Park.

Beautification Committee Chairman Andy Cross, with lots of support from block captains and neighborhood residents, and especially with lots of help from his wife Linda and two very active daughters, once again brought the bounty of BrightSide to our Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood. Congratulations to all who continue to work so hard to make our community so very beautiful.

DELMAR WABASH LINK BUSINESS ASSOCIATION ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

On Thursday, June 7, the membership of the Delmar Wabash Link Business Association unanimously elected the following officers: Dave Masten, St. Louis Design Alliance, President; Neil Shapiro, The Original Cast Lighting Company, Vice President; and Dennis Townsend, Boulevard Cleaners, Secretary/Treasurer.

Featured speaker at the luncheon meeting was 28th Ward Alderman Lyda Krewson, who shared a great deal of information with the members regarding the process and benefits of establishing a Special Taxing District. Alderman Krewson also challenged the new Association leadership with \$10,000 for trash containers to be placed along Delmar.

The noon meeting was held at Genesis House, a recently opened coffee house located at 6018 Delmar. The catered box lunches were provided by Salvato's, 6227 Delmar Boulevard.

The new leadership of the Association pledged to pursue further information regarding the Taxing District and other options to permit continued involvement as Delmar's redevelopment proceeds. The officers also agreed to research the various styles of trash containers available and make recommendations by the next meeting, which was set for noon Thursday, July 12 at Genesis House. Advance reservations and your luncheon order can be placed by calling 862-5122.

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF SKINKER DEBALIVIERE . . .

Dear fellow Skinker-DeBaliviere residents,

The Forest Park Advisory Board is a citizen review panel charged with oversight for the implementation of the Forest Park Master Plan. Our neighborhood is not directly represented on this panel. To make certain that our interests are protected, two neighborhood residents, Lana Stein and Rachelle L'Ecuyer, have been attending the meetings of the Advisory Board, held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 4:30 p. m. at the St. Louis Science Center. Lana and Rachelle have brought back to the Council some "early warnings" of changes that might affect the neighborhood. Unfortunately, Rachelle has found that she is no longer able to attend these meetings.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED.

We need another neighbor to begin attending these meetings, either with Lana, or alternating with her. If you are interested, please let either myself or Laure Porterfield at the Council office know. We will ask the city to put you on the mailing list for meeting notices and agendas.

If you can help us, or you have any questions regarding this process, please e-mail or call me at 726-1891 or contact the Laure Porterfield at the Council office at 862-5122.

Thank you.

Daniel Schesch

President, Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council

ROOF ON PERSHING BUILDING SPLITS IN TWO

Residents of the 5900 block of Pershing were startled to find that the roof of a home there had split in two. The roof appeared to be sliding down from the house on each side and bricks were beginning to tumble to the ground.

On both Friday night and Saturday afternoon police and fire vehicles responded to the scene, evacuating immediate neighbors and blocking off the scene with yellow tape. Television crews also appeared and neighbors got to know each other or were reac-

quainted as they stared at the widening roof crack. The house in question looked well-kept-up and the reason for the crack is still not clear. A defect in the structure is the explanation most frequently heard. Saturday evening saw the arrival of a giant crane. Crews, using the crane, removed the roof and prevented any damage to neighboring houses. The crew protected the now roofless dwelling from damage from the elements. At this writing the tape remains by the damaged house and its future is not certain.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS! HISTORIC DISTRICT

The entire Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood is an Historic District. Work done on the exterior of your home **including window replacement** must have a Cultural Resources Office permit (available at the building permit window in City Hall). Contact the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office or stop by to get a copy of the information sheet developed by the Historic District Review Committee. Get the correct information to avoid costly mistakes!!!

TRASH AND YOUR ALLEY

By City ordinance, the property owner is responsible for maintaining the alleys. That means that you are responsible for cutting weeds on the alley side of your fence as well as inside your yard. That means that even when you did NOT put trash in the alley, you are responsible for helping to clean it up. That means you need to learn what rules apply regarding bulk trash pick-up (it only happens on the first FULL week of the month) and how to use your yard-waste-only dumpsters.

Please LEARN and FOLLOW the rules. When you see someone breaking these rules, talk to them if you feel comfortable doing so. They may simply NOT KNOW any better. Or contact the SDCC office at 862-5122 and we will send you a copy of trash handling guidelines.

It Was the Best of Times . . .

by Lana Stein

When I moved into my condo on Nina Place in June of 1989 I thought that I had reached my ultimate destination. Although I occasionally thought of a house, my income didn't seem to meet my expectations. Then, about three years ago, I began to experience pain and swelling in my knee. The doctor told me there was no cartilage and that I was basically a candidate for a knee transplant. He said stairs were the worst thing. My condo was a 3 floor walk-up. Oh well.

I looked at alternate housing more seriously. Although intrigued by high rises and housing stock in other city locations, I felt that I could not leave Skinker DeBaliviere. My dearest friends were here and I felt very attached to the neighborhood and its institutions. In addition, Skinker DeBaliviere is a very special place from the perspective of a social scientist. It is a highly successful diverse neighborhood and confounds some scholars' ideas about urban integration. So I muddled through, hoping my knee would hold out and taking glucosamine and chondroitin to help that along.

I really didn't believe that I would find another abode here and decided to start fixing up the condo to make it more attractive. Then, one day in February, I went out to deliver flyers. At Laurel and Waterman I saw a realtor's sign pointing toward Pershing. I decided to check it out. And, I found the perfect cottage, a one and one half story dwelling with lots of light and all fixed up to boot. Working with my realtors (whose names you would immediately recognize) I put a contract on the house and tried to sell my condo. It's strange: only a few years ago the condos just didn't sell.

Many who wanted to leave leased their units. But, wonderfully, it's a new world now. The condos are desirable and sell quickly. Of course, selling a unit means a lot of work—rearranging furniture, getting rid of all kinds of clutter, letting strangers enter your domicile (after you flee to a coffee house or some such). Nonetheless, the effort was worth it and the unit sold. Six weeks separated me from the move to my new home. I was very sanguine about

packing and of course started with the easiest item, books (and I certainly have enough of those). But, I never quite hit the right pace and things were yet undone when moving day dawned. I wouldn't have survived it alive if it hadn't been for a friend who came in from out of town and two Skinker DeBalivierites. My trials and tribulations were only made worse by the moving crew. Three men showed up from a very popular company. After about a half hour, one said he was sick and his contribution turned out to be very minimal. The other two tried more valiantly. The move began at 1:00pm. It ended at 10:45pm. All boxes were left in the center of my living room floor. It was lucky to get the furniture in. The cats toughed out the move in the new home's basement. They were freaked of course and showed their displeasure as only cats can.

There were other complications. I spoke with Southwestern Bell several weeks before the move and said I wanted the phone on in both homes on moving day. In point of fact, both were turned off most of the time. I ended up using my emergency cell and can hardly wait to see that bill. Southwestern Bell said they couldn't do what I asked. I wonder why they didn't tell me that when I arranged for the service transfer. Because of no phone, we missed Laclede Gas who turned off the service. No hot water, no bath or shower, that first night. In addition, my out-state friend became ill, adding to this horrible scene.

But there is a dawn. Unpacking has proceeded. The new space is conducive to all daily activities and my soon to be 19 year old cat suddenly has a new lease on life.

The moral of this tale is that a potential mover has to realize how the coming of age affects the ability to proceed rapidly. It also affects ease of adjustment. But, things work out. Friends can be more wonderful than I could ever imagine. Cats are resilient and living in a cozy bright cottage is balm for the soul. Thanks to all who helped and for those of you who might wish to have a different domicile, I wish you a smoother move and as happy an ending.

Breakfast Garden Tour June 9th

Saturday June 9th, 8:30 till Noon
Private Gardens open 9:00 to 12:00

Tickets \$10.00 in Advance
\$12.00 day of tour
Children 10-15: \$5.00
Children under 10: Free

Four advance ticket purchase reserves your breakfast until 10:30 a.m.

For questions or to order tickets
Call or visit the SDCC office
6008 Kingsbury, 862-5122

Saturday morning enjoy a continental breakfast in the garden, take a morning stroll in your fair neighborhood, meet your neighbors, and discover hidden treasures.

The Beautification Committee of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council sponsored its third annual Breakfast Garden Tour on Saturday, June 9. Commencing at 8:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast served in the McPherson Community Garden, 5900 McPherson, the tour this year featured private gardens located in the east central sector of the community. Committee Chairman Andy Cross saw this event, which is a major fundraiser for the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, as a marketing tool as well as a moneymaker.

"It brings new folks to the neighborhood," Andy noted, "but it also helps neighbors get to know their neighbors. Only good things will come out of this project."

Breakfast once again this year featured coffee contributed by Genesis House, 6018 Delmar. Representatives from that group assisted in coffee service and were available to talk about their exciting coffeehouse, a welcome addition to the excitement on Delmar Boulevard. While at the McPherson Garden, tour participants received their tour maps and also had the opportunity to purchase Skinker DeBaliviere T-shirts and to participate in a raffle for a variety of prizes.

In addition to the breakfast at the McPherson Garden, tour participants were also invited to visit the Block Unit 1035 Community Garden (at the corner of Hamilton and Westminster) and to stop by for a special ceremony at the triangle park located at Waterman and DeGiverville. Maintained by Block Unit 1035, the park is home to the Flight statue, which was purchased by neighborhood children in the '70's as a beautification project for their community. Neighborhood leader Mrs. Ronie Haliburton has been instrumental in researching the history of this interesting piece of public sculpture and in finding the resources to have it maintained.

Master Gardener Susan Winter from Gateway Greening shared gardening information at the park at 11:00 a.m.

Excerpts from the Garden Tour program and photos from the event are printed below and on pages 7-9



At the Block Unit 1035 Sculpture Garden are, from left, Bette Welch 58XX Waterman, Susan White, Gateway Greening, Gwen Lazard, 59XX McPherson, Ronie Haliburton, 5812 DeGiverville, Theresa King, 59XX McPherson, and Glori L'Ecuyer, 57XX DeGiverville.



From left, Veatrice Perkins, 58XX DeGiverville, Glori L'Ecuyer, 57XX DeGiverville, Andy Cross, 60XX McPherson (sign maker), and Ronie Haliburton, 58XX DeGiverville.

Public Gardens: Open 8:30 a.m. to Noon

5900 Block of McPherson MCPHERSON COMMUNITY GARDEN

Now in its 5th year, the Garden has already won significant awards: 1997 Gateway Greening "Best New Community Garden", 1998 Post-Dispatch Great Garden Contest "Honorable Mention", 1999 Post-Dispatch Great Garden Contest "Best Community Garden". Led by Coordinator Andy Cross, the neighborhood participants have built over 60 raised beds for individual vegetable and flower patches. The central "Butterfly Garden" features perennials designed to attract winged friends, and the riot of color in the sidewalk plantings welcome you into one of Skinker DeBaliviere's most pleasant public spaces

8:30 to 10:30 am Enjoy your breakfast croissants, fruit salad, juices, breakfast meats. Coffee courtesy of Genesis House

Visit the Gateway Greening Inc. Booth

McPherson participants will be on hand to answer your questions about community gardening.

Westminster at DeGiverville BLOCK UNIT 1035 COMMUNITY GARDEN

Cross over the Kingsbury bridge for peek over the fence of Skinker DeBaliviere's other award-winning community garden. (1st and 3rd in Gateway Greening's 1999 and 2000 "Established Community Garden" category.) Aply led by Coordinator Ronnie Haliburton, this enclosed corner lot provides 21 raised beds encircled with lush flower borders tended by even more of the neighborhood's avid gardeners, who have also taken on the triangle park at Waterman and DeGiverville.

Laurel / DeGiverville/ Waterman Triangle BLOCK UNIT 1035 SCULPTURE GARDEN

All three corners of this charming triangle park are loaded with perennials lovingly planted and tended by the 1035 Gardeners for the rest of us to enjoy. It's a growing riot of color, leaf texture and size that gets better each year. Anchored by decorative grasses, blue salvia, purple liatris and buddleia, red and white mini roses, sedum, daylilies galore, yellow moonbeam coreopsis, iris, pink dianthis and fragrant catmint follow the spring array of daffodils. Shaded by the

huge center tree, epimedium and hosts are developing into green and white ground covers. The fiberglass statue, "Flight" was sculpted in the 1960's by local artist Rudy Torrini (long-time professor of Art at Fontbonne College) working with a selected group of neighborhood kids on one of St. Louis' earliest "public community art" projects. It's kind of fun to note that one of those student participants, Olivia Gude, grew up at 5901 Pershing, which happens to be one of the private gardens on tour this year.

11:00 a. m.

SPECIAL LECTURE

"Drawing Perennials in the City"

Susan White, Gateway Greening Master Gardener

**Des Peres at Kingsbury
FOUR CORNERS**

Your neighbors water and tend the lush planters punctuating the paved gathering area, which is used for neighborhood events such as National Night Out and summer concerts. Neighbors led by Katrina Stierholz also privately raised the \$60,000 needed to build the newest family destination in Skinker DeBaliviere: the colorful and attractive Four Corners Playground.



Private Gardens Open 9 a.m. to Noon



**5927 Pershing
SHERI SPEED-GRAY**

Originated by the previous owner, in 5 years Sheri has made this garden uniquely her own. Her traditional porch (loveseat, table and chairs) overlooks a garden that is anything but traditional. This is kid heaven: a 4x4 foot sandbox; aquariums, hermit crabs races, a pet turtle ; "rocks" with addresses; her collection of art frogs decorating the back fence, and a kid "craft drawer" under the porch. Adults will appreciate her intensive gardening: hosta, ivy, and her apple tree provide the background for a huge planting effort, with constant bloom from bulbs, violets, annuals and indoor plants(which are rotated outside for the season). Crafty Sheri uses this abundance to make wonderful wreaths and dried arrangements, which will also be on display in this unusual yard.

**5901 Pershing
CARMEN FOWLER**

So what DO you do when the public walkway next to your backyard is closed, and you suddenly find yourself having to incorporate it into your permanent garden plans? You put up a wrought iron gate as an architectural feature and plant, plant, plant around all the concrete! This first year garden holds lots of promise as a future party space overlooked by a multi-level deck (perfect for barbeques) and basketball court set up on the foundation of a former garage. Moonbeam and tickseed coreopsis, sweet william, black-eyed susans, hostas and abundant ivy are "greening up" this difficult space. Plans for a lavender bed next to the deck hold the promise of fragrance at a touch for deck-sitters. Nearby green-thumbers have aided Carmen's massive first year effort with gift plants from their own gardens ...now that's neighborliness that reflects the true spirit of gardening!



**5841 Pershing
BEN ASEN**

The apple trees and roses in front alert the passerby that plants in this garden have been lovingly tended by Ben (aided by his granddaughter) for 25 years. Two huge pin oaks and a raised deck provide summer shelter for a huge collection of indoor container plants (Madagascar Palm, Burrotail, succulents, cactus) and colorful hosta, geraniums, begonias. Note the mini-ecosystem " worm farm".



**5801 Pershing
DONETTA KEE**

Strolling past Donetta's front yard is enough to make a gardener jealous perfectly manicured lawn and shrubs, chinese pots decorating the porch, abundant marigolds and roses. Turn the corner onto Laurel and see hat this good neighbor has done in 3 or 4 years to visually blur the distinction between public and private spaces. Hydrangea and hosta thrive in the narrow bed between sidewalk and house, and every tree next to the street is surrounded by ivy, liriopie and euyonomous. The intentionally low white three board fence above her retaining wall invites passersby to peak into her garden: mini white roses, dogwood, red japanese maple, rhododendrons and daylilies emerge from luxurious ivy beds. There are garden benches and a back porch topped by a deck leading outside from a second floor bedroom ... all perfect places to enjoy this simple and peaceful green space every morning.



Photos by David Schmidt

Tim Schoemehl, President of the Rosedale Neighborhood Association, collects admissions for the garden tour at the McPherson Community Garden. With him are Christina Fleener McGroarty (seated) and Linda Cross (standing).



**5911 Waterman
PHIL & LYN LODHOLZ**

Another 1st year garden, designed to be multi-functional: low maintenance gravel and concrete paring pad on the east side of the garage and a hidden service area to the west. Matching upper and lower porches with wrought iron railing overlook a garden intended to be "barbeque-perfect" with low-maintenance annuals, perennials and shrubs, punctuated by what Phil calls "container-mania".

**5942 Waterman
DOUG & MARGUERITE COREY**

"Thirteen years ago it was all gravel" says Marguerite, "but now we soak up the view from the screened-in porch where we live when it's nice enough to be outside". And what a view: masses of multi-colored azaleas and impatiens punctuate brick-paved seating areas which invite quiet contemplation; a dwarf apple tree springs up from a bed of hosta; the garage is dressed up with shutters and window box, and an antique trellis (rescued by their son) screens this low maintenance and inviting shade garden from the alley beyond. It looks fine from the ground, but imagine the bonus view every morning from the second floor porch to fully appreciate the design of this garden.



THREE ADJACENT GARDENS SHARING SHADY SILVER MAPLES



**5851 Waterman
RICH & VENITA LAKE**

Living here since 1974, Rich and Venita had 3 garden goals: lawn for their two dogs, a quiet deck for themselves built low on the ground for privacy, and willingness to experiment over the years with different approaches for the borders. Most recently, they have developed a "butterfly" theme, planting herbs; basil, sage, mints, etc), colorful annuals and perennials, while saving the sunny spot in front of their double garage for tomatoes.



**5847 Waterman
GUIDEON RICHESON**

Challenges to gardening: silver maple shade and three dogs. Successful solutions in 5 years: (1) Colorful corvine-proof shrubs: rhododendron, buddleia and burning bush; (2) Shade-loving hosta and other hardy perennials in beds behind low wrought iron fences; (3) Lots of hanging containers on the fern-bedecked double story back porches and tradescantia accenting the brick seating area to the rear; (4) Sturdy garden benches replacing the more usual furniture or porch railings; (5) A half-dozen 5 to 7 foot trellis providing a repeat thematic element that is both architecturally interesting and practical.

**5843 Waterman
DARRELL HARTKE & NANCY FARMER**

Now in its third year, the garden was designed to be simple and easy to maintain for these busy owners. "At most we have a couple of hours on the weekend to putz around, dig in the dirt and battle the weeds", says Nancy. Their low wrought iron fence provides definition for the rhododendron and other "hearty" perennial borders encircling a green lawn, yet does not block expanded views of vegetation "borrowed" from neighboring yards. The lovely and practical wood screened porch serves as a summer-time living room. Turning deep shade from the huge silver maples into an asset, this tranquil porch and garden convey the feeling of a cabin in the woods where one can kick back, barbeque and relax after a hectic work week.



Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council

Board of Directors Minutes February 12, 2001

In Attendance: President Dan Schesch. **Directors:** Peggy Droege, Georgi Fox, Greg Freeman, Steve Givens, Ronnie Haliburton, Dee Joyce-Hayes, Joseph Keaveny, Gwendolyn LaZard, Rev. Miki Merritt, Shirley Polk, Tim Schoemehl, Lana Stein, Katrina Stierholz, John Thomas, Sole Van Emden. **Guests:** Dana Banks (New Cote Brillante Alternate), Andy Cross (Beautification/ Playground), Paul Hohmann Transportation/Rosedale), Larry Isom (NSO), P.O. Don Reynolds (7th District Police), Gene Reynolds (Ombudsman). **Staff:** Gary Boehnke (Housing Corporation Project Administrator), Laure Porterfield (SDCC Executive Director).

Absent: Lara Lennon-Doyle, Sharon FitzGibbons.

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Dan Schesch.

Welcome, Introductions and Announcements

Pastor Miki Merritt from New Cote Brillante Church of God introduced Ms. Dana Banks, who will serve as the church's alternate member to the board. The minutes from the January meeting were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report - Peggy Droege
The Budget for 2001 was approved as submitted, the report for January 2001 was approved as submitted.

Peggy reported that the Friends campaign is proceeding very well, with over \$6,000 collected to date. President

Dan Schesch reminded the Board members that their willingness to participate rather than the level of their participation was most important and frequently is a consideration when grant applications are reviewed.

Security - P.O. Don Reynolds

P.O. Don Reynolds reported that the entire city, including Skinker DeBaliviere and the immediately surrounding area is seeing an increase in auto theft - well over twenty remain unsolved in Skinker DeBaliviere alone. Captain Hegger has assigned additional undercover officers on the beat both during the day and at night. Many of these thefts are occurring during the day. Two suspects have been arrested; three more have been identified but remain at large. There have also been some robberies in the neighborhood and two purse snatchings. Officer Reynolds reminded us that we need to be aware of our surrounding at all times. Take precautions. Lock cars, doors, etc. Council members raised concerns about loitering and panhandling on Rosedale between Delmar and Washington. There were also questions regarding the liquor store at that intersection and any follow-up regarding the shooting that occurred there recently.

Alderman's Report - Lyda Krewson

Alderman Lyda Krewson shared a number of actions with the Board. She noted that Archway has new owners and that it is not their intention to use the first floor for any sort of patient services or office support. Instead they would like to work closely with the neighborhood to identify a mutually satisfactory tenant. They are already cleaning up the area and planning to do substantial renovation to the building. They will be reducing the number of patient beds at this location.

6186 McPherson was blighted by the Board of Aldermen last Friday. This gives the city the power of eminent domain. The same thing has occurred at 5944 Pershing. The new owner is working hard to improve conditions there.

Regarding left turns at DeBaliviere and Lindell, Lyda reported that the Forest Park Advisory Board feels that the turn restriction is in keeping with the Forest Park Master Plan and can only be changed through an ordinance to amend the plan. Lyda indicated that she is not sure that this is the correct way to go.

Council members raised concerns regarding trash around the DeBaliviere Strip Mall. Council will send a letter to the owner of the mall and copy to Refuse Division and to tenants in the mall.

Mr. Gene Reynolds, from Ombudsman Education Center, came to the Council seeking a letter of support for a conditional use variance for his company to move into space at 327 DeBaliviere, in the strip mall. His company contracts with the school district to provide instructional and or tutoring services to students. Districts make the referral. Over 1,000 students enrolled in over 20 centers in Missouri. They operate over 70 centers in 10 states nationally.

Currently they operate at the St. Louis Marketplace on Manchester and at Kingshighway and Chippewa.

They are looking for another city site. Students will use public transportation. His center serves students grade 7 through 12. They operate three sessions a day - 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., to 1:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Presented a letter of support from commercial neighbors at Florissant centers. Many of those businesses hire Ombudsmen students. They will offer a summer session.

The Council will ask the Ad Hoc Education Committee to investigate further and make a recommendation regarding the Conditional Use Permit.

Executive Committee Report

Dan Schesch made the Executive Committee report. Loan Committee - had been established years ago to make low-interest of forgivable loans to qualifying residents needing to make home repairs. Applications were not sufficient to spend all funds. Possibility of resurrecting committee for helping needy families with repairs. Over \$8,000 remains from several years ago. John Thomas, Katrina Stierholz, Dee Joyce-Hayes and Larry Isom volunteered to serve on the committee. John Thomas will chair. They are asked to determine how these funds could be used.

The Executive Committee recommended that the Privacy Policy be changed to state "staff" in place of "executive director". Approved unanimously. The Security Committee meeting has been rescheduled for March 3 at 10:00 a.m. A Mayoral Candidates Forum sponsored by SDCC and CWEA will be held at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel on February 21. Free and open to the public. Forum begins at 7:30 p.m.

Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director reported that SDCC has been selected by MSD to have a neighborhood representative serve for two years on their newly established rate commission. The motion was made and passed that Laure be designated as our neighborhood representative to the commission. She noted that Code Enforcement will begin in April. A meeting is being set with the Building Division Inspector to talk to neighborhood residents regarding Code Enforcement.

Housing Corporation

Gary Boehnke referred the Board to his written reports which were in the packets

Committee/Neighborhood Reports

Paul Hohmann presented the Transportation Committee report, noting that there was a meeting called by BI-State at Crossroads School last week to consider crossing options for the side-running south of the parkway alignment. Four options were presented:

1. no pedestrian access to cross at this location;
2. pedestrian overpass;
3. pedestrian underpass;
4. at grade pedestrian crossing.

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council

Board of Directors Minutes April 9, 2001

In Attendance: President Dan Schesch, **Directors:** Lara Lennon-Doyle, Peggy Droege, Georgi Fox, Greg Freeman, Steve Givens, Dee Joyce-Hayes, Paul Hohmann, Joseph Keaveny, Gwendolyn LaZard, Shirley Polk, Tim Schoemehl, Lana Stein, Katrina Stierholz, John Thomas, Sole Van Emden.

Guests: Jeanne Boland, John Colbert, Andy Cross (Beautification), Mark Harvey (Grace Methodist Church), Martin Jaffe, Alderman Lyda Krewson, Katie Kurtz (Historic District Review Committee), Sean McWilliams, Jennifer Olmstead, P.O. Don Reynolds (7th District Police). **Staff:** Gary Boehnke (Housing Corporation Project Administrator), Laure Porterfield (SDCC Executive Director).

Absent: Sharon FitzGibbons, Ronie Haliburton, Rev. Miki Merritt.

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 by President Dan Schesch.

Welcome, Introductions and Announcements

The minutes from March were submitted and approved with corrections to list of those in attendance.

Martin Jaffe was introduced to the Board. He discussed his plans for the 5700 block of McPherson. Some property has been purchased by his firm and agreement to acquire vacant lots from LRA and SDCHC is being worked out. Would like to gain control of other vacant property; may be some occupied homes for rehab or replacement. Will develop single family homes. Lots will be slightly larger than they are at present. Homes will be 2000 to 2400 square feet (2 or 3 story) with 2-car garage in the \$200,000 to \$300,000 range. Construction to begin within 6 months to a year.

Security Report - P.O. Don Reynolds, 7th District

No major incidents in the last month. As the weather warms, outdoor activity increases. Call 911 or Citizens Service Bureau about nuisance properties.

Committee/Neighborhood Reports

Security Committee

Hearing date postponed for Pete's Sur Save regarding liquor license 30-day extension granted. New owners say they will work with Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. Letters to go out regarding other stores. Information fliers to be distributed to neighborhoods with magnets displaying emergency phone numbers.

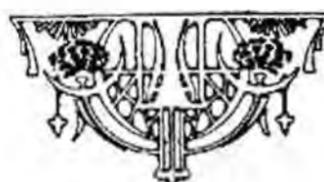
Council endorsed a combined at-grade and overpass to give neighbors maximum options while still supporting UNDER DES PERES.

Andy Cross referred those interested in the Beautification report to the attached sheet. Concerns were also raised about the condition of the fence at Hamilton School and about security around Lucier Park. These issues will be referred to the appropriate committees.

Technology committee - Katrina reported that the Library has denied our request for public access internet computer at Charing Cross branch. There will be a meeting for all instructors and helpers on February 24 to practice for the Web Fair. The brochure is complete and will be distributed this week.

Greg Freeman reported that the MLK event was a great success. Shirley Polk asked that the Hamilton School be acknowledged for their help with the Food Drive this year. Laure will check as she thought the letter had been sent.

Adjourned at 10:25 p.m.



Lucier Parks

Plans are underway to refurbish the parks' playground and other amenities. Working with Alderman Clay and Dan Skillman from the Parks Department.

Residential Committee - Lara Stein

Code enforcement discussed. Grants for \$250 are available; will be given out in July. Code enforcement inspections to begin in about two weeks.

Historic District - Katie Kurtz

Kate Shea from the City will give a presentations in April to discuss historic standards. Brochures and TIMES articles about standards are being written by the committee. Cultural Resources is planning to publish a brochure on windows. The Arthur Building had no salvageable artifacts. The stone arch with building name will be preserved and place in the lobby of the new building.

Transportation - Paul Hohmann

Over 200 letters/postcards were sent to officials. The committee is seeking approval of their letter in regards to design of Metrolink stations. Motion was made to make the letter more specific. The final draft will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and sent as quickly as possible.

Technology Committee - Katrina Stierholz

Website will have forms for neighborhood information; the website address will be included on all stationary in the future.

Beautification - Andy Cross

Water meter for the Garden was missing this spring (water department noticed the building was gone so they took the meter). Water will be back on soon. Blitz Day was very successful. Garden Tour is June 9. Tickets will be available at the next meeting. Thanks to Andy!

Rosedale - Tim Schoemehl

Meeting was held in April to discuss Blitz Day, Security and Code Enforcement. Issues of traffic and safety were addressed. Education Committee

See written report. (letter)

Treasurers Report - Peggy Droege

Friends campaign at \$8,680. Still within budget. Motion was made and seconded to approve the report monthly. Passed. Insurance for special events was discussed. It will cost \$600 per event to serve and sell beer or other alcohol.

Executive Committee Report

Volunteer needed to cover Forest Park Advisory Board. Motion made to investigate upcoming opening on that Board to get a neighborhood resident on the Board. Seconded. Passed.

Aldermanic Report - Lyda Krewson

Census - Based on ward by ward population data, the 28th Ward lost 5% compared to the average loss in the City of 12%.

Traffic - Council will get a letter from Good Neighbor Coalition regarding construction projects. Forest Park Parkway will be closed 18 months. Delmar needs to be closed 9 months to rebuild the bridge.

Delmar - Offers purchased to Cheatham and Gore's buildings were rejected. May not be able to negotiate a sale. May need to take them by eminent domain. Legacy Books has expanded and has no occupancy permits. Need to vacate both spaces. Mt. Olive is under contract to sell the buildings and parking lots.

Executive Director - see written report

Housing Corporation - Gary Boehnke

See written report. Clarified some points made earlier in the meeting by Martin Jaffe. Two Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Cooperation Board members have resigned (Susie Feinberg & Karleen Hoer). **New officers:** Chris Manzo President; George Johannes, vice president.

No information to report on the status of Big Jake's BBQ.

Moved and seconded that Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council thank Feinberg and Hoerr for their service to the neighborhood.

Adjourn 9:35.

OFF. 721-5600
RES. 863-0220



BROKER &
ASSOCIATE

RENNI SHUTER, GRI
LIFE MEMBER MILLION DOLLAR CLUB
RELOCATION SPECIALIST

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

New City School Celebrated Tom Hoerr's 20 Year Milestone

From the New City School Newsletter:

by Chris Smith

Do you remember what you were doing in 1981? To help put the question into perspective, twenty years ago IBM sold its first personal computer, Prince Charles and Princess Diana wed, and both Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II were the targets of assassination attempts. At New City School, parents not only celebrated the tenth anniversary of the school occupying the building at Waterman and Lake, they welcomed a new Director as well.

This spring, Thomas R. Hoerr, current director of New City School, celebrated 20 years of leadership, vision and devotion to the families of NCS. Tom was selected by a Search Committee which included Board members, parents and teachers. Led by then Dean of Law at St. Louis University, Rudy Hasl, the committee spent 6 months interviewing several candidates. What were they looking for? "New City needed someone who could articulate and put into practice a vision of excellence, someone who could move us beyond the status quo mentality," according to Tina Short, the next president of the board. New City was in the unenviable position of looking for its fourth director in eleven years. Acting as head of a brand new school in the midst of marathon discussions about educational philosophy and the varied, and often untested, methodologies which ran rampant in the '70's and '80's took its toll on three highly qualified and respected educators. "We needed someone who could rationalize and codify the curriculum into one with with a scope and sequence from year to year," said board member John Weil.

As a student at Harris Teachers College, Tom's earliest aspirations included



Tom and Karleen at the 20th Anniversary student assembly.



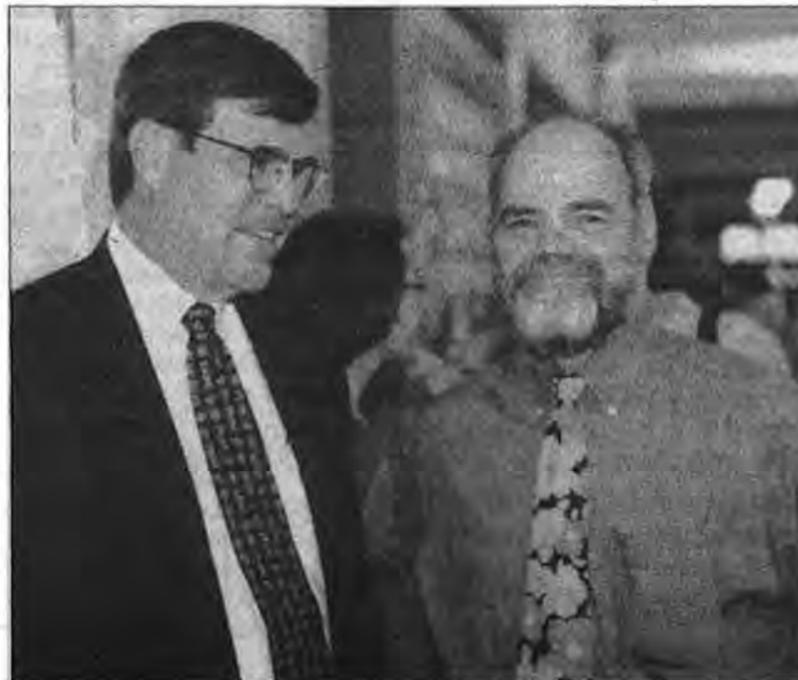
Above: Tom receives City Proclamation from Lyda Krewson. Board president Sue Schlichter is on the left.



Left: Tom with Board member Frank Hamsher and NCS parent John Sandberg.

not much more than being a football coach. That changed when he began to work with students. Reflecting on his days as a student teacher, Tom says, "I began to see how teachers could change the lives of kids." He began his teaching career in the St. Louis City Public Schools and then returned to UM-St. Louis to earn his Masters Degree in school administration and earned his Ph.D. in Educational Policymaking and Program Development from Washington University in 1983.

Tom served as principal at Pershing School in the University City School District for three years before New City was fortunate enough to win him away. While there, Tom incorporated new reading programs into the daily fabric of the school. He also worked at finding new ways to involve parents in their children's education. So what brought Tom to



Below: Tom with Burroughs headmaster, Keith Shahan.

search for a new spot to exercise his vision of what can make schools great? "I remember being interviewed by the search committee," he says, "not really being sure I was interested in the job. But the more I talked with them, the more excited I became about a mission that really does put kids first and encourages educators to be creative."

When he came on board at New City, there were 235 students, 25 teachers, and a boiler that kept everyone in suspense while choosing their clothes each morning. One of the legends about New City is the story of Jock Bartley, parent of Wizzie '81 and Lulu '83, coming to school at 4:30 every morning to light the boiler because it cost too much to keep it running all night. Clearly Tom had his work cut out for him!

First on the agenda was to put New City on a more stable economic footing. The Board strengthened its Annual Giving program (which had raised \$14,000 the year before) and continued the strong relationship with the neighborhood. Simultaneously, Tom began bringing highly-qualified teachers and administrators to New City. A performance-based merit pay system was adopted in 1985. Alumni/ae parent Mimi Hirshberg feels that one of Tom's major strengths is "his ability to direct the school while letting people grow within the boundaries of the vision he has for NCS." As the financial picture and the educational program found their feet, it was time to turn to what was both a giant asset and a huge liability - the building.

When the structure at Waterman and Lake was purchased by New City in 1971 it was 70 years old and had not received much gentle, loving care over recent years. Much of the space that today we call the lower level, or preprimary, was unusable due to flooding, and the same could be said of much of the second floor due to age and wear-and-tear. If New City was to grow, its space would have to improve - drastically. Thus began a fifteen year period of capital improvements which have changed the face of the school from what one newspaper correspondent called "hipply-tattered" to a setting our kids are eager to learn in. With the "Building on a Dream" campaign, which renovated much of building in 1988, the "Urban Campus" campaign, which purchased the land to the west of the school and created the playground, soccer field and running track in 1992, and the "Theater Renovation" campaign, which brought the 90 year-old theater back to its original classical beauty in 1999, the New City community has raised over \$3.3 million dollars. Additionally, four years ago, New City was awarded a \$1 million grant for building maintenance, which included tuckpointing, new windows and air conditioning. New City School is now one of the architectural gems of the Central West End.

But more important than all the success with bricks and mortar is the commitment Tom has had to the educational excellence and diverse make-up of New City School. The founders' vision was to have a school where children of different races, religions and economic means would learn together, thereby learning about and from each other. That mission still drives New City School thirty-one years later, and it has been the prime mover in Tom Hoerr's vision for the school. Putting good teachers together is the first step, according to Tom. "Good teachers make good schools; great teachers make great schools." While focusing on the faculty's professional standards and sense of collegiality, Tom and the board have worked to

Continued on page 12

IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

It only took twenty million bucks. That's right, for a measly \$20,000,000; Dennis Tito was able to become an astronaut. OK, he was a cosmonaut, but you get my point. His catapulting into space on the back of his checkbook was a smack in the face to those idealistic folks who say *money can't buy happiness*. I mean, did you see the photo taken of him after he returned to Earth? Sure, the increase in gravity had taken its toll and he wasn't able to stand without help. But did you see the beaming smile on his face? This was one happy fellow. He couldn't have been any happier.

Now granted, I don't have \$20,000,000 and if you're reading this rag, you probably don't have it either. Not only do I not have twenty million bucks, not only do I not have twenty million lira, or twenty million dollars in phoney Monopoly money. For heaven's sake, I don't even have checks with long enough blank lines to let me write all the digits necessary for a twenty million dollar expenditure. I'm not poor but my car is 13 years old and I take advantage of the educator's discount for my daily *NYTimes* subscription. Heck, I don't even know anyone with \$20,000,000 unless, that is, you count Mark McGwire. (Ok, to be honest, I really don't know him. We've, like, never met or anything. But I've watched him on television enough so that I feel like I sort of know him.)

But I'm not bothered by Tito's actions in dropping a ton or two of coins to bring a smile to his face; more power to him, methinks. As my dad used to say, "If you've got it, spend it." Good old dad, may he rest in peace. Generous to a fault, he never really had it, but it didn't stop him from spending it. Me? Well, I didn't choose wisely. I have neither wealthy parents nor an occupation that will bring me fame and fortune. But that's not a problem. After all, I do buy Powerball lottery tickets, and as I say to my first wife, "Someone has to win, so it may as well be me."

In fact, just between you and me, dear reader, I fully expect to win one of these lotteries. Each time I buy, I can feel it in my bones! It's only a matter of time, I am sure. Heck, to be honest, I am so sure that I am going to win that I'll be very disappointed when I do win if the amount isn't far beyond a mere ten or twenty million bucks. What a downer that would be! Think about it: maybe you win *only* ten or twenty million bucks. You think you're on easy street but, oops, Uncle Sam comes along and immediately takes a big chunk off the top. Then consider your new insurance agents (with this much moola, you have to have lots of different kinds of insurance), security staff (you don't want the unwashed masses getting too close), publicist (the

tabloids love to dump on successful entrepreneurs like yourself so you need a spokesperson to maintain your image), and your personal driver and accountant. All these folks require salary, FICA contributions, health insurance, plus wedding presents whenever one of their urchins ties the knot or has a kid. Pretty soon what was a winnings of thirteen million bucks has dwindled to only four or five million dollars. And what can you do with that?

What you can't do with only four or five million smackers is go into space with the Rusksies. They are strapped for cash and aren't ready to lower their price of admission to that small amount. No, with only four or five million bucks, not only is there no ride in outer space, there's no owning a major league sports team, no buying an entire neighborhood to keep the fools from starting their power tools at 7am on Saturday, no donating money to re-route the MetroLink line to where it should go. All of those extravagancies cost more than meager single-digit million.

Alright, suppose I do hit the Powerball numbers on a good week? Suppose that I'm living right and BINGO, I win, say, sixty or eighty million bucks. Hang in there with me! First things first, I buy Ted Drewes' frozen custard and Partagas ceegas for the neighborhood. Enjoy! Then I take what's coming. "OK, Uncle Sam, take your cut," I'll say, "and while you're at it, take an extra 7 mil and cover highway 70 downtown so that we can walk to the Arch." Next I'll go to the Mayor and County Executive and tell them that I, personally, will pay for the additional cost to take the MetroLink extension down Oakland Avenue, by St. Louis University High School, the Science Center, Forest Park Community College, and Highlands Office Park. That's where it should have been routed in the first place, of course (but hey, they don't call the current route the WashU Extension for nothing). In the meantime, cuttin' checks right and left, I've have taken care of my mom (she gets a new car) and the first wife (for whom I'll purchased an entire shoe store).

But there's more! That's right. Because I was smart and canny enough to buy my winning ticket on a week when the prize was BIG bucks, I'll still got 30-35 million left. What to do? Well, my financial advisor - oh yeah, she's now on my payroll too - recommends putting the cash in to some conservative investments. She tells me that from just the interest, I can get almost \$2,000,000 per year for pocket change, spending money, never touching the principle! Can you believe it? That would mean, though, that I'd have to live on a mere couple of mil a year.

Givemeabreak. I'm not getting any younger so I want to spend it while I can. I didn't work that hard to win the lottery to watch my money sit in the bank.

What to do?

Well, the Cosmonaut routine is out. Oh, sure, I could afford to drop twenty mil on a ride to outer space but, er, there's a problem. I can barely keep from revisiting my lunch when I ride on the Screaming Eagle at Six Flags, so jetting into outer space doesn't float my boat. Hmmmm, what other experiences could I buy? Surely I could find a group to take me to the top of Mt. Everest. But it would be awfully cold up there and once you're on the top, what's there to do besides turn around and come down? Nah, I think I'll pass on being a postscript to Into Thin Air. I've always wanted to cruise down the Nile, but it's awfully hot there, even in winter, so I think I'll pass. I've ruled out lots of other options too, from not buying matching sports cars (too tacky) to not buying a politician (everyone has one). Politics has always intrigued me, though, so I could run for office, following in the footsteps of others who have purchased themselves an office, but that's no fun. Once elected you have to be nice to constituents and do heavy work, like voting. No, not for me.

And then it hit me, out of the blue. Actually, she hit me, out my nap. "What?" the first wife proclaimed, "you're sitting here with \$20,000,000-30,000,000 to spend? What about ME?" As you might imagine, this led us to a wonderful discussion about just whose money it is, anyway. The first wife reminded me that Missouri is a dowry state; everything is jointly held by both spouses. Yep, you got it. My \$20-30,000,000 is really only \$10-

15,000,000 when she gets her half! And I thought Uncle Sam was bad.

Ever the pragmatist, I began to negotiate. The first wife is adventure-some, to be sure, but she is no more interested in outer space or Mt. Everest than a man in the moon. Amazingly, she wouldn't even be interested in owning a piece of the Cardinals. But she is consistent. Right, you know where I'm heading. What deal can I strike that will tickle her fancy?

.....

Yep, the year is 2010 and I am - no, we are - now the owner of a chain of high fashion shoe stores. The flashing neon sign, tastefully done, above each store entrance reads *Karleen's Creations: We tend to your soul and sole*. The good news is that there's, why am I not surprised, a fortune to be made in women's shoes. It turns out that I'm actually making money, hand over foot (pun intended)! Can you believe it? This whole thing is so lucrative and addictive that my legal team - did I tell you that I now employ five attorneys? - is preparing legislation to be filed by my senators and representatives that will allow me to keep the tax revenue that I earn. I want to build a new big store downtown, adjacent to the retro baseball park that was built seven years ago, surround it with retail and residential buildings, and call "The Shoe Village." I am not being unreasonable at all and am simply asking to keep the taxes that I earn and pay. After all, *Karleen's Creations* is a tourist Mecca and our many visitors contributes millions of dollars to the metropolitan area economy. The Mayor and County Supervisor are with me on this, they appreciated my paying for the MetroLink expansion, so now it's just a matter of time and lobbying. And hey, if there is one thing that money can do for you, besides guaranteeing happiness, it's get good lobbyists.

Tom Hoerr's 20th Anniversary at New City School

Continued from page 11

move us from the days that the winter payroll was sometimes paid in cash sticky from Tree Lot sap to a level of competitive salaries and benefits which help to retain our great teachers.

The more elusive challenge of maintaining an independent, tuition-based school with a student body reflective of many different economic levels in society has occupied Tom's energy for much of the last decade. Fortunately, and due to careful nurturing and clearly-articulated goals, New City has been able to grow its endowment from less than \$100,000 to nearly \$2 million in the last nine years. The endowment now provides almost 20% of the funds awarded for financial aid. Tom's commitment to the New City of the future is abundantly clear when he says, "The continued growth of the endowment will insure that, despite inevitable tuition increases, we will be able to maintain our socio-economic balance in future years."

One cannot attempt to summarize this 20 year love affair with New City without speaking of Tom's prescience in introducing the Theory of Multiple Intelligences to our curriculum. It has been thirteen years since Tom returned from a sabbatical burning with the answer for which he had been searching - the method to help kids find their best ways to learn! In typical fashion, Tom con-

vened a committee of faculty who showed interest in the concept and nurtured this grass roots effort to change the way teaching was done at New City. Not only has this revolutionized how kids learn at Waterman and Lake, but it has grown into a national and international movement, with New City recognized as one of the leaders. Tom's book, *Becoming A Multiple Intelligences School*, has been translated into French and Chinese, and he has written more than 30 articles about MI and faculty collegiality. Tom travels to schools and conferences all over the world to share the New City magic. But one of the easiest ways to bring a smile to Tom's face is by passing on alumni/ae's comments about how MI has changed their lives. "Better than any test score, more important than any achievement, is a student's sense of self-knowledge and self-worth. If they know who they are, their goals and accomplishments can be limitless. This is how we change the world...one kid at a time."

The Board of Trustees has dedicated the fountain in the Centennial Garden to Tom in honor of his 20th year at NCS. The Centennial Garden and fountain will be formally dedicated in October 2001.

KINGSBURY ANIMAL HOSPITAL

420 N. Skinker (at Kingsbury)

Stephen A. Brammeier DVM

Full Service Grooming Available
Hours by Appointment

9-6:30 Mon.-Thurs. / 9-4:30 Fri. / 10-2 Sat.

721-6251

COLONIAL RUG COMPANY

6191 Delmar

Complete Floor Service
Remnants Always in Stock

Bill Schiller
726-3281