

# The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 32 No.2 Fall 2001 FREE  
The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

## The Delmar Renaissance Continues

By Lana Stein



6154 Delmar, boarded for nearly twenty years, will become a Del Pietro's Restaurant in 2002. The parking lots on each side of the building will provide parking for the restaurant and for the church building, which will become home to non-profit theater groups. There is additional parking adjacent to the Pageant, which is directly across the street, as shown in the photograph below.

Changes are coming to Delmar; some can be readily seen and others can be found in architectural renderings. The median stretching from the Wabash Station to DeBaliviere will be finished imminently. Next spring, plantings will enliven the streetscape. Be sure to see the insert in this paper regarding the streetscape planned for Delmar west of the station. Infrastructure changes were planned to make the street more attractive to commerce. The decorated path leading from the MetroLink parking lot to the Pageant will be completed in a few months. Called the "Delmar Community Pathway", it will include some interesting artwork. Once again, Bi-State's Arts in Transit has played a huge role in improving our streetscape.

Joe Edwards has certainly done his share to enliven Delmar. The Pageant draws many customers to its concerts. But, Joe has not stopped there. He has purchased the Olive Baptist Church, whose congregation wanted a larger home. Edwards

hopes that this church building (originally a Jewish synagogue) will become home to nonprofit theater groups. To the east of the church are two parking lots. They surround a small historic structure that has fallen into disrepair. Joe has acquired the Cheatum building, pictured here, and was pleased to announce that the Del Pietro family (Portabella, Shitake, Del Pietro's) plan to open a restaurant in this building after it

has been rehabbed.

Neal Shapiro has purchased the former liquor store building adjacent

to his Original Cast Lighting Company on Delmar near Rosedale. Shapiro is working with architect Tom Cohen on a plan for retail space, possibly a restaurant.

At Hamilton, we note that the Skinker-DeBaliviere Housing Corporation has purchased the building which houses Marion's Cafe', among other businesses, at 5888 Delmar. And a little further east, there are signs of activity at the old McDonald's. It looks like Big Jake's barbecue will be open soon.

It is 12 years since the Commercial Committee was formed and set its sights on improving Delmar. Thanks to Aldermen McGuire, Clay, and Krewson, thanks to the committee and its business owner representatives, thanks to Sarah Smith and Arts in Transit, thanks to the SDCC, what once seemed an impossible dream is fast becoming a reality.



## WildplyWoods

The West End Arts Council recently sponsored a public arts event in Four Corners Park for all neighborhood residents' participation. For three consecutive Saturdays, teams of artists, students and neighborhood volunteers labored to create six plywood sculptures, which are being installed as we go to press at the Four Corners Playground.

The artwork produced on Saturday, November 3 included a llama by neighborhood artist/resident Patricia Chavez, currently an art teacher with the Ladue schools and a mixed-media leaf designed by artist

Chuck Schwall, an artist on the faculty at the St. Michaels School. On Saturday, November tenth, neighborhood resident and artist Sheri Speed-Gray and her team produced a large and playful squirrel, while Andy Cross, also an artist and resident in Skinker DeBaliviere, led a team to produce a popular and timely American Eagle, complete with a patriotic shield and legend. On Saturday, November 17, volunteers gathered for the third session under the leadership of Sarah Lindquist, Muncy scenic artist, to produce a series of winter creatures, and Ute Levi,

neighborhood resident and artist, who led her team to produce a very dramatic dragon.

The committee working on this project included Andy and Linda Cross, Shelley and Jon Parker, Michelle Pike, Katrina Stierholz and Mark Banaczek. The project was produced in the community with help from a Regional Arts Commission grant and was designed to engage neighborhood residents in producing temporary sculptures for installation within our community.

## Wintermarkt

The West End Arts Council, with assistance from the Regional Arts Commission, has unveiled plans for the first-ever *Wintermarkt*. A local reimagining of a traditional German festival, the *Kristkindlmarkt*, *Wintermarkt* will be held Saturday, December 8th, outdoors, at Four Corners Park, from noon until 6:00 p.m.

This outdoor craft sale will feature the handiwork of artisans, bakers and craftsmen from our own urban village. Continuing a centuries-old outdoor market tradition, participants will find treats to enjoy at the market and items to take home for consumption and for gifting in the true spirit of the holiday season. Individual stalls will feature handcrafted toys, treats, decorations and gifts for your home, family and friends.

All are invited to stop by and partake in homemade desserts, cookies, pastries, tarts, hot cider, gluhwein and other treats while listening to musical selections by neighborhood carolers. Participants will find *chimeneas* and twinkling white lights along with many surprises to set you in a holiday mood. Proceeds from the sale will benefit participating local artists and the West End Arts Council.

Questions? Call the SDCC office at 862-5122.



The annual Christmas Caroling will take place on December 8. Carolers will meet at 5:30 p.m. at the Four Corners and then spread out to carol on their own streets. Join in this year for some old-fashioned fun. For more information, call Dave Schmidt at 863-4512.



Four Corners Park artists on November 3.

## Editor's Notebook

By Lana Stein

It's time for my annual pitch: Recycle. It's very easy. For a nominal fee, Earthcircle Recycling will collect aluminum and steel cans, newspapers, magazines, junk mail, plastic containers, and glass every Monday. It requires little extra effort and helps the environment.

On a different note, I want to commend the Regional Arts Commission and Focus St. Louis for sponsoring the People Project. It was fun, it was whimsical, it added some pizzazz to our normal environment. Were these great works of art? Will they endure? That is doubtful. But fun is not always easy to come by and the People were fun. I had enjoyed them at the Galleria and in Forest Park but I especially enjoyed looking at the sculptures at Kiener Plaza and by Union Station. A friend and I scoped it all out on a warm September day and returned to the grand finale, the People Family Reunion.



A particularly patriotic People Project Sculpture drew attention during the recent display.

Some critics spoke ill of the project and denied that it could provide any possible benefit to our community. Of course, it was an imitation of the Chicago cows. But, St. Louis was the only city to do people. And, the people took on many varied shapes and positions and used many different kinds of material. My friend really liked the Bean Counter. I liked the student at a desk. One of the pictures I took on my People visits appear here. This project certainly could interest young people in art and could also show our sometimes stodgy city that public art is a very positive thing.

Putting on this display throughout the metropolitan area was expensive and time-consuming. Even so, I hope that a similar project can take place again someday. We need a little whimsy and we can always use some art.

The West End Arts Council, co-chaired by our beautification maven Andy Cross, has a project in a similar vein. Children participate in the creation of wood sculptures at Four Corners and their work will grace our neighborhood for awhile. Resident artists supervise the children as they assemble their objects d'art1200. We are fortunate that the Regional Arts Commission contributes to our local endeavor.

It's time to quash the naysayers. Let's let public art bring us together in laughter, in pathos, and in understanding.

## Calendar

### Neighborhood Events and Meetings

**December 4** - 7th District Public Affairs Meeting, 4014 N. Union Blvd., 7:00 p.m.

**December 8** - Wintermarkt, Four Corners Park, noon until 6:00 p.m.

**December 8** - Christmas Caroling in Skinker-Debaliviere, Four Corners Park, 5:30 p.m.

**December 10** - SDCC Board Meeting, SDCC Office, 7:00 p.m.

**December 13** - Police Appreciation Luncheon, SDCC Office, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

### Other Events of Interest

**Now - Dec. 30** The Saint Louis Art Museum exhibits the work of world-famous architect Tadao Ando, who recently designed the building housing The Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts, his first public building in the United States.

**Dec. 7** All are welcome at the 28th Ward Regular Democrats annual Christmas Party at Dressel's Pub Above on Euclid. Festivities begin at 6:30 pm.

**Dec. 9 - Aug. 2000** Sesame Street Exhibition at the Missouri History Museum, "Can You Tell Me How to Get to Sesame Street?" Admission is \$4; members and children under 2 are free. This is a three-dimension, interactive exhibit that celebrates this revolutionary television program with hands-on activities.



Tadao Ando, Architect, at the Saint Louis Art Museum.

## Msgr. Dwyer Publishes Book on the Rosary

Msgr. Adrian I. Dwyer is Senior Priest in Residence at St. Roch Church and known to many in Skinker DeBaliviere. He has just published his second book, *Reflections on the Mysteries of the Rosary*. It is designed to give scriptural and historical background to enrich the reader's devotion to Our Lady.

He also illumines the related passages of scripture that deal with each decade of the Rosary in the light of Jewish traditions. Dwyer completed post-graduate work in theology and canon law, and he is continuing his religious studies. Msgr. Dwyer's book is available from Dorrance Publishing Company.

## The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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### Guidelines for Submitting Copy

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

## Letter to Editor

Dear Editor,

I wanted to write a brief note to reflect on my recent mid-August visit to the old hood. While I've been gone from St. Louis for 4 years now, my return visits are always harried and usually in the winter it seems. Thus, it was nice to be there when the weather was warm, the kids were out, and the trees and gardens were all filled out. I must say the old place looks great!!

There's been much controversy of late over the Metrolink and other matters, but folks need to remind themselves of all the good things the hood has accomplished. So many buildings have been improved and have new signs of life. So many new neighbors are involved that I hardly recognized most of the names in the "TIMES" reprinting of the SCCC minutes. So much is improving and revitalizing on Delmar. It's hard to see how much changes when you're there everyday, but take it from someone who wishes she were, but isn't-the place is changing dramatically for the better and will just keep doing so. There's lots of old

and new energy that will keep things on the upswing. As one of my favorite SDCC neighbors used to say, "don't let the naysayers get you down!" Enjoy your success and keep up the good work!

Your old neighbor,  
Catherine Forslund  
Rockford, IL

### Editor's Note:

Catherine Forslund was President of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council a decade ago and led a planning effort which stimulated the work of the many active committees operating today in the neighborhood, including the Delmar Commercial Committee. Husband Roy Roncal, a professional photographer, was President of the West End Arts Council for many years and participated in many other community activities. Since receiving her PhD, Catherine has become an academic, and she and Roy have recently purchased a home in Rockford, Illinois, where Catherine is a History Professor at Rockford College.

# Neighborhood Volunteers Needed

By Daniel Schesch, President, SDCC

A couple of years ago, some newer younger Skinker-DeBaliviere residents said that

1) they didn't know what the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council did, and

2) they didn't know how to get involved in our community.

Since then, the Council has taken steps to better inform residents as to what it does, holding annual public meetings; updating and maintaining the Skinker-DeBaliviere web page at <http://stlouis.missouri.org/skinkerdebaliviere/> <http://stlouis.missouri.org/skinkerdebaliviere>, contributing articles to this newspaper; and creating and using electronic mail lists for updates by the Council office and myself. And still more can be done. This article addresses the second concern, how to get involved. Though there have been individual conversations, bring it to the whole neighborhood is important, because volunteers are the backbone of the vitality of our neighborhood, and the ranks have become thin, with sometimes too few having to do too much.

One of the harder things to balance is the recognition of people's contributions. Most volunteers give of themselves because giving to others, having an impact on the community in which they live, and on other people's lives, matters to them, so too much praise can make them uncomfortable. Having the spotlight shining on them is not what motivates them. On the other hand, if no one notices, says thank you, it is legitimate to wonder their efforts matter or are having any impact. Volunteers usually don't do marketing surveys to see what was "needed". They usually observe that something needs to be done, sometime they were asked, but after a while, if few others step up to the plate, it is essential that we not only say thank you, but get involved ourselves.

This article is my effort to say thank you to some wonderful residents of our community, and it is a request for those of you who may not be volunteering and might have some time, no matter how little, to think about and act on getting involved. As you read through the names and volunteer efforts, and perhaps you spot something you'd like to be involved in, or don't spot it and think our neighborhood would be the better for it and you are willing to help do it, please contact Laure Porterfield at the Council office at 862-5122, and the e-mail address is [skinkerd@stlouis.missouri.org](mailto:skinkerd@stlouis.missouri.org). Please note that of the people mentioned, none knew that this was being written; so that any errors or omissions are my responsibility alone.

The following notes are not intended to list even most who give of themselves to the neighborhood, but to provide flavor of who and what support our neighborhood and make life in it that much nicer. Not mentioned for lack of space are the residents who work within the volunteer efforts of the several institutions in our neighborhood (St. Roch, Grace Methodist, and New Cote Brillante Churches, Washington U., Hamilton and Crossroads School), whose activities also add to the richness of life here, nor those residents who volunteer in organizations and activities outside the neighborhood which add to the richness of life in St. Louis and

beyond.

I'll start with visible things:

The children's playground at Kingsbury and Des Peres, came about because a few people under Katrina Stierholz's leadership saw a need for the playground for our new generation of young children. They defined the problem, worked on & implemented the solution, raising tens of thousands of dollars from us, grants, and the city, working with the architects, contractors and overcoming bureaucratic obstacles to get it built over a more than two year period. The playground is now a meeting place, not only for children, but for their parents and caretakers, who play with the children, meet each other and forge the bonds of our community. If that wasn't enough, Katrina is leading the effort to develop a plan to renovate Lucier Park, currently not in good shape and mostly unused but the only large public park sized space in our neighborhood.

Then there are our two community gardens. Andy Cross providing leadership in creating and maintaining the one in the 5900 block of McPherson. Ronie Haliburton playing the same role for the one in the 5800 block of Westminster. Not only have these gardens won numerous gardening awards, but like the playground, they serve as a community meeting place, where residents who love growing things meet while working, talk and share their common interests and forge the bonds of our community.

Another visible thing is our neighborhood newspaper, which you are holding, published for over thirty years. Over the last decade or so, it has been a labor of love by four residents, Lois Schoemehl, Lana Stein, Jo Ann Vatcha, and Marj Weir. Though some read it from cover to cover and others skip and scan, it has helped define our community. As Lana Stein said at our annual meeting last month, to keep it going "new blood" is needed. We have many talented writers in the neighborhood, so this is an appeal for you to step forward and contact the Times to help out, not just in writing, but in the tasks of editing, laying out and publishing.

When code enforcement was to take place this year, it was realized that people with fixed incomes might be unable to meet the costs of fixing up the exterior violations of their homes. John Thomas helped lead the effort to both distribute some unused housing funds the Council held in trust, but also to bring in volunteers from our several churches and out of town youth to help repair many homes for needy residents late last summer.

For many years the Skinker-DeBaliviere Housing Corporation, a low profile non-profit, separate from the Council, has been rehabilitating, managing, and selling multi-family homes & buildings in our neighborhood. Susie Feinberg and Karleen Hoerr provided the leadership of that hard working board for many years; Chris Manzo has just been chosen to lead the group.

In the area of events that enrich our community, most people may know of our annual Rags to Riches outdoor "garage" sale each August. Though started in the Rosedale neighborhood many years ago, it is becoming a neighborhood wide event. Leadership has been provided by RNA presi-

dents, most recently, Tim Schoemehl, Amy Gill, Katrina Stierholz, and Julie Schoemehl. The West End Community Picnic is an annual event with great food, entertainment for children, and time for conversation, the brainchild of, organized and run for many, many years by Shirley Polk and other volunteers.

The annual Halloween party at St. Roch Church is the brainchild of, organized, and run for many years by Art Santen and other volunteers. Instead of residents answering their doors to trick-or-treaters through the entire late afternoon and evening, as in other communities, Art's many year's labor of love has provided a special time of enjoyment for our children with entertainment and treats at the party, followed by a time for trick or treating ending at 8 p.m.

National Night Out has become a very special community event here, attracting about 200-300 residents and many political leaders in the last two years, through the efforts of Laure Porterfield, Katrina Stierholz, and many other volunteers, who cook the franks & brats, sell the tickets, ice cream and staff the many other tables.

A recent "fund raising" event, held in late spring, the Breakfast Neighborhood Garden tour, has become a community event. Andy Cross' leadership has been assisted by Ronie Haliburton, Susan Littlefield and other volunteers.

There are less visible events, and activities that do not take place every year, such as our Annual food drive, an effort led by Lara Doyle and Shirley Polk, and the most recent West End Arts Council event, the WildPlyWood artistic happening, with Andy Cross, Sheri Speed-Gray, Katrina Stierholz and Shelly Parker most visible.

Paul Hohmann volunteered his leadership for over five years in the effort to make sure that the MetroLink extension does not harm the neighborhood at the same time its additional service adds to it.

Katrina Stierholz and John Van Emden have provided essential leadership for invigorating the Council's presence on the web, and for helping the Council make the technological leap into a more automated and efficient office. Tom Urbom is to be complimented for his able work as the Council's web site webmaster.

Most recently Katie Kurtz along with the Historic District Review Committee is just starting to reinvigorate the protections for our neighborhood offered by our status as a city historic district, and Sole Van Emden is just starting to spearhead an effort to create a neighborhood plan where we will have an opportunity to define what kind of a neighborhood we'd like to be, what to preserve, and what to add.

As regards the Council, 19 of us meet monthly, hear and as needed act on reports from the neighborhood and Council committees. Members are selected either by the institutional members (one each from St. Roch, Grace Methodist, New Cote Brillante Church of God, and Washington University) and from our component neighborhoods. Parkview selects two of their agents to serve on the Council, Rosedale selects its five representatives at their annual meeting, Kingsbury Square its one similarly,

and the 6 representatives from Washington Heights are at-large members. Council members volunteer their time, and sometimes make financial contributions to neighborhood activities.

Beyond recognizing the contributions of my fellow Council members, I would like to recognize the dedicated service of my immediate predecessors as President, Gary Hayes, and Beth Bender. And last but not least I want to recognize the dedicated service of the Council's Executive Director, Laure Porterfield, who volunteers to work in excess of a 5 day, 40 hour work week, it seems part of almost every other weekend, for her also, our neighborhood is a labor of love.

We can be proud of ourselves as a neighborhood because the people within it like those mentioned above do so much for all of us. Please ask yourself, that beyond our physical advantages of fine old homes, if this be as attractive a community to live in if these things were not here, or these activities and others I'm sure I left out, were not happening.

If you are not already participating, and you would like to do so, what can you do? The main point of contact is Laure Porterfield, the Council's Executive Director, call her at the Council office, 562-5122, and she will put you in touch with people already doing it, or if it is a new idea, bring it to the Council's attention.

There is one last idea to leave with you. There are many people, time challenged because of family, career, and other volunteering, who want to do something, but can't be the organizer, or attend regular meetings. If you can put in 2 or 4 hours every few months on a specific activity, ask Laure to put you on our new "on call" list of people we can call to help out at events like the Breakfast Garden Tour, National Night Out, etc.

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### Many Purchase Address Plaques



In an effort to help neighbors meet the terms of the comprehensive code compliance regulations, the Beautification Committee of SDCC offered easy installation alley address plaques to neighbors. The plaques were hand-made, hand-lettered, on cedar, and cost \$10.000. Six hundred seventy plaques were created, and \$670 was raised for the Skinker De Baliviere Community Council. Andy Cross and Laure Porterfield formed the idea for the plaques, and Andy Cross made them.

If you missed the order period and are still interested in a plaque, contact the SDCC office at 862-5122.

### Neighborhood Youngsters Again Enjoy Neighborhood Picnic

Shirley Polk, of 57xx DeGiverville, hosts the Central West End Community Picnic each year at Forest Park. This event is about 2 decades old and never fails to entertain area youngsters. This year the picnic took place on August 19 at Picnic Area #8. Polk, assisted by her husband Al, and friends provides good food and prizes to attendees. For several years, the SDCC has been a sponsor of the picnic.



Shown here is Nicholas Simmons, of 58xx DeGiverville, who won the top prize, a ten-speed bike. Other

children received school supplies-pencils, erasers, notebooks, and backpacks. The temperature soared that August day and so did the spirits of all who participated.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to our editor, Lana Stein, who has been named Chair of the Political Science Department at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. We'll be doubly proud of Lana next spring when her new book on St. Louis politics is published. Look for more news on that coming soon.



Neighbors of all ages attended the First Lucier Park Fall Festival Sunday, October 21, 2001.

### Playground Gets Green

By Andrew Cross

Things have been getting greener around the Four Corners area of Skinker DeBaliviere thanks to the new playground. Formerly a crumbling asphalt slab, the playground at Kingsbury and DesPeres has a stretch of healthy green grass, trees, flowers, and vines.

Hundreds of daylilies were planted along the alley edge of the playground, among the bollards last winter with the help of Jonathan Watt and Craig Jung of Gateway Greening. Dozens of plants from the Great Perennial Divide, sponsored by Gateway Greening, were planted in the new garden at the front of the playground. Later this spring, the St. Roch second grade Brownie Troop 3528 helped plant hundreds of tiny vinca and marigolds supplied by Operation Brightside.

The girls also planted starts of other plants that they had seeded one afternoon in an earlier Brownies' session. These included dianthus, vinca, and the morning glories adorning the fences. This November, the (now Third Grade) Brownies planted over 200 tulips and crocuses at the playground, again under the guidance of the Beautification Committee

The first summer of a new lawn and garden is often the most difficult as the soil is not "alive" yet, and the plants and trees are not settled in. We



lost a couple of trees that the city had planted for us but we replaced them with three fine birches donated by Jonathan Watt.

With a lot of work we have kept the sod alive for this first summer and it, along with the trees, have set their roots and completed their transplantation. We have more work to do next year but the new playground green space at Kingsbury and Des Peres is a significant improvement to that area of the neighborhood.

### Good Bye to the Arthur Building (old Talayna's)

By Andy Cross



Here are a few parting looks at an old landmark of the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood. Last spring the Times wrote of the Arthur Building's fate, with a now and then photo comparison. Sometimes we have to let go of old things to make way for the new ones.



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# Neighborhood Chronicles

## St. Roch's in the 80's and 90's

In the 20 years since Father Salvatore Polizzi arrived in the neighborhood, there have been many changes at St. Roch Church and School. On the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of St. Roch's in 1986, neighbor and teacher Joan Breun wrote of the stabilizing force Polizzi was. The number of families in the parish had doubled in that five years. The church had been rejuvenated, with many physical improvements and repairs. The finances of the church had been stabilized, and successful fundraising efforts had been undertaken. As Msgr. Polizzi says today, Fr. Peet opened the church and school to the entire neighborhood, changing St. Roch's future, making it a place of diversity and inclusion during hard times in the neighborhood.

It was up to Polizzi to learn to work with a strong parish with a large African-American membership, a school with many non-Catholics, and many women leaders, in addition to the traditional male parish leadership. Polizzi undertook the job with energy, the force of his personality and the reputation for activism he brought with him from The Hill. St. Roch's did not become an Italian parish, but it didn't stay Irish either.

By 1987, the school had followed societal changes, for example, expanding to a full-day kindergarten and a daycare program. Sister Leo Ann Bub was principal for 24 years, from 1967 until 1991. As Jean Eberle wrote in 1991,

"Realizing that her students needed a safe and stable area, she and former pastor Msgr. Robert M. Peet threw their support behind efforts to integrate the neighborhood successfully." By 1991, there was not only a stable school population, but many new activities, including a theatre club, a speech club, participation in the Greater St. Louis Science Fair, as well as the regional Math Contest and the many sports activities run by parishioners and other neighborhood resi-



Often depicted with a dog by his side, St. Roch was born in Montpelier, France, at the end of the 13th Century. He was canonized for his miraculous cures of plague victims in Italy. Upon becoming ill with the plague himself, St. Roch disappeared into the forest so he would not infect or be a burden on others. Legend has it that his dog brought him bread, sustaining him through the disease. He recovered and returned to France only to be jailed as an Italian spy. St. Roch died in prison after five years. The frieze pictured is located on the porch of St. Roch's School on Waterman Blvd. The name for the parish was selected in 1911 by a fund-raising competition in which the name was the high bidder. Thus the parish became one of very few named for a canonized layman, an interesting sidelight considering its more recent history in serving both Catholics and non-Catholics. During Sister Leo Ann's 24 years as principal of St. Roch's, the connection of St. Roch to his dog seemed singularly appropriate, as Sister was seldom without her faithful companion black lab. His image even showed up on the school T-shirts!

dents.

In 1991, the first lay principal came to St. Roch's School. Gloria Oppenlander, principal over the past ten years, has restructured the curriculum and worked with parents and teachers to refocus on the individual way each child learns. Along with many new programs, the sense of

structure and self-discipline remains strong. Team sports have continued to be strong, led by school sports coach icon Judge Michael Hart, whose mentoring of coaches has enabled several generations of St. Rochers to succeed in basketball, as well as other sports. As St. Roch's enters 2001, both church and school

seem to have retained a sense of their very important past and their service to the neighborhood, demonstrated clearly in the outpouring of respect and affection at Msgr. Polizzi's 20th Anniversary Celebration.

## Police/Firefighters Annual Appreciation Luncheon

On December 13, once again the neighbors and friends of the Skinker DeBaliviere community will come together to host a Holiday Appreciation Luncheon for the police officers and firefighters who serve our community. And once again, the sponsors of this holiday bash, the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, ask each of you to consider bringing a dish and/or spending some time as neighborhood hosts/hostesses as while we welcome these dedicated men and women to our table.

For seven years now, the Council has held an open house from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. during the December holiday season. On that day, a nearly full complement of

police officers from the Seventh District pass through the Council doors, to be welcomed by neighborhood residents who provide a festive and bounteous buffet of home-cooked goodies and desserts for those who give so much to our neighborhood.

Sign up to bring a vegetable, salad, starch or dessert. And plan to spend a little time either behind the buffet table or meeting and greeting our guests. This neighborhood event provides a good way for newcomers to meet long-time residents as well as the police and firefighters who protect us all.

Questions? Call the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office at 862-5122.



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# Food Drive

Many messages of thanks have arrived at the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council from food pantries who benefitted from this year's collection. Grace Methodist, Grace and Peace, New Cote Brillante and St. Roch all received large deliveries of food as a result of the campaign. Spearheaded once again by the Council's Social Service Committee, the drive produced record yields. Many food pantries are running very low this year as individuals and companies send their charitable contributions to help victims in New York.

Co-chairmen Lara Lennon Doyle and Shirley Polk worked hard to remind the neighbors of the drive and to organize volunteers on the morning of November 3 to make the collection. Students and teachers at Hamilton School continued their generous ways; an industrial size collection barrel was full to overflowing

when SDCC volunteers arrived to pick it up.

On Saturday morning, veteran food drive volunteers Andy Cross, Julie Schoemehl, John Van Emden and Ruth Beckloff picked and sorted at the Four Corners Park collection station. By noon, food was collected and picked up by all but one church; by three, that pickup was completed as well. Many volunteers not named here came and went, taking a chunk of time from busy Saturday schedules as best they could. We thank and salute them as well.

Finally, a call was received from a person who chose to remain anonymous but who indicated that she had, for the first time, received help from one of the area food pantries where she learned of the generosity of Skinker DeBaliviere residents. She asked that all her neighbors be thanked for their assistance.



Pumpkin decorators at Lucier Park Fall Festival Sunday, October 21, 2001.

## Friends Campaign Continues

It's not too late to support the 2001 Friends of Skinker DeBaliviere annual fund-raising campaign. Chairman Linda Cross notes that strong support from the neighborhood pushed the campaign over its official goal by May of this year - - but as the season winds down, you may wish to get that extra tax deduction for 2001. Remember that your contributions to the not-for-profit Council are tax-exempt.

Those contributing at the \$100+ level receive a free Skinker DeBaliviere T-shirt, designed by neighborhood artist Andy Cross and celebrating some of the unique qualities of our neighborhood under the banners of "Preservation; Progress; and Diversity." This original black and white line art includes some architectural details typical to our community and printed on the back of the T-shirt, a nice twist and a good way to completely showcase the neighborhood's proud message.

Those wanting to simply acquire a T-shirt may do so by contacting the SDCC office at 862-5122. All sizes are still in stock, and sell for \$12 with the exception of XXXL, which is priced at \$15.



Thanks to Art Santen, who has organized the Halloween Party at St. Roch's for an amazing 34 years! In 2001, 75 children were entertained by a magician and paraded their costumes. Winners were: CP30, Emily Cross, R2D2, Sarah Cross, both of the 6000 block of McPherson; Zachary Voss, 6100 block of McPherson, Knight; Baby Superman, Daniel, of the 1200 block of Hamilton; Dorothy of the Wizard of Oz, Shelby Marshall of the 6500 block of Plymouth; Nun, Chania Webster, of the 5300 block of Pershing; Feathery Witch, Dave Sanders, of the 6000 block of Westminster; Snow White, Jessica Ryan, 6000 block of McPherson; Bat, Alicia West, of the 3500 block of So. Spring; Powder Puff, Helen Cramer, 6100 block of Westminster.



Brownies helping to beautify the neighborhood. See "Playground Gets Green" on page 4.



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## Community Gardens Win More Prizes

Two Skinker DeBaliviere community gardens won prizes this year. In the Gateway Greening Urban Garden Contest, Block Unit 1035's garden, under the direction of Ronie Haliburton won a prize for the "Best Circle Garden" in the established community garden category. Their circular garden is situated in the center of their raised beds. The 1035 Garden is located on 5800 Westminster, across from Hamilton School. The 1035 Garden also won a prize for best non-traditional scarecrows. Wesley Falker and Michael Butler won prizes for their individual plots.



The McPherson Community Garden also fared well in the Urban Garden Contest. It took 2nd place in the Best Established Community Garden category. The McPherson Community Garden is located on the 5900 block of McPherson and the garden leader is Andy Cross. Other gardeners from the McPherson Garden who were recognized for their efforts were Heather Rainer and Germaine Murray for the best raised bed.

Each year these two community gardens, supported by Gateway Greening and the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, add to their lists of awards and accomplishments. The gardeners are still building, learning, and growing in many ways. Congratulations to all the community gardeners in Skinker DeBaliviere!

**Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council  
Board of Directors Meeting  
August 13, 2001  
(Revised September 26, 2001)  
Minutes**

Attendance: President Dan Schesch, Directors, Sole Van Emden, Lara Lennon Doyle, Peggy Droege, Sharon FitzGibbons, Georgi Fox, Steve Givens, Greg Freeman, Ronie Haliburton, Dee Joyce-Hayes, Paul Hohmann, Joseph Keaveny, Gwen LaZard, Shirley Polk, Tim Schoemehl. Guests: Margaret Campbell, Tom Cohen, Ken Cohn, Andy Cross (Beautification), John Daniel, John Van Emden, Tanya Griffin, Deadra Horton (Block Captain 5700 McPherson), George Johannes, Pete Kelly, Sean McWilliams, Steve Mnich, Jon Parker, Shelly Goebel-Parker, Jason Roberts, Sally Roberts, P.O. Don Reynolds (SLPD), Katrina Stierholz, Susan Talley, Arline Webb. Staff: Gary Boehnke (Housing Corporation Project Administrator), Laure Porterfield (SDCC Executive Director).

Absent: Rev. Miki Merritt, John Thomas, Val Tortensen.

President Daniel Schesch called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Welcome, introductions and announcements

The minutes from June were reviewed and approved after corrections were made to the attendance.

**Treasurer's Report -Peggy Droege**

June and July are within budget. Reminder letters sent to institutions. Garden Tour report: \$1,321.75 net profit. Executive Committee approved a donation of \$200.00 to the annual Community Picnic. Motion was made to approve the June and July Treasurer's reports. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Presentation: Redesign of the Arthur Building. Revised plans call for a smaller building, no underground parking and to have the alley vacated along Forest Park Parkway (next to the building only).

**Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council  
Board of Directors Meeting  
June 11, 2001  
Minutes**

Attendance: President Dan Schesch, Directors, Sole Van Emden, Peggy Droege, Sharon FitzGibbons, Georgi Fox, Steve Givens, Greg Freeman, Ronie Haliburton, Dee Joyce-Hayes, Paul Hohmann, Joseph Keaveny, Gwen LaZard, Shirley Polk, Tim Schoemehl, John Thomas. Guests: Captain James Geiseke (SLPD), Alderman Lyda Krewson, P.O. Don Reynolds (SLPD), Val Torstenson.

Absent: Lara Lennon Doyle, Rev. Miki Merritt, Katrina Stierholz.

President Daniel Schesch called the meeting to order at 7:05. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report - Peggy Droege reported that all collections from CDA are in line and that the report has been corrected to show this. The report was approved as submitted. Peggy noted that the Breakfast Garden Tour netted over \$1,300, with more funds turned in this evening. Andy Cross made a more detailed report on the Garden Tour, which was very successful; participants and tour observers all seemed to have a good time. Special thanks to Genesis House for the coffee and Renard Paper for supplies, as well as to all the board members who either purchased or sold tickets and who participated on tour day as volunteers and/or participants.

Security Report - Police Officer Don Reynolds introduced Captain James Geiseke, the new Captain of the 7th District. Don was pleased to report that there was nothing new regarding crime in

Parking is a major concern of residents. Washington University has plans to improve parking behind apartment buildings on Pershing. Lengthy question and answer period followed where various aspects of the new design and building use addressed. Paul Hohmann presented the Historic District Review Community opinion to the new plan. A motion was made to approve the revised plan per the recommendations of the Historic District Review Committee and to request a time line for demolition, clean up, grading and sodding until construction begins. Motion passed 11 yes, 2 no, 1 abstention

A motion was made to establish a sub-committee of the Residential Committee to look at long term planning throughout the neighborhood. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

**Security Report - P.O. Don Reynolds**

Car theft is up. Car break-ins are down. Liquor store at 6104 Delmar is closed. B&W Liquor (next to Amoco at Goodfellow & Delmar) may be forced to close as building maybe condemned.

**Security Committee**

Protest was filed against the liquor store at 6104 Delmar to prevent them from reopening the store. The license for the Sur Sav has expired. New license will have restrictions. Country Store's license is up for renewal in February. Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council will protest unless restrictions similar to those listed in the agreement with the Sur Sav are attached.

**SDCC Board of Director  
August 13, 2001**

National Night Out - Katrina Stierholz and Andy Cross

Attendance was good. Special thanks to Juanita and Robert Wood, Andy and Linda Cross, Katrina Stierholz, Mark Banacek, Shelly Parker, Carmen Fowler, Donetta Kee, and many other hard working volunteers. Liquor sales did not cover

our neighborhood. A question was raised about auto sticker theft and there was discussion about possible statewide change to window stickers. This problem is not just with our neighborhood, or even with our city, but statewide in nature.

Security Committee - Chairman Gary Hayes reported that the committee has patrolled for burnt-out streetlights. They asked that block captains and individuals take on the responsibility to report lights as soon as they observe them, through Citizens Service Bureau (622-4800) or Larry Isom, the NSO (454-9749). Gary also addressed the Security Committee's efforts to control the liquor consumption/loitering problems on Delmar at Hamilton, particularly as this affects our community's ability to utilize Lucier Park. He spoke about a new court initiative that brings repeat nuisance offenders directly to court and allows them to be remanded for treatment and/or for community service. He has arranged for a meeting with Bob Crecelius, the court clerk. After much discussion, the security committee's recommendation that the Council oppose the issuance of a new license was passed.

The Board President asked Gary to share information from a recently held meeting of the Washington University Neighbors Council. Gary indicated that the Council had been told that the bids for the new building at Skinker and Forest Park Parkway came in at almost double the amount budgeted for construction. They are currently revising plans to bring down the costs. Decision on how they will move forward will be reached in three to six months.

They were also told that the University now owns two houses on Lindell east of

cost of special event insurance.

**Transportation Committee - Paul Hohmann**

Nothing new to report. Bi-State had an open house in July that was well attended. Encourage all to attend County Council meetings about MetroLink.

**Lucier Park Committee - Katrina Stierholz**

Have an agreement with a landscape architect to have prepare preliminary drawings. Hope to be ready for the Fall Festival, set for October 21.

**Beautification - Andy Cross**

Block Unit 1035 Garden won prizes in the Gateway Greening contest McPherson Garden also was recognized. Trees donated to replace the ones that died at the playground.

**Executive Director's Report - Laure Porterfield**

See attached report. Loitering at Rosedale and Washington is down. Liquor store closing has reduced litter and nuisance crimes. Article in Post Dispatch regarding KACI/Holy Ground project in 57XX McPherson. Press conference held in North City featured Chief Joe Mowk.

**Executive Committee Report - Dan Schesch**

The application for a conditional use permit at 327 DeBaliviere was denied. Alderman Krewson said she would like to work on rezoning in conjunction with a development plan. All left turns have been restore at Lindell and DeBaliviere. Many thanks to Alderman Krewson and all who wrote to express their concerns.

**Other Business**

Letter re-61XX McPherson. Property is to be purchased renovated and let owner/occupant stay there. Rags to Riches - please volunteer, August 18th. See Tim Schoemehl, President, Rosdale.

Community Picnic August 19th. Contributions welcome. Thanks to Shirley Polk for her hard work on this event.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. Juanita Wood

Skinker, and that the first house will be torn down for green space. The second house will be sold to a private buyer for residential use. Discussion ensued regarding Washington University's plans for the Arthur building and what requests if any we should make of the University.

**SDCC Board of Director  
June 11, 2001**

Greg Freeman then made the following motion:

That we ask the university to: move forward with demolition; clean up the site in preparation for new construction; include a sign showing a drawing for the building and the estimated date of completion. The motion was defeated. Dee Joyce Hayes then made the following motion: That we ask the University to clean up the site, secure the building against weather and vandalism; place a sign as was described in Greg's motion; mention the Historic District Review Committee and their necessary role in approving any new plans that might be proposed or developed; and that all of this needs to be revised in a timely fashion (by the August meeting). The motion passed.

Aldermanic Report - Lyda Krewson reported that the Delmar Business Association has discussed the possibility of establishing a special business district. Tax dollars raised would be spent at the business' discretion to bring about various enhancements. The new Executive Committee of the Delmar Business Association will choose and help Lyda spend \$10,000 that she has earmarked for trash receptacles on Delmar.

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See Minutes, June 11

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council  
Board Meeting  
May 14, 2001

**Minutes**

In Attendance: President Dan Schesch, Directors, Dana Banks (alt.), Peggy Droege, Georgi Fox,

Greg Freeman, Steve Givens, Ronie Haliburton, Dee Joyce-Hayes, Paul Hohmann, Joseph Keaveny,

Gwendolyn LaZard, Shirley Polk, Tim Schoemehl, Lana Stein, Katrina Stierholz, John Thomas,

Sole Van Emden. Guests: Andy Cross (Beautification), Larry Isom (NSO), Alderman

Lyda Krewson, Avis Miller (Hamilton Elementary CEC), P.O. Don Reynolds (7th District Police).

Staff: Gary Boehnke (Housing Corporation Project Administrator), Laure Porterfield

(SDCC Executive Director).

Excused: Lara Lennon Doyle, Rev. Miki Merritt.

Absent: Sharon FitzGibbons,

The meeting was called to order by Board President Dan Schesch. The minutes from the April meeting were reviewed and accepted as corrected. The Treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

Andy Cross reported on three fundraisers currently in progress:

- Alley plaques showing a property's street address are available for \$10.00 through the council. Andy has begun processing orders and hopes to have them all delivered within the month. Using recycled materials, Andy contributes all the proceeds to the council's general revenue fund.
- Breakfast Garden Tour - the Tour, set for June 9th, is one month away. Flyers are going out to the block captains this week. Genesis Coffee house will provide coffee and volunteers at the McPherson Garden. There will be a gardening demonstration at the Triangle Park by Gateway Greening. Looking for volunteers for that morning. The committee also needs the help of the board selling the tickets to the tour. Advanced sale adult tickets are \$10.00. They are \$12.00 the day of the tour. Children ten and over are \$5.00 and under ten are free, although reservations are appreciated.
- T-shirts - the new T-shirt is available for purchase at the Council for \$12.00.

P.O. Don Reynolds answered questions regarding two recent armed robberies in the neighborhood. He also discussed the crime stats for the area. Due to the change of ownership at Sur Save the hearing for a new license will be held this month by the Excise Commissioner, Bob Kraiberg.

After much discussion, a motion was made directing the Executive Director to consult with the West End Community Conference and with the Alderman for the 26th Ward regarding their positions on this license.

The board further directed the Executive Director to prepare a draft of a letter outlining the Board's opposition to issuance of a new license. The motion passed.

**SDCC Board of Directors - May 14, 2001**

Laure Porterfield reported for Katie Kurtz, chairman of the Historic District Review Committee. The meeting held last Thursday evening at St. Roch Church Hall was very successful. Nearly 100 people were in attendance to hear a presentation by Kate Shea, Director of the Cultural

(continued on page 8)  
See Minutes, May 14

# IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Q. Hoerr

It started with my watching Gladiator on the tube for the fourth time. There was Russell Crowe, in all his glory, fighting left and right, blood spilling and the crowd cheering. I knocked over my popcorn while rooting for him. "Gosh," I thought, while pulling the kernels from the shag carpeting. "I've seen this before, but where?" Then it dawned on me. Of course! Gladiator is nothing more than a re-make, and not a terribly good one at that, of Rocky III.

Now mind you, I'm biased. I consider the Rocky series high art. Those flicks had it all: a battered hero, rags to riches, sweat, blood, the good guy triumphing (other than in Rocky I), more sweat and blood, and even a love interest. Honestly, the only thing that comes close to them are the any of the films featuring Inspector Closeau. (Or anything with Meg Ryan, but that's another story.)

But why? What is the attraction of the Rocky series? Sylvester Stallone will never be confused with the great actors of our era - Rock Hudson, Mel Gibson, or Buddy Epton - and while the musical score is great background while jogging or doing your taxes, it really doesn't contribute much. The heroine? Gosh, I can't even remember her face, much less her name.

Then it dawned on me. The Rocky series captures our imagination, grabs our viscera, pounds in our heads because it addresses the one constant of humanity. That's right, sport. Whether it's the soccer field or basketball court, the ice rink or swimming

pool, sport simplifies life. There are rules, there are winners, there are losers. We might complain about the ump, but life doesn't get much clearer than in an athletic competition.

Some folks think that sport requires a ball. Unless a sphere is put into play, it ain't a sport. In a word, they're wrong. While most sports do revolve around a ball, that's not necessary. What is necessary is some semblance of rules, a way of keeping score, and a clear-cut criterion for determining who wins and who loses. Gosh, it sounds a lot like dating.

OK, so we've established that sport is integral to human nature, produces good character and strong citizens, lowers the crime rate, attracts tourists, creates community good will, and adds to the tax base. There is simply no doubt that sport is good for the quality of life in our community and even better when played in a new stadium. (To be fair, you haven't missed something in my preceding paragraphs. In fact, I didn't establish these things at all. It came from a press release sent by the baseball Cardinals in support of their new taxpayer-funded temple, I mean stadium.)

As should be obvious by now, I am most knowledgeable about sports. Having spent much of my youth playing them, reading about them, talking about them, watching them, and dreaming about them, I know sports left and right, first and third, port and starboard, birdie and ace. (Knowing, unfortunately, doesn't equate with playing, but that's a story for another

time.) Given that my body is aging, given that things hurt in the morning that I didn't even know I had when I went to bed the night before, I find myself relegated to being a sports aficionado rather than a sports participant. With time on my hands, I've ruminated on sports. After many hours of pondering their attraction, I've come up with something pretty exciting and relevant: a hierarchy of sports. Yep, consider this your holiday present, dear reader. I've ranked all the major sports, low to high, on the CRASH scale (the Continuum of Reliable Attractiveness, Sophistication, and Heartrate). Every important sport is rated on its political acceptance.

## Hawkeye's CRASH Scale (in ascending order)

### LOW political acceptance

- cock fighting
- car racing
- dogs chasing phony rabbits
- World Wrestling Federation
- rugby
- boxing
- archery
- hockey
- shotput
- darts
- lacrosse
- speed White Castle eating
- tug-of-war
- Twister
- soccer
- attending a Bee Gees concert
- swimming
- football
- horse racing
- selling gift-wrap

- hopscotch
- diving
- selling candies at Skinker & Milbrook
- Jeopardy
- figure skating
- long-distance running
- hide & seek
- track
- synchronized swimming
- flying a kite
- baseball with a designated hitter
- ping-pong
- tennis
- badminton
- sky diving
- football wearing helmets
- volleyball
- diving into water
- field hockey
- figure skating
- flying a kite outdoors
- basketball
- dodge ball
- baseball without a designated hitter
- synchronized Twister
- gymnastics
- chess
- Steal the Bacon
- the Electoral College

### HIGH political acceptance

Not listed because they really aren't sport: golf, bowling, origami, cards, and bicycling.

So, whaddya think? Does your ranking agree with mine? Do you have some sports that I've neglected? I'm right and you're wrong, but I'd be interested in your 3 cents anyway. Send your Sports Ranking to me, Hawkeye, at [trhoerr@AOL.com](mailto:trhoerr@AOL.com). Entries will be considered the property of *The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere*.

## Minutes, June 11

(continued from page 7)

Lyda also reported that she met recently with Bi-State and the Mayor's Office regarding her goal of getting a "real engineering effort" for alternatives at Des Peres and the Parkway.

She reported that 6186 McPherson continues to be a problem. She continues to receive many complaints about activity at the home; about the number of folks living there; and about behavior on the sidewalk and even in the street. She may invoke the nuisance ordinance regarding this property.

John Thomas reported that Grace was trying to work with the owner in order to bring the building up to code as part of code enforcement. It was moved and approved to write a letter to Mr. Taylor notifying him of our continued concerns about the number of unrelated people living in the building and the disruptive behavior. If this situation is not remedied immediately, the Council will urge the Alderman to move forward with eminent domain.

6172 Delmar - They continue to operate a business without an occupancy permit. They have no license for cafe activities. The Commercial District Committee continues to try to work with Legacy Books on this.

Redistricting - Lyda's goal is to keep the ward intact. However, the ward needs to give up a few hundred people.

There were various questions and comments about the Forest Park/Des Peres intersection and the Jersey barriers now blocking bicycle, rollerblade and baby carriage access to the path.

There was an update on the Forest Park Advisory Council - Five volunteers have been found to attend the meetings. There may still be an opening on the Advisory Council. It was moved and

passed unanimously that we send a letter recommending Lara Lennon Doyle, Lana Stein, and Rick Bender be considered for these appointments.

### SDCC Board of Directors June 11, 2001

Transportation Committee - Paul Hohmann reported that the station at Skinker has now shifted to the east and the walkway to Limits Walk eliminated. Right now there is a pedestrian bridge over the tracks in a five-foot cut. Congressman Clay's letter to Bi-State was distributed.

Residential Committee - Lana Stein and Laure Porterfield reported that Code Enforcement is proceeding. 44 people have applied for the grant money; some 22 have not completed and attached code violation letters. They were notified by mail that this needed to be done if they were to be considered for the program. John Thomas is working with churches and block captains to get resources and referrals to people who might need assistance.

Kingsbury Square - Sharon Fitzgibbons reported that the Bi-State facility has walls built on the neighbors' property. Walls are built of rotting railroad ties. Want a brick wall to keep out noise and pollution from busses.

Kingsbury Square asked that the board write a letter asking that the old wall be demolished and replaced with a brick sound barrier moved back to Bi-State's property. It was moved and seconded to send a letter after all details are worked out with Sharon. Val was introduced as a potential new representative to the council.

Respectfully submitted, Tim Schoemehl.

## Minutes, May 14

(continued from page 7)

Resources Office, regarding the benefits and responsibilities of living in an historic district.

Paul Hohmann, chairman, presented the Transportation Committee Report. The station at Skinker has been moved slightly east and the exit ramp at Limits walk has been eliminated at the request of Parkview. BSDA just recently learned that the sidewalk area, which they had assumed to be public property, in fact was constructed on an easement granted by individual property owners. As a result there is not enough room to construct the previously promised sound wall between the tracks, now shifted to the North side of the Parkway and the homes on Pershing in Parkview.

Beautification Chairman Andy Cross reported on the Brightside Planting Day, which was held Saturday, May 5. The flower exchange also went well. A huge truckload of mulch has been used throughout the neighborhood to mulch public areas. Free grass seed and brightside flowers were also distributed. The plant exchange also went well. Many thanks to neighbors who swapped or contributed. Many new flowers were added to the playground. Andy is looking for volunteers to water at Four Corners Park.

Ad hoc Education Committee - Betul Ozmat had to resign from the committee because of a conflict with her summer teaching schedule. Jesse Brown agreed to become the new chairman.

Chairman Lana Stein reported that Code Enforcement was proceeding. Nearly 250 information packets have

been made and handed out. As part of his work at Grace Methodist, John Thomas is working to get a code compliance initiative underway that will focus on serving low income and senior citizen residents who need help bringing their buildings up to code. John asked that the Council agree to be a co-sponsor and be named on any literature. It was agreed that the Council would co-sponsor.

Executive Director's written report was included in the Board packets. The plans for the Transportation Plaza and streetscape enhancements paid out of FTA grant monies are moving along well. The design team recently in St. Louis proposed many exciting ideas with particular focus on lighting and similar amenities. Gary Boehnke reported for the Housing Corporation. Made note of the removal of the retaining wall at the corner of Rosedale and Washington.

Dan Schesch reported for the Executive Committee. He will send an email to solicit neighbors to attend the Forest Park Advisory Council meetings. He is also looking for someone to head up the next phase of office renovation. The Council also recognized and thanked Lana Stein for her years of service on the Board. She is no longer living in Nina Place and thus cannot be their representative to the Council. Board members raised continued concerns regarding bulk items put in the alleys when it is not bulk pick-up. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by acting secretary Tim Schoemehl.