

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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FREE

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DELMAR COMMERCIAL COMMITTEE 2002 Report To The Community

by Jo Ann Vatcha

The Delmar Commercial Committee has been working towards the successful redevelopment of Delmar Boulevard for several years. We have been gratified with several successful steps forward during 2002.

- Bidding will finally begin in November for the streetscape improvements on Delmar between the MetroLink Station and the City Limits. This includes widened sidewalks, new trees and planters. Hopefully, this will not coincide with the beginning stages of the MetroLink shutdown of Forest Park Expressway, which recently was reported to start within a month of the notice to proceed, which is scheduled to be issued in June, 2003. That work will last until 2005; the Delmar Streetscape construction will be underway by late spring, 2003, and will last approximately four months.
- The streetscape will include pedestrian light fixtures (lower than the cobra lights, which remain). These were finally negotiated by Bi-State and the City, working with our committee and with Joe Edwards and the University City Council and City Manager Leland Walker's Office, to be the same fixture as the fixture to be installed in the University City Loop. This will give the entire streetscape a unified look, from the Wabash Station all the way to the Lions' Gates. This was not an easy accomplishment!
- The cobra street lights will be repositioned, across from each other, so that in future years, we will be able to have holiday lights all the way down Delmar. Joe Edwards and Alderman



This rendering of the Delmar streetscape west of the station shows the improvements which will finally be made in 2003--wider sidewalks and landscaping. Additional improvements beyond what was planned in 1997-98 will include new lighting all the way from the Wabash Station through the Loop.

Lyda Krewson have worked especially hard for these lighting improvements.

- The Community Pathway, between the MetroLink parking lot and the Pageant, finally has its poles for the artwork to be installed. Sarah Smith's Arts in Transit group will be overseeing the final art project, which coordinates with the Walk of Fame with quotes and images of famous St. Louisans. The icon poles are now in place! With the poles installed, artist Ron Fondaw has gotten accurate measurements and has begun carving the icon elements. Throughout October and

November he will be fabricating the elements and sending them on for fiberglass treatment. After proper weathering of the poles, Ron will begin painting them in mid-November. In December, the shades and wind vanes will be completed, leaving January for painting the remaining elements. Installation is scheduled for the beginning of February.

- The Regional Arts Commission groundbreaking was held, and a crane is now to be seen there. Their new headquarters building will be in place by next year.
- Redesigning the space where the 6154 building collapsed is continuing. Whatever Joe Edwards develops there will be coordinated with the new Loop Theatre at the old Olivet Church, still in the planning

(Continued on page 7)

What's At Stake November 5?

By Lana Stein

Some Americans don't vote with any regularity. They feel it doesn't make a difference. In this election, we can make a difference in 4 instances.

The Democrats control the U.S. Senate by only one vote. There are only a handful of really contested Senate elections across the U.S. Missouri's is one of them. The polls show a very tight race between Jean Carnahan, Democrat, and Jim Talent, Republican. You could help choose the victor and perhaps control of the Senate.

The second and third instances concern the Missouri House and Senate. The Democrats have a small majority in the House and the Republicans have a small one in the Senate. The results from just a few races could change the

balance of power in Jefferson City.

Finally, there is Home Rule for St. Louis. If Amendment A passes, citizens of St. Louis can address both the county and city aspects of governance in a new charter. But, voters are not selecting an organization plan. Instead, they are choosing whether they want the power to do so. If the Amendment fails, state government remains in charge of our 8 county offices, in accord with the state constitution. If it passes, and all state voters get to vote on it, St. Louis gets more home rule. St. Louis County and other state counties have this right. St. Louis stands alone without home rule over its county functions.

Wintermarkt Call for Artists/Crafters

The West End Arts Council proudly issues a call for entries to potential participating crafts persons, artists and bakers for the second annual Wintermarkt, and outdoor arts and crafts festival. The Wintermarkt will be held Saturday, December 7th, at Four Corners Park. This celebration of the holidays features handcrafted toys, treats, jewelry, decorations, and gifts for your home, your family and friends

Last year's participants offered hand-made jewelry, hand crafted objects d'art for the home, dried flowers, holiday decorations, hand thrown pottery, blown glass, and hand-crafted baked goods of every description. Plans for this year included a blacksmithing demonstration, roasted chestnuts, jewelry, holiday decorations and much more. Proceeds benefit the West End Arts Council.

For registration forms, or with any questions, craftsmen and artisans should contact the SDCC office at 862-5122.

Editor's Notebook

By Lana Stein

I have recently read a book called "Place Matters" that deals with economic and racial segregation in American metropolitan areas. The authors present interesting data and ample historic detail. But, something is missing. There is integration in some places, both economic and racial. Of course, Skinker DeBaliviere is one of those places here as is Tower Grove South and East, the Shaw, and other city neighborhoods. Bel Nor certainly is that way in the county. But the authors of "Place Matters" link St. Louis to Detroit and Camden. Since Detroit is my hometown and I have read about Camden, I would say this is a badly formed trio. Given the new housing going up in St. Louis and the health of a number of commercial areas, we are not in Detroit's dire straits. One of the authors moved to the area last year and joined SLU's faculty. Maybe his thinking will change now that he is among us.

Our type of neighborhood is not a chance occurrence. It took tremendous work and commitment of neighbors, institutions, and elected officials. It still takes work. And we all don't love each and everyone. But, proximity does increase tolerance. There certainly need to be more studies of diverse neighborhoods. It is a hopeful happening in the Gateway City.

As I write these thoughts, I am still recovering from the Cardinal loss. No more post-season. Destiny didn't go far enough. This year's team is an exemplar of working together to overcome stark and unexpected adversity. Hopefully, their esprit d'corps can carry over to another season. Wait until next year.

Goodbye to A Long Time Business

Change is never an exclusively positive activity. Stalin once said that you have to break eggs to make omelets and there is some truth in that aphorism. In my 15 years in St. Louis, Delmar Cleaners has been in the 61xx block of Delmar. I've utilized it over the years, knew some of the people who worked there, and always appreciated them for their

support of this newspaper. Delmar Cleaners departed in September. Its owners and staff are affiliating with a cleaners on Laclede Station Rd. by Watson. Luckily, no one is without work. They will be missed. Hopefully, the newly reconstituted Delmar will have some stores that cater to the residents nearby and their special needs.

Calendar

Upcoming Events Calendar

October 31st — Neighborhood-wide Halloween Party, St. Roch Gymnasium, 5:30-6:30 p.m., STARTS PROMPTLY - ENDS PROMPTLY.

November 6th — Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation, Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury

November 9th — Neighborhood Wide Food Drive benefiting four area food pantries, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, throughout the neighborhood. Collection point at Four Corners Park (Kingsbury and Des Peres)

November 11th — Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting; 7:00 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury

November 20th — SDCHC Board Meeting, 6008 Kingsbury

November 27th — SDCC Executive Committee, 7:30 a.m., 6008 Kingsbury

December 7th — Wintermarkt, Four Corners Park, Kingsbury and Des Peres, noon through 4:00 p.m. All are welcome

December 9th — SDCC Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury

December 18th — SDCHC Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury

December 19th — Police Appreciation Luncheon and Open House, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury

Other Events of Interest

December 7th — Loop Holiday Walk with Santa, Noon to 4 p.m., at the Tivoli.

Through January 5 — In Gallery 313 of the Saint Louis Art Museum — "A Gentleman Collects" — based on a St. Louis private collection featuring more than 40 watercolors, etchings, drawings and paintings by English, German, Dutch and Flemish artists, 17th through early 19th centuries. Free.

Through January 21 — The Missouri Historical Society presents "Our World in Miniature: Trains, Dollhouses and Other Miniatures," at the History Museum in Forest Park, free.

November 1 - December 1 — Bill Kohn: Brunelleschi ed io—new acrylic and watercolor paintings of the Duomo in Florence. At Elliot Smith Contemporary Art, 4727 McPherson in the CWE.

November 9 - January 2 — Bill Kohn: a forty year retrospective — acrylics and watercolors — at the Des Lee Gallery, 1627 Washington Ave. Call 621-8735 for times.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Editor: Lana Stein and JoAnn Vatcha
Business Manager: Lois Schoemehl

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

Deadline for February/March issue: January 10, 2003. Please send copy by e-mail to jvatcha@msn.com or submit typed copy or by disc to 6008 Kingsbury, St. Louis, MO 63112.

The writer is responsible for the accuracy of the data, including times, dates, location, and particularly the spelling of names. The editor retains the right to omit or alter any material.

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To volunteer, you can fill out this sheet and send it to our box at the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council Office, 6008 Kingsbury, or call Co-Editors Lana Stein, 721-7532, or Jo Ann Vatcha at 726-6974.

Your name: _____

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Area(s) of Interest: _____

Thank you for your interest in THE TIMES!

NEWS OF NEIGHBORS

Corrections: in our last issue, photo credits were overlooked. We definitely want to thank Andy Cross and Dave Schmidt for their wonderful pictures taken during the annual Garden Tour. There were some charming family portraits, as well as some great gardening shots, and we were delighted to have space for many of them. Thanks to all our neighborly gardeners and photographers!

Congratulations to Jaina and Paul Stuss of the 6100 block of Westminster, who welcomed their first child, Parker Gerome on October 2, 2002. Jaina, as well as her mom and sister, were honored guests at a baby shower hosted by Westminster neighbor Linda Nodiff, Robyn Nagle, and Mary Powell. Great food and drink and a leisurely stroll down memory lane for many was greatly enhanced by the participation of Linda Nodiff's delightful teenager, Monica, and Robyn's lovely and helpful daughter,

Maggie.

News should be coming soon from "down under", as recent college graduate John McGuire left for Australia last month. Parents Dan and Jill McGuire are adventurers, too, but John is taking things to a new level with this trip!

Did you know that the Riverfront Times Best of St. Louis Awards recently named Delmar Restaurant and Lounge the area's Best Jazz Club and The Pageant the Best Rock & Roll Club in St. Louis? The Loop was named Best Shopping District and Best Place to People Watch. Stores and restaurants west of Skinker scored big, with 22 "Bests."

If you have news to share with your neighbors, e-mail me at jvatcha@stlouis.missouri.org, or call 726-6974. Our next issue will be in February, and we'll look forward to hearing from you. Happy Holidays.

Remembering Christine Smith



Christine Smith, at center, right of husband Bruce (in cowboy hat), in this TIMES photo celebrating a Pet Photo Contest at the old library kiosk.

A longtime resident of 5800 Pershing, Christine Smith, passed away in September. She and her husband Bruce were active in the neighborhood during the early years of the SDCC. People's Clinic began at 6008 Kingsbury, now the site of the Council office. Christine Smith was Executive Director of the People's Clinic in its early days and contributed to helping it become the very viable service agency that it is today. In the 80's she was director of the nursing center in the Central West End.

The Smiths have been active members of the 28th Ward Regular Democrats for over thirty years. They participated in almost every meeting and were

certainly regulars in every sense of the word.

Christine was very proud of her Native American ancestry, and was a font of Indian lore and legend. Recently, she crafted ornaments for a holiday bird tree that was placed in Four Corners Park, and she gifted her friends in the neighborhood with beautiful necklaces made from colorful Indian corn.

And we at the Times recognize her occasional written contributions, as well as the fact that the Smiths have been delivering the Times on their block for as long as we can remember. We extend our sincere condolences to Bruce and their daughter, Dee Dee, in this time of sorrow.

Kudos for Lois Schoemehl



Lois Schoemehl, long-time Skinker DeBaliviere resident, and business manager of the Times has been honored by her alma mater. At the University of Missouri-St. Louis Founders Dinner in September, Lois received a Distinguished Alumni Award. She was a member of UMSL's first graduating class in 1967.

In another first, she was the first director of UMSL's Alumni Office, creating the base that now keeps in contact with over 60,000 graduates. She held this post from 1967 to 1976.

Since the birth of her two sons, Schoemehl has served in the voluntary sector. She was a director of the board of the UMSL Alumni Association, the Women's Self-Help Center, and Friends of the St. Louis Public Library. Today, she is a member of the boards of EnergyCare and Landmarks. She also serves as a volunteer at the Scholarship of the Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis.

A large crowd saw Lois receive her award. She recognized her husband Vince and sons Tim and Joe who were in attendance.



Winners of the annual Halloween costume contest back in 1993. This year's contenders have quite a tradition to live up to!

Halloween Party for Neighborhood Children

For over thirty years now, this neighborhood party has been a Skinker DeBaliviere tradition. Art Santen, the Rosedale Neighbors Ghosts and Goblins Committee, with assistance from Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, continue to provide a special start to our youngest residents' Halloween festivities. Children and their parents were welcomed to the St. Roch gymnasium. For the next hour, a clown, a costume judging and competition, and other surprises

awaited the children.

Trick or treating commenced as always at 6:30 p.m. immediately following the party. Special judges looked for originality, creativity and sometimes even cuteness as they completed the difficult task of choosing 10 winners. Due to our deadline for this issue, winners will appear in an upcoming issue. Special thanks to St. Roch for finding room in their very busy gymnasium schedule to annually host the party.

THE HISTORIC DISTRICT CORNER

By Katie Kurtz

It is our hope at The Times to have this as a regular feature. We will highlight successful projects, some dos and don'ts, buildings lost to demolition or downright awful renovations, and possibly a question and answer format. As most readers know, the area roughly bound by DeBaliviere, Delmar, the City Limits in Parkview, and Lindell makes up

the St. Louis Historic District known as the Skinker-DeBaliviere/Catlin Tract/ Parkview Historic District. There are guidelines, which regulate changes to the exteriors of the buildings, demolitions, and new construction. We hope you will look for this feature regularly.

Sensitive Renovation Highlights Buried Historic Features



Katie Kurtz



Paul Hohman

Pictured above are two views of 6012 Washington Avenue. The one on the left was taken in the early 1980s; the one on the right was taken this summer. The house was built in 1908, one of two small single-family houses built on that block that year. Research shows that at one time there may have been a porch, which extended across the front but it was removed a long time ago. Through the years, incorrectly sized storm windows were installed, the original front door was removed, the opening enlarged and replaced with a non-historic door, an inappropriate aluminum porch was added, and the half-timbered gables were covered with siding.

When A & A Construction began the renovation, the first thing removed was the porch. The front door was correctly resized and replaced with art glass. The very unusual multi-paned, casement windows were discovered under the storms. Because the development company was using Missouri Tax Credits for Historic Preservation, the windows were restored to their original appearance. Neighbors remembered what the gables original had been, and they too were restored. While small, 6012 Washington is a delightful house and is a positive example of what an historically sensitive renovation can do for an individual building, a block, and a neighborhood.

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RAGS-TO-RICHES

By Tim Schoemehl, President of Rosedale Neighborhood Association

Rags-to-Riches, Skinker-DeBaliviere's annual neighborhood-wide yard sale, was held this year on Saturday August 24. Over 50 neighborhood residents held sales throughout the neighborhood. Business was brisk, as clear skies and high temperatures greeted sale participants and bargain hunters alike.

The warm weather drew a large crowd to the refreshment

tent sponsored by the Rosedale Neighborhood Association and the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council at the Westminster/Skinker parking lot. Bratwurst, hot dogs and soft drinks were sold to raise funds for Rosedale and SDCC. Many thanks to all sale participants and volunteers who made this year's event a great success!

Photos by King Schoenfeld



The black cat on Westminster must have brought good luck to this year's Rags to Riches.



McPherson toddlers enjoyed chilling out in the pool while their moms and dads helped customers select their best buys.



The Rosedale Neighborhood Association President Tim Schoemehl (right of center) and SDCC President Dan Schesch (right) were among the many volunteers who served up brats, drinks, and lively conversation on Skinker.

Interior Design Teamwork

Renee Flanders, of Opus Interiors, designed the dining room of the Symphony Showhouse & Gardens for 2002. Renee, who lives with husband Bill and daughter Emily on the 6100 block of Westminster, called on several neighbors to help with getting the display room ready:

- Walter Bauer, who loaned two sculptures and moved them!
- Elizabeth Bly, an employee of "Centro", who assisted with furniture and chandelier.
- Bill Christman, who helped to construct an armature and helped Walter Bauer move his sculptures into the room.
- Andy Cross, who constructed and painted three large boulders from polyfoam.
- Walter and Norm Klein, who loaned the slag centerpiece.
- Sam Green, who loaned flexible scaffolding for glazing application.
- Steve Littlefield, who designed and fabricated a fireplace



Portraits by Strauss Peyton

Renee Flanders, who designed the dining room of the Symphony Showhouse & Gardens for 2002, as featured in St. Louis Homes and Lifestyles Magazine.

screen support for the rocks later applied. Renee noted that she was so thankful for all the wonderful help she received from friends and neighbors in carrying out her design ideas for # 1 Washington Terrace. The Symphony Showcase was a big success.



Kingsbury had some of the best buys and friendliest sellers.



Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board of Directors Meeting, May, 13, 2002 Minutes

Meeting called to order by President Dan Schesch at 7:02 PM. Board members and guests introduced. Treasurer's report and minutes reviewed and approved. Welcome and Introductions. Announcements Committee/Neighborhood Reports

Sole Van Emden gave an update on the Neighborhood Planning Project and encouraged residents to attend the brainstorming session on May 18.

Andy Cross gave an update on the Beautification Committee. Blitz Day was rainy but went forward as planned. Planters at Four Corners were weeded and planted, and plant exchange was a success. Breakfast Garden Tour is June 8.

Laure Porterfield gave an update on the Commercial District Committee. The Committee is working on a special taxing district for Delmar and a plan for parking for the commercial district.

Executive Director/Housing Corporation Reports
Gary Boehnke referred to the minutes and written report for the Housing Corporation and noted that the Beautification Committee had assisted with planting trees on Housing Corporation property.

Laure Porterfield gave the Executive Director's report, and referred to her written report. She noted that CDA's audit of SDCC had recently been completed with no negative comments, and that staff has been providing assistance for many events and activities in the neighborhood.

Aldermanic Update
28th Ward Alderman Lyda Krewson gave an update focusing on redevelopment along Delmar. Discussed work on the transit plaza, which is scheduled to begin late summer or early fall of 2002. Also discussed plans for new Regional Arts Center (RAC) building, new restaurant at 6154 Delmar, and rehab underway at 6172 Delmar.

SDCC Board of Directors, May 13, 2002 Executive Committee Report
Dan Schesch gave the report. Discussed current status of alternative financial plan for MetroLink that would allow design changes at Des Peres and alongside Parkview.

Washington University Update
Steve Givens reported that per requests from the neighborhood, the University would begin enhancements of parking behind their apartment buildings on Pershing. Plan is to start this summer at Skinker and move east. Enhancements would be completed over the next 2-3 summers.

Following a discussion, the Board approved a motion to send a letter to Washington University that would:
* Outline current infrastructure problems with the parking areas in the alleys behind the apartment buildings the University owns on Pershing.
* Ask that the University to expedite its plans for parking enhancements in these alleys and complete the proposed enhancements within two years.
* Request a written schedule for completion of the parking enhancements.
* Request that the neighborhood have the opportunity to review drawings of the proposed enhancements.

Update on Crossroads School Expansion
Billy Handmaker gave a presentation on the expansion of Crossroads School. They are adding 18,000 square feet to their existing 30,000 square foot facility. This will allow them to build a new cafeteria and a new athletic facility and add classrooms to their existing building. They want to make the new facilities available for use by the community.

Other Business
There was a discussion about the status of Lucier Park, including how to promote it as part of the neighborhood and discussion about who is responsible for maintaining it. A question was raised about the intersection sinking at Des Peres and McPherson. MSD seems to be working on the intersection, but problems persist.

Respectfully Submitted, Tim Schoemehl, Secretary.

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board of Directors Meeting June 10, 2002 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Schesch at 7:05 PM. Introduced Mr. Brown from State Senator Pat Dougherty's office. Mr. Brown distributed maps showing the revised boundaries of the 4th District.

Minutes reviewed and approved as corrected. Treasurer's report reviewed and approved as submitted.

Security Report
Officer Heather Sabin gave the Security update for the Seventh District. Officer Sabin reported that crime is down in all categories except daytime burglaries. She reminded everyone to take summertime precautions to keep crime down—including keeping doors and windows closed and locked. Discussion followed about how to pass these security reminders on to neighbors.

Officer Sabin reported that the police had recently arrested 3 individuals suspected of a series of burglaries, mostly affecting businesses.

Neighbors asked questions and expressed concern about illegal parking in the alley between 59XX McPherson and 59XX Waterman and enforcement of the Waterman/DeGiverville Parking District.

Beautification Committee
Andy Cross reported that the Breakfast Garden Tour was a success. The weather was excellent, and the event raised \$1,100. Andy reported that recent graffiti on the pub-

lic art at Four Corners should be removed soon. Andy is working to repair the Rosedale barricades at Westminster and McPherson.

Commercial District Committee
Lana Stein and Laure Porterfield reported that Mayor Slay is hosting a breakfast meeting with Delmar businesses on June 20th. The purpose of the event is to showcase new development on Delmar and highlight the Mayor's plans for streamlining small business permits.

SDCC Board of Directors, June 10, 2002
Lana gave an update on developments underway on Delmar, including the Regional Arts Commission (RAC) building, the renovation of 6154 and 6172 Delmar by Joe Edwards, and the conversion of the Mount Olivet Church to a performing arts theater.

Residential Committee
Lana Stein reported that there had been some discussion of constructing accessible housing within the neighborhood, possibly at Pershing and Des Peres or other sites. The Residential Committee held a meeting to get neighborhood reaction to the concept. Lana reported that sentiment was divided. Since no proposal materialized, the Committee has taken no further action.

The Residential Committee also met with the Center for Women in Transition, a social service agency which provides mentoring services to women who are released from prison for non-violent offenses. The Center would like to add a residential component to their program and want to convert the Sisters of Mercy Convent at Waterman and Rosedale for this purpose. Lana Stein and Dan McGuire reported that upon further investigation, the Committee found that such a conversion of the property would require a license as well as a zoning variance and a conditional use permit. The Committee also learned that under city ordinance, such a license could not be granted within 500 feet of a church or school. A discussion of the proposal and issues surrounding the zoning and licensing requirements followed.

After discussion, the Board adopted a motion to oppose any potential permit, license, zoning variance, spot zoning, or conditional use permit that would allow the conversion of the Convent at Waterman and Rosedale to a dormitory. Motion passed 8-0 with 2 abstentions.

There was some discussion about the importance of preserving the residential character of Skinker-DeBaliviere and a proposal for the Board to adopt a motion opposing all zoning changes, etc. that would make zoning less restrictive in the neighborhood. It was agreed that the Residential Committee would look into those issues, and possibly make a proposal to the Council at a later time.

Security Committee
The Excise Commissioner issued his order regarding the liquor license protest for the Country Store. The Commissioner imposed the same restrictions on the Country Store that had been placed on the Shur Save Market across the street.

National Night Out is August 6th. Volunteers are needed. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.
Executive Director's Report
Laure Porterfield referred to the Board Packet, which contains her written report. Laure Porterfield and Tim Schoemehl reported that Rags to Riches, the annual neighborhood yard sale is scheduled for August 24th.

SDCC Board of Directors June 10, 2002

Laure Porterfield asked the Board to authorize a letter in support of Grace United Methodist Church's application for a grant to fund home repair activities in the neighborhood. Motion passed unanimously.

Housing Corporation
Gary Boehnke referred board members to the minutes of Housing Corporation meetings.

Executive Committee
Dan Schesch reported that efforts to mitigate the impact of MetroLink expansion in the neighborhood continue. Dan reported that he and Alderwoman Krewson met with Mayor Slay about the financing of the MetroLink extension and the impact on City neighborhoods, and the Mayor was receptive. Dan also reported that the neighborhood, through the Transportation Committee is working with Bi-State to get some type of visual screening between the MetroLink tracks and Pershing.

Other Business
Shirley Polk reported that the Social Service Committee presented an award to Hamilton School, in recognition of its help with the neighborhood's annual food drive. The meeting adjourned at 8:50. Respectfully Submitted, Tim Schoemehl, Secretary.

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Bd. of Directors Meeting, August 12, 2002 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Dan Schesch. Minutes from the June meeting were reviewed and approved as corrected. Treasurer's reports for June and July reviewed and approved as submitted.

Security Report
Police Officer Heather Sabin gave the Security Report. Officer Sabin reported that crime is down in the neighborhood compared to the same time in 2001. Crime declined in all categories except burglary. Officer Sabin reported that daytime burglaries and garage break-ins continue to be a problem, and asked neighbors to report any suspicious activity to the police.

Discussion followed regarding security related issues, including appropriate phone numbers to call for different security issues (911 for

emergency, 231-1212 for non-emergency, and 241-COPS for anonymous tips on drug activity.) Discussion also followed about door-to-door soliciting and soliciting at intersections. Volunteers are continuing to inspect street lights throughout the neighborhood and report broken/burnt-out lights to Citizens Service Bureau.

Neighborhood Reports
Tim Schoemehl and Laure Porterfield reported that Rosedale with support from SDCC will again sponsor the Rags to Riches neighborhood yard sale on August 24th. Volunteers are needed to help make the event a success.

Laure Porterfield and Katrina Stierholtz reported that National Night Out was again a very popular event. Financial report to follow at the September meeting. Neighborhood resident Andy Cross was selected as one of 10 individuals in the City to receive a "Neighborhood Hero Award." The Mayor's Neighborhood Stabilization Team will coordinate an awards ceremony from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in Tower Grove Park on Saturday, August 24th. Andy and his family are invited. Laure will represent the Council.

SDCC Bd. of Directors, August 12, 2002
Andy Cross gave the Beautification Committee report. Both the McPherson Garden and the Block Unit 1035 Garden received awards from Gateway Greening. Graffiti has been removed from the kiosk and the penguin at Four Corners. Repair of barricades on Rosedale continues. Volunteers are needed to help with watering flowers at Four Corners and at the playground.

Katrina Stierholtz reported that planning is underway for this year's WinterMart. December 7th has been chosen as the date. Contracts are available at the SDCC office for artists and craftspersons who wish to participate.

Executive Director's Report
Laure Porterfield referred to her written report included in the Board Packet. Completing the grant application to Children's Hospital for Lucier Park had been an important item this month. Laure reported that an intern will soon begin collecting data for the parking study being conducted by the Delmar Commercial District Committee.

Executive Committee Report
Dan Schesch and John Thomas reported that the fence around Hamilton School is being repainted by volunteers coordinated by Grace Methodist Church—work is about 95% complete.

Dan Schesch gave an update on efforts to mitigate the impact of MetroLink expansion, including a meeting with Congressman Clay at which issues relating to a possible Des Peres underpass were discussed.

Dan Schesch reported that a letter had been received requesting that the Council designate a seat on the Board for a representative from the 5800-5900 Block of Waterman and Pershing. Discussion about the request followed, including a discussion about how representatives to the Council from various sections of the neighborhood are chosen.

A motion was made and seconded that the Council accept a representative to the Board from the 5700 Block of Pershing and the 5800-5900 blocks of Pershing and Waterman on a temporary basis, until a uniform process of selecting representatives from Washington Heights is established. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was also made and seconded that the Council request members of the Board living in Washington Heights reorganize a neighborhood association for that section of the neighborhood and that they have the support of the Council (staff assistance, copying, etc.) for their organizing efforts. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion also followed regarding the need to review and update the SDCC bylaws. Joe Keaveny agreed to lead the effort to review the bylaws and recommend changes. Tim Schoemehl and Dee Joyce-Hayes agreed to assist.

SDCC Board of Directors, August 12, 2002 Other Business

Lana Stein, chair of the Residential Committee, reported that Bill Christman has proposed putting a cafe in his art studio next to the SDCC offices. Lana reported that a zoning variance would be needed for this use. Bill Christman gave an overview of the concept he is proposing, and invited Council members for a tour of the building following the meeting.

A concern was raised about the impact construction at Washington University has had a vis Parkview residents, especially those residing along Pershing. Residents noted problems with dirt, mud, and noise from construction and trash removal. Steve Givens from Washington University indicated he would follow up on the concerns.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Tim Schoemehl, Secretary

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board of Directors Meeting September 9, 2002 Minutes
Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by President Dan Schesch. Council members and guests introduced. Minutes from August meeting reviewed and approved with corrections. Peggy Droege presented the Treasurer's report. Approved unanimously.

Security Report
Laure Porterfield reported that the Security Seminar is scheduled for September 22nd. Parking tickets are being written for those who do not display current parking permits in the DeGiverville/Waterman Parking District. Permits are available for purchase at the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Office. For \$25.00, residents receive two

permanent window decals and two hang tags for visitors.

Officer Heather Sabin reported that several housing repair scams have been reported in the neighborhood and around the City. Officer Sabin also reported that the number of burglaries in the neighborhood has increased compared to last year. The increase in burglaries reflects a large number of garage burglaries as well as daylight break-ins. Officer Sabin reported that crime is down in other categories compared to last year.

Neighbors reported crime concerns including car break-ins and robberies in the 6100 block of McPherson, an incident on the Laurel/Waterman bridge, car windows smashed in the 5900 Block of McPherson, and suspicious activity in the 6000 block of McPherson.

Residential Committee
Lana Stein presented a request from Bill Christman that the Council issue a letter of support for the Cafe he wishes to open at 6014 Kingsbury. The letter would demonstrate neighborhood support for the project as Mr. Christman pursues permits and variances from the City. Discussion of the request followed. The Council declined to act on Mr. Christman's request until he provides a written plan for the Cafe.

SDCC Bd. of Directors, September 9, 2002
Lana also gave an update on the convent at 6102 Waterman. The Sisters of Mercy have transferred the property to the Center for Women in Transition (CWIT). CWIT wishes to use the property as transitional housing for 8 women who have been recently released from prison. The City's Zoning Administrator has ruled that such a use would require a zoning variance. Alderwoman Lyda Krewson reported that she had toured the property. CWIT apparently intends to utilize the property within current zoning restrictions while pursuing variances for their desired use.

Rosedale
Tim Schoemehl reported that Rags to Riches was a successful event. Final financial information is not yet available. Halloween party again scheduled for October 31st.

Beautification Committee
Andy Cross requested volunteers to help with watering. Andy also reported that a public sculpture project will be held in the McPherson Community garden. The project, sponsored by the West End Arts Council, will include a ceramics workshop on September 28th at Four Corners Park and a firing of the ceramic sculpture on October 19th in the Garden.

Wintermarkt
Katrina Stierholtz reported that vendors are still being solicited for the second annual Wintermarkt, to be held again at Four Corners Park on Saturday, December 7th. The planning committee is also looking for a choir/carolers/musical performers who can work outdoors and with no heat.

Transportation Committee
Susan Littlefield reported that the Transportation Committee met to discuss traffic problems and possible solutions likely to accompany MetroLink construction. She distributed a list reflecting this discussion. Alderwoman Krewson reported that she is working with Bi-State to schedule a public meeting to discuss similar issues.

Aldermanic Report
Alderwoman Lyda Krewson reported that the Delmar enhancements (sidewalk widening, etc.) are scheduled to be bid this fall and begin construction this winter.

Executive Director's Report
Laure Porterfield referred to her written report which was included in the meeting packet. She noted that CDA funding to SDCC is likely to decrease next year. CDA is holding a public hearing September 16th. All Board members were invited. Laure also noted that the annual Security seminar will be held once again on Sunday afternoon, September 22nd, at Grace. Students and neighborhood residents were invited to attend.

The SDCC Annual Meeting will be a Potluck Supper, on October 14th, starting at 6:00 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church. All residents as well as Board members and block captains are invited to attend. Laure reported that a problem property in the 6100 block of McPherson is being foreclosed on by the lender and is scheduled to be sold on the Courthouse steps. Date of sale not certain.

SDCC Bd. of Directors, September 9, 2002
Housing Corporation
Gary Boehnke referred to the minutes included in the Board Packet. In response to a question, Gary indicated that the Housing Corporation's intended rehab of the building at Delmar and Hamilton is moving forward. They are still working through the financing.

Executive Committee
Dan Schesch gave an update on MetroLink. Dan reported that he and Paul Hohmann had met with representatives of Bi-State and Congressman Clay to discuss a possible underpass at Des Peres.

A document for board action will be shared with Board members and discussed at the November meeting. Joe Keaveny heads a new Committee to review the SDCC bylaws. Major issues will include clarifying representation and selection process for board members and officers.

Other Business
Shirley Polk reported that the Neighborhood Picnic was a great success. The event was held in Forest Park, and was well-attended and much enjoyed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m. Respectfully Submitted, Tim Schoemehl, Secretary

The State Recognizes Achievements on Delmar

By Lana Stein

Many of us have watched the changes occurring on Delmar, our northern boundary, in recent years. The street is becoming an entertainment center for the city and a place with more opportunities to eat and shop. SDCC Director Laure Porterfield has certainly watched and participated in the improving Delmar scene. After learning of a series of awards given for neighborhood improvement by the state of Missouri, she applied herself assiduously to seeing that thorough applications were turned for 3 Delmar related people and/or projects. Her documentation was painstaking and her effort proved to be highly successful. All three nominees received awards from the hands of Governor Holden in the state capital on June 18, 2002, at the Missouri Redevelopment Conference. The awards are designed to recognize outstanding work in Missouri's downtown and neighborhood commercial districts.

Thirteen years ago many would have scoffed if someone told them Delmar could become what it is today and also would not have believed that all parties could agree to a redevelopment plan for the arterial. But, the Commercial Committee under the leadership of chair JoAnn Vatcha did believe and worked

very hard to see the vision come to fruition. JoAnn has chaired the committee since inception and worked with business owners Loretta Lloyd, Dennis Townsend, and Steve Brammeier and neighborhood residents Lana Stein and Sam Green, all of whom have worked together from the beginning, and with many others who participated along the way, including the late Jack Wright. The committee created, cajoled, publicized, and met with many local officials. They also involved the West End Community Conference in the planning efforts and collaborated with Aldermen Clay, McGuire, and Krewson. Throughout this process, JoAnn has had a clear and steady hand. She has been a very skilled negotiator and a diplomat to boot.

The other two award recipients deserve significant credit for their contribution to the new Delmar. The architects at Design Alliance took the old A&P/BiRite and restored its original facade. This was a costly and time-consuming project that added a great deal to the street and the neighborhood. Their building also extends retail by housing a coffeehouse and a clothing store. They received the "Historic Preservation Tax Credit" award.

Last but not least, Joe Edwards



Nearly four years ago, the U.S. Department of Transportation made its official funding announcement for MODOT money for streetscape and transit plaza improvements. Shown here with then-Mayor Harmon, Washington, D.C. official, and St. Louis Aldermen Lyda Krewson and Irv Clay are Dennis Townsend and Jo Ann Vatcha, representing the Delmar Commercial Committee at the podium.

and Pat Hagin received the "Show-Me Award" for their extensive commercial redevelopment in the City Loop. The Pageant and the stores and offices within the structure have been a tremendous shot in the arm. Many people now come to Delmar who would never have done so otherwise. Performers of note for a variety of generations give forth on our part of the street. Of course, Edwards is

now spearheading development of a theater, restaurant, and the RAC building.

JoAnn Vatcha traveled to Jefferson City with Laure Porterfield to accept her "Volunteer of the Year Award" in person. It was a very memorable occasion, representing countless hours of work and of faith that comebacks can occur.

Delmar Commercial Committee (Continued from page 1)

- stages with the newly formed board of directors of the non-profit group representing several St. Louis theatre groups.
- The retail building at 6172, next to Church's Chicken, is well underway, and structural work is taking a big chunk of the construction time. Another reminder that these buildings cannot be left poorly maintained over a long period of time.
- Most recent purchase by entrepreneur Joe Edwards is the wonderful old Wabash Station building, proving that once in awhile reality might just catch up with everyone's vision for that site—perhaps a great "destination" restaurant will be coming there.
- East of the station, Big Jakes has opened at the former McDonald's, and at last glance was hosting a radio DJ who was vowing to stay on the roof until the Rams won a game!
- The medians east to DeBaliviere were installed and sprinkled and have recently been replanted with perennials. They look great! To the north of Delmar, one can see new houses built by various developers, including Bank of America, spearheaded by Alderman Irv Clay.
- The SDCC Housing Corporation continues to make plans to renovate their building at the corner of Hamilton and have applied for several pro-

grams to make that a reality. In 2003, this should take center stage, as we continue to work on planning for this important corner.

- During 2002, the Delmar Commercial Committee also engaged in a parking study. Jennifer Olmstead, who serves on both the commercial committee and the housing corporation, has worked with Dave Mastin and Neal Shapiro of the Business Assn. and Jo Ann Vatcha of the Commercial Committee. Assisting us this summer, a student intern, Farhaad Chanduwadia interviewed 40 business and building owners on Delmar about their parking needs for tenants and customers. This gave us some timely data, and will help justify the final report's expected call for a TIF or other public subsidy to help us create sufficient parking for the coming years.
- Finally, we were surprised and honored to have been recognized by the State of Missouri's Department of Economic Development. Thanks to Laure Porterfield, who also obtained recognition for St. Louis Design Alliance, which was selected for use of Preservation Tax Credits, and Joe Edwards, for a special Show-Me Award. Our award as Volunteer of the Year honored us in just the right way, for it is over 12 years since the Commercial Committee was formed and set its sights on

You Can Recycle Electronics

Millions of cellular phones and computers are discarded annually. Many electronic items contain hazardous materials. The average computer monitor or television tube contains up to eight pounds of lead. These hazardous materials do not present a problem when contained in working equipment, they can be harmful to humans or the environment if disposed of improperly, put in a landfill, or incinerated.

Best Buy has become involved in collecting electronics with the goal of ensuring that their customers have access to an electronics recycling collection event at least once a year. This will be a 2-day event and consumers can bring in any old or unwanted

small electronics of any brand or type. Most electronic items will be collected and recycled at no charge. However, due to the high cost of processing leaded glass contained in cathode ray tubes, there will be a handling fee of \$10 per computer monitor and \$15 per television.

City residents can also recycle electronics at Gunter Electronics, 5080 Delmar and Web Innovations & Technology Services, 2801 Meramec. Gunter and Web may have pick up service depending on quantity to be recycled and your location.

For more details, contact the City Refuse Division Recycling Office at 353-8877.

improving Delmar. Along with committee members-extraordinary Lana Stein, Dennis Townsend, Loretta Lloyd, Steve Brammeier, and Sam Green, and a few other volunteers over the years, we have worked with elected officials Aldermen Irv Clay, Lyda Krewson, Dan McGuire, Arts in Transit Director Sarah Smith, and most recently with Bi-State's Carol Schmidt and many others. Thanks to that marvelous phenomenon, volunteer effort, as Lana recently said, "what seemed an impossible dream is fast becoming a reality!"

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IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Q. Hoerr

I read the other day that we've stopped evolving. No, I didn't notice it either. But then I didn't notice the end of my youth, so that shows how oblivious I am. (Worse, I no longer even remember the end of my youth!)

The author's point was that we've mastered technology, are in control of our environment enough that we won't find survival of the fittest affecting our gene pool. In the old days, I'm talking really old here, before cable-tv old, lots of human-type hairy things were wandering around our planet. The environment enabled certain types to make it - to reproduce and pass on their gene pool - while others weren't so fortunate. Humanoids without an opposable thumb, for example, would have a harder time gripping object and would be at a disadvantage in creating tools, slaying animals, or hitting baseballs; ergo they're less likely to be around today. And

our long-ago forefathers and foremoms with far fewer brain cells wouldn't last long enough to have young 'uns. Basically, aside from bell-bottom pants and contact lenses, our bodies have been what they are today for a quarter of a million years or so.

Yes, because we can create external supports for ourselves, the gene pool of today is what we're stuck with. Think about it, humans can survive anywhere on our planet because of what we've built and created. For that matter, if an environment is too hostile, we simply leave; generation after generation doesn't stay there, evolving in a way so that the body changes to meet that new physical challenge and it's then passed on to descends. I'm reading and thinking, "Yeah, this is cool."

But then the author blew it. He said something like, "And it's clear that the bodies we have today are just about perfect." HUH? "Just about perfect?" Who is he kidding? Helen Hunt aside, I don't know what he's talking about! He's engaging in the classic scientific error: making the conclusion fit the data. I mean, just because we are who

we are and look like what we do, doesn't mean that this is the best we could have done. Sure, this body works most of the time (more or less). But that doesn't mean it's perfect. Far from it!

So I began to think of how our bodies could be even better. A turn here in the evolutionary path, a saber-tooth tiger who's full and leaves an ancestor alone, a glacier that doesn't roll over a man and woman crossing the Urals, and who knows what we'd be today. Yeah, this model works, so did a Ford Pinto. But it could be so much better, and so could we!

In the spirit, then, of offering input to future species on far-distant planets ('cause I know that they read this column) to help them plan their evolution, here are the five biggest improvements that could be made in the human body. Maker, listen up!

1. A full head of hair, all of the original teeth, and eyesight could remain perfect for the entire lifespan. (Can you tell something about me by the fact that this is my #1?) Think about it, there's no reason why we guys couldn't always look like Ted Dansen. And the hair shouldn't go gray either. Let's do away with dentists! Think about it, why should we need to wear those silly eyeglasses either? Why not perfect vision all the time? Oh yeah, my first wife, looking over my shoulder as I type, suggest that I add that we shouldn't lose our hearing as we get older. ("What?" I replied to her.)

2. We should be able to eat as often as we want, as much as we want, and whatever we want without gaining weight. There should be no need for SlimFast or WeighWatchers because it wouldn't matter. You could throw down those Hostess Twinkees at every meal without gaining an ounce. Think about it: ice cream for breakfast and french fries on the hour, every hour! Everyone would be slim, svelte, and fit easily into the seats at Busch Stadium.

3. Memory shouldn't fade in old age. This is an important one because too often as we age it's harder and harder to remember. Just the other day, for example, I forgot to

4. We should never get ill. That's right, no sickness. For that matter, the body wouldn't show any signs of aging, ever. There would be

no need for medicines, doctors, health insurance, or hospitals. (Yes, I realize that this might cause a problem of overpopulation. My solution would be to limit the life span to, say, 350 years. That would be long enough to enjoy life to the fullest and see the Cubs win a World Series game. On the 350th birthday, there would be some simple ritual to end it all quickly, like maybe taking a bath while using the electric hair dryer on that great head of hair you'd still have.)

5. We should all have eyes in the back of our heads, literally. Now this may strike you as odd looking, I know. But if we all had two sets of eyes, that would be the norm and no one would think anything unusual. With eyes in the back and front, we could see 360 degrees at all times. There would be fewer auto accidents and now that we are living so long, we'd be able to read twice as many books and see twice as many movies. The term "four-eyes" would have a completely different connotation.

There you have it, the new improved human body for the next galaxy. Our evolution has ended so we won't get there; as Popeye used to say, "We are what we are." Alas.

Me? I'm going to celebrate my limited life-span and receding hairline by having an ice cream and rooting for the Cubs. Thank Heaven for that opposable thumb; without it, holding those french fries would be difficult.

"If you could talk to one person in the world and change his/her mind on an issue, to whom would you talk and what would the issue be?"

I'd like to use this question as a topic for a future IN YOUR EAR column and would love to hear your 3 cents! Please send me an email (I'll not use your real name) and tell me how you'd respond. Send to Hawkeye: trhoerr@AOL.com.

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