

# The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 34 No. 1

April/May 2003

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

## Crossroads School Celebrates the Grand Opening of Its Brand New Athletic Facility.

By Lana Stein

Approximately 500 people attended the February 15 Grand Opening of Crossroads School's new Athletic and Community Center. It was an exciting evening as the senior basketball players cut the ribbon and we cheered on our JV and varsity teams. The project, which broke ground on June 1, 2002, is now open to the students of Crossroads School and will be available for community use.

Crossroads School, located at 500 DeBaliviere Avenue in the historic Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood, is an independent college-preparatory school for students in grades 7 through 12. Founded in 1974, Crossroads is the only coeducational, independent high school in the City of St. Louis. The diverse Cross-

roads student body represents an average of 46 zip codes in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Head of School Billy Handmaker, explains, "At Crossroads School, community partnership is a core value of the school and a key part of the school's philosophy of education and development."

"The City of St. Louis serves as an extended classroom for the students of Crossroads and Crossroads School will continue to serve the community by opening its doors to neighborhood organizations and groups who wish to utilize the facility for meetings and events."

For more information please call Crossroads School at (314) 367-8085 or visit [www.crossroads-school.org](http://www.crossroads-school.org).



Pictured, left to right: Seniors Leah Brooks, Angela Snow, Margaret van Bakergem, Laura Jay, Chris Georgen, Ben Stimson, Alex Masek, and John Powers.

## SKINKER TO BE CLOSED

The Times has learned that the work on the MetroLink line is going to require the closing of Skinker Boulevard for two to five months, beginning in fall 2003. Reliable sources (who cannot be identified) say that as planners began to investigate the sewer lines underneath and near the Forest Park Expressway, they found them to be in far much worse shape than expected. As one engineer put it, "I'm surprised that they haven't collapsed already. When they were built, after all, no one anticipated the volume or weight of the traffic that would be passing over them each day. It's a real safety hazard."

According to this and other sources, it turns out that the entire sewer line from Des Peres to past Big Bend will need to be replaced as well as the line that is under Skinker, from Delmar to Clayton. The scope of the work means that Skinker will be closed for at least five months. For residents of Skinker-DeBaliviere, this could not come at a worse time. The construction to narrow Delmar, reducing it from six to four lanes, adding sidewalks wide enough for curbside seating on each side of the street, will also begin this sum-

mer. It is anticipated that the work on Delmar will continue through October. Of course, the Forest Park Expressway will also be closed at this time, due to the construction of the MetroLink line and, now, the work on the sewers.

Entering and exiting the neighborhood will be problematic. Discussions were underway to remove the barriers at Des Peres and Delmar, but with the construction on Delmar, that probably will not provide much help. Michael L. Zimmer, the mayor's transportation aide, stated that this is not due to any actions by the mayor. "It's due to poor planning by MSD and MetroLink," he noted, "the mayor is clueless about this." Zimmer offered that with so many people working and buying from home through the Internet, this bottleneck may not be as serious as it sounds. "I mean," he said, "people will need to plan when they leave home and regulate their trips, but you can do a lot on-line these days."

The Times contacted Carla Hafwitz, our neighborhood liaison. She admitted that she knew about this problem. "But tell your readers not to worry," she said, "I have a solution." Her plan solves the Skinker

closure problem by making all traffic on the 6100 block streets one-way, going east to Des Peres. In this scenario, drivers will not be able to drive west from Des Peres to a 6100 block of Pershing, Waterman, McPherson, Kingsbury, Westminster, or Washington. "I know that this is a bit inconvenient," she continued, "but there are discussions about making the Community Garden on 5900 McPherson a temporary parking lot so that residents of the 6100 blocks will have a place to park their cars if they can't use the alleys to get to their garages."

If you're reading this far, I hope you have guessed that this is the semi-annual April Fool's edition of The Times and the article that you just read was really "In Your Ear," by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr. Did I getcha? For all I know, the sewer lines may be in ideal condition. There is no Michael Zimmer or Carla Hafwitz, and the two-way streets are just fine the way that they are.

But if you believe that the actual installation of MetroLink isn't going to create a problem when it really does happen, well, I have some land in Florida that I'd like to sell you. Happy April Fool's!

## MetroLink Construction Nears

By Lana Stein

Sometime this summer, most likely in July, METRO (formerly BiState) will begin the long anticipated construction of the MetroLink extension to Clayton and Shrewsbury. This construction will directly affect Skinker DeBaliviere. It is anticipated that the Forest Park Parkway from De Baliviere west will be closed to all traffic for up to two years. Ease of entry to and egress from our neighborhood will not be quite as simple and we will have to rethink routes.

There will be major work done at the DeBaliviere station and a new station will be constructed beneath Skinker and the Parkway. DeBaliviere and Skinker, however, will remain open. Residents will soon become accustomed to the sounds of construction beginning around 7 am.

Some problems and solutions from Washington University may help. A temporary roadway will allow people to enter WU parking garages on the north end of the Hilltop Campus, from Big Bend through Throop Drive, one way east-bound. From Skinker to Throop, this will be two-way traffic. A temporary traffic signal

# Editor's Notebook

By Lana Stein

I expect there will be a fair amount of grumbling in our neighborhood when the Forest Park Parkway closes for two years for MetroLink construction.

The neighborhood that has prided itself on being close won't be quite so close for awhile. Especially at rush hours, it will be much harder to get in and out to go to work, school, or to shop and myriad other activities.

It will be a test of our mettle. We must be resourceful in altering our routes and allowing more time.

While we grouse about these inconveniences, we still have a lot to feel good about. It was in the seventies today. Our trees and flowers will soon be in bloom and our community gardeners will be getting their beds ready. The warmer weather will bring us into contact with new neighbors. Our neighborhood continues to be very popular and our property values rise. We can enjoy sprucing up our homes and sitting on our porches in shirtsleeves.

One of my colleagues wrote me recently of the fragility of life. That is an important concept to remember however inconvenienced we may be. Our office manager took a horrible fall and has been in the ICU at Barnes for almost 2 weeks. In any of my wildest dreams, I never would have imagined this. In the Political Science Department at UMSL, she has been our rock, our underpinning, and our greatest cheerleader. Her recovery will be a very long one. My motto here, pollyanish though it may be, is enjoy life as much as you and look for the good things and the good times. I will keep telling myself this come July because, truth be told, I am not a patient person and I hate delay, too.

## **Deadline for June/July/August issue:**

**May 15, 2003. Please send copy by e-mail to [jvatcha@msn.com](mailto:jvatcha@msn.com) or submit typed copy or by disc to 6008 Kingsbury, St. Louis, MO 63112.**

## The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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

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

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

Layout: . . . . . Kate Klimut  
Printing: . . . . . Arcade Printing

### Advertising Rates:

Display Advertising:  
Column width, 2.25". Minimum ad size 2" x 1 col: \$25/insertion.

For a complete list of sizes and rates, write:  
*The Times*, 6168 Westminster, 63112, or call 727-6630.

### Guidelines for Submitting Copy

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

**Deadline for June/July/August issue: May 15, 2003. Please send copy by e-mail to [jvatcha@msn.com](mailto:jvatcha@msn.com) or submit typed copy or by disc to 6008 Kingsbury, St. Louis, MO 63112.**

# Calendar

## Upcoming Events Calendar

**March 31, 7:00 p.m.** — Greg Freeman Memorial Committee meeting, 6008 Kingsbury

**April 2, 7:30 a.m.** — SDCC Executive Committee Meeting, 6008 Kingsbury

**April 5, all day** — Operation BRIGHTSIDE BLITZ – throughout the neighborhood – clean up alleys, back yards, vacant lots; spruce up, get ready for spring.

**April 7, 7:30 p.m.** — Transportation Committee Meeting, 6008 Kingsbury.

**April 14, 7:00 p.m.** — Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, 6008 Kingsbury, open to all neighborhood residents.

**May 3, 10 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** — Neighborhood Greening and Plant Exchange, 4 Corners

**May 12, 7:00 p.m.** — Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, 6008 Kingsbury, open to all neighborhood residents.

**June 7** — 6th Annual Breakfast Garden Tour, McPherson Community Garden

## Other Events of Interest

### Ongoing:

The Missouri History Museum is hosting an exhibit about African-Americans remembering their childhoods growing up in several traditional black neighborhoods in the metropolitan area.

The Saint Louis Art Museum is featuring "Painted Prints: The Revelation of Color," Northern Renaissance and Baroque Engravings, Etchings, and Woodcuts.

**April 5** – USA Women's Marathon Championship, starting at Francis Field, site of the 1904 Olympic Marathon, then 3 loops around Forest Park, finishing the 26.2 mile race on Government Drive directly below the World's Fair Pavilion.

**April 6** – Spirit of St. Louis Marathon. Des Peres and Delmar between 9:15 and 11:30 a.m. Call 727-0800 to enter or [www.stlouismarathon.com](http://www.stlouismarathon.com).

**April 12** – Crossroads School Gala. Call 367-8085 for more info.

**April 24-27** – 31st Annual Blueberry Hill Dart Tournament, a national tournament with over \$12,000 in prizes. Call 727-0880 or go to [www.BlueberryHill.com](http://www.BlueberryHill.com).

**April 27** – Earth Day in Forest Park

**May 3rd** – 7 PM JOIA IS COMING to Unity Christ Church, 33 North Skinker Blvd. JOIA is a highly-mobile 10-piece World Beat Percussion Ensemble dedicated to exposing all peoples to the high-energy, life-celebrating primitive rhythms of Brazil, Africa and other places on planet Earth.

**May 10** – MacroSun International Grand Opening, 6172 Delmar

**May 11** – 15th Annual St. Louis Walk of Fame Induction Ceremony, 1:30 p.m. free ragtime and jazz concert, followed by ceremony at 6504 Delmar. If rain, Tivoli Theatre, 6350 Delmar.

**May 16** – Washington University Commencement

### Coming this Summer:

Union Avenue Opera Theatre will feature "The Merry Widow," June 6, 7, 8; "Madama Butterfly," July 11, 12, 18, 19; and "Eugene Onegin," August 15, 16, 22, 23. Operas are performed in the original language at 733 N. Union. Tickets are \$18-\$25.

## MacroSun to Open on Delmar in May

In early May, **MacroSun International** – an importer of South Asian fashions, jewelry, home furnishings, and rare artifacts – will open at **6172 Delmar**.

MacroSun will occupy two storefronts in a historic building renovated by Joe Edwards. MacroSun had been located in the Central West End and Webster Groves. It is closing these locations and, as of the beginning of May, will be found only on our extended Loop.

Owner Gil Williams is very excited about the new facility and being part of the rejuvenation of Delmar. He has already begun attending Commercial Committee meetings.

MacroSun originally opened in 1991. It is a regional hub of Asian culture and features clothing and jewelry from Nepal, Tibet, Bali, and India.

Williams is active in the international fair trade movement. His new company headquarters will have showrooms for interior design, jewel-toned fashions made in India out of vintage silk sari brocade, antique Asian textiles, fine hand-carved furniture, tapestries, masks and sculpture from Katmandu, Peshawar, Delhi, Ubud, and Saigon.

Williams and MacroSun are planning a grand opening for May 10. He would be happy for neighbors to stop by and learn more about this unique store.



**Editor's Note:** On April 8, voters have an historic opportunity to elect four new school board members, which could change the direction of the troubled system. We asked Marj Weir, who served on the St. Louis Public School Board from 1977 to 1983, for her analysis

of the upcoming election. Marj thought it would also be of interest to our readers to hear from others from the neighborhood who have served on the school board as well.



## A New School Day

### Opinion

By Marj Weir

Deciding whom to vote for in a St. Louis Board of Education election is a challenging task for those who take it seriously, as it most certainly should be. Knowing who the candidates are and what they stand for takes time and effort. Then comparing what each one brings to the role of school board member with one's view of what needs to be done is quite another.

What kind of expertise is really needed in this role? What can and should a board member do to advance the system's effectiveness?

There are 18 people on the April 8, 2003, ballot who sincerely wish to improve the city's public schools. I have seen no rea-

son to think that any of them is driven by a narrow or unworthy agenda.

Some offer their educational leadership experience or their experience as parents of public school students. Some have past school board experience, others professional credentials in some field related to school business operations. Still others offer their civic leadership experience and influence.

At different times and under varying circumstances, school boards may need different composition, but in order to do the public's business well, they always need to behave with dignity and unity, especially because their behavior tends to symbolize the system itself.

At this time the system needs a board that can attract the attention of any and all educa-

tional leaders across the country who would take on the challenge of leading the system toward the higher achievement levels that it must attain. This new board will choose a new superintendent and provide him or her with a daunting challenge. Such a board will have to understand how to keep its target goals in focus and avoid being sidetracked in pet personal projects. It will have to provide staunch backing for its superintendent and a high public profile for its goals and accomplishments.

For these reasons, I believe that the slate of candidates comprised of Vincent C. Schoemehl, Darnetta Clinkscale, Ronald Jackson and Robert Archibald provides the best opportunity to take big steps forward. I will be voting for them and will be expecting that they use their considerable leadership talents and national influence to begin a new era for our public school children, for our public school system, and for our community.

#### From Albert Bender

The most important qualities a school board member should have are humility and integrity. The primary goal is: improve student achievement. Members bring to the board their background. Their election does not make them knowledgeable educators. I support: Alice Bell has proven true interest in academic achievement. As a member of EMAC, she spent more time examining learning in SLPS than did many school board members. Her twelve children attended SLPS. As a board member, Dr. John P. Mahoney is well known for promoting the physical and mental well-being of our students and educational technology. This was accomplished by his finding financial resources and programs that benefited our students. Vince Schoemehl will bring governmental knowledge and experience to the board. John Oleski will bring educational knowledge and experience to the board.

#### From Dan Schesch

The quality of a school system is the accumulative quality of its schools, which depends on their principals, who must provide leadership and empowering support for the teachers providing the education. Principals must: make sure their staff has sufficient resources; require high standards; recognize effective teaching; know what is going on in each classroom (with long hours before/after school for paperwork) and objectively evaluate and hold staff accountable. All must believe that every student can learn, and deliver on it.

Administrators above principals must be accountable for making sure the above is achieved.

The Board of Education must hire, and work with, a superintendent who will empower, provide support to, and hold these key people accountable; and improve results to, at a minimum, a system average of at-grade student achievement.

This will regain the confidence of the voters and legislators that providing more money is not pouring it down the drain, and gain the resources for the staff on whom we depend to educate our city's children.

I personally know and recommend two candidates for consideration. Vince Schoemehl, with his experience, will require educational administrative accountability. Ron Jackson's career has focused on improving children's lives, and he's led the recent effort to get area school systems to improve the education of minority students to eliminate the achievement gap. He will not accept St. Louis city children achieving at lower levels than in competing systems.

## Amrit and Amy Gill: Rehabbing Here and Citywide

By Lana Stein

In recent months, the names Amrit and Amy Gill have appeared with regularity in the Post-Dispatch and the Business Journal. The Gills have acquired a number of venerable properties in Midtown and beyond and are doing what no one else did: rehabbing them and returning them to the tax rolls. They have almost completed the Coronado across from Saint Louis University's campus, a monumental task that has been widely heralded. They will soon embark on the restoration of the Moolah Temple nearby. In addition, they will begin redoing the Lindell Towers, which they have owned for awhile. Most recently, they have acquired the old Carmelite monastery in Soulard. For this property and for Lindell Towers, they are using universal design, thus making their new apartments accessible to the disabled.

These ventures that have caught the attention of movers and shakers and many newspaper readers have their roots in Skinker DeBaliviere. After moving to 57xx DeGiverville in 1989, the Gills embarked on a career in property management and then restoration. She worked at Southwestern Bell and he, fresh



with an M.B.A. from Washington University, was a market analyst for a private company handling mergers and acquisitions. He made valuable contacts there. In 1991, the 6-family building Amrit and Amy had once lived in by the Loop in University City came on the market. They bought it and thus began their second and soon to be major career.

In 1993, the Gills moved to 61xx Westminster and began to acquire buildings in Skinker DeBaliviere. Their first acquisition was 6041 Washington and, the following year, they bought properties on Kingsbury. Amrit

said that he became very interested in historic property after joining the Skinker DeBaliviere Housing Corporation. The Gills also acquired more buildings in University City and added two more buildings on Washington. When his company moved to Ohio, he chose to remain in St. Louis and take on restoration and property management fulltime.

Amrit acknowledged that both he and Amy have a passion for restoring historic buildings and particularly enjoy doing neighborhood projects. He wants to help eliminate any problem properties remaining here. About four

years ago, Amrit made a commitment to residents of Pershing to help with housing conditions there. He has completed and sold 3 homes already and is currently completing two multifamily buildings, 5744 and 5750. These multifamilies are being gut rehabbed. The project architect is neighbor Chris Monzo. These will be 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartments. Amy is responsible for their redesign. In fact, she left Southwestern Bell last year to head up the design function and has an architect working for her.

These new apartments should be ready in May. They are very visible from the Forest Park Parkway and are close to MetroLink. In addition, work will soon begin at 5944 Pershing and at 6015 Westminster, both single family homes. And more is possible. The Gills intend to remain active in neighborhood rehab.

Next month, Amrit and Amy and their 3 children will move to 62xx Waterman. That will ensure that their focus remains dual: restoring the historic here and beyond.

(Author's note: I bought the first home the Gills restored on Pershing and really love it.)

# 2002-03 Delmar Wabash Link Parking Study

by Jo Ann Vatcha, Chairman, Delmar Commercial Committee

## Data Collection

- During 2002, Jo Ann Vatcha and Jennifer Olmstead from the Delmar Commercial Committee and David Mastin, Dennis Townsend and Neal Shapiro, from the Delmar Wabash Link Business Association, worked together to collect data and make recommendations regarding future parking.
- As part of data collection, intern Farhaad Chanduwadia conducted a survey and interviewed 59 merchants and building owners (including owners of 5 apartment buildings) from the MetroLink Station to the City Limits during August, 2002.
- Commercial District Manager Gary Filmore and Commercial Committee Member Loretta Lloyd completed data collection December, 2002, by interviewing merchants and property owners from the MetroLink Station east to DeBaliviere.

## Results of Surveys

- Of the businesses west of the MetroLink Station interviewed, half (20) stated that parking is already becoming an issue. Parking space is currently needed for 201 employees and 63 residential tenants in the area west of the MetroLink Station.
- Of the businesses east of the MetroLink Station, nearly all have ample parking for current needs, with the exception of the People's Health Center and the Social Security Administration.
- The survey showed that 47% of the businesses west of the station and over 50 % of those east of the station offered services that allowed customers to get out of the store in less than 20 minutes. Convenient parking is essential to the success of these service businesses.
- Nearly half of the businesses west of the station and nearly all of the businesses east of the station receive deliveries in front. At the present time, trucks find empty space to park relatively easily, but without adequate planning, deliveries could be another problem.
- Even with the current level of traffic, there are already complaints from customers about parking. With the increase that is expected, these complaints could affect business negatively.

## Summary of Parking Availability

### West Area:

- There are 211 metered public spaces West of the MetroLink Station to City Limits.
- The MetroLink lot has 360 spaces, open to MetroLink users and Pageant patrons by contract.
- There are 542 private parking spaces in the area West of the MetroLink Station to City Limits.
- Between the MetroLink Station and the City Limits, there are 514 potential new parking spaces on undeveloped property off Delmar and potentially 32 new parking meters, for a possible public parking total of 757 spaces. (This can be compared to the Loop, which has a total of 679 public parking spaces.)

### WEST AREA

City Limits to MetroLink Station (updated 11/15/02)

#### Type of Parking

Public Parking at meters: (between MetroLink Sta. and City Limits)	211
Metro-Link Lot (MetroLink & Pageant use)	360
Private Commercial Parking (Not open to public on a daily basis)	
Pageant Lot	115
St.Louis Design Alliance	37
R Jones Funeral Home prop.	85
621 Skinker Law Office Lot	20
635 Skinker new theater Lot	47
New Cote Brill Lot, 6201 Enright	48
SW Bell Lots (E & W on Delmar)	78
6225 Delmar Building Lot (Eastgate)	52
Radiant Products Lot (Skinker)	61
Subtotal private parking	542
Current parking total	1,113

#### Potential Parking Additions

Undeveloped property North of Delmar	514*
New metered parking	32
Subtotal potential parking additions (between MetroLink Sta. and City Limits)	546
Total current and potential parking (between MetroLink Sta. and City Limits)	1,659
Total current and potential public pkg (between MetroLink Sta. and City Limits)	757

\*154,060 sq.ft. less 3% landscaping divided by 300 sq. ft. per car

### East Area:

- There are 95 metered public parking spaces East of the MetroLink Station to DeBaliviere
- There are 345 private parking spaces in the area East of the MetroLink Station to DeBaliviere.
- Between the MetroLink Station East to DeBaliviere, there are 202 potential new parking spaces on undeveloped property on Enright and Hamilton, on Delmar at Laurel, and on Delmar west of the car wash near Goodfellow. There is the potential for 50 new parking meters on Hodiament between Delmar and Clemens; the People's Health Center

would like to eliminate 2 meters. This means a possible public parking total of 347 spaces.

### EAST AREA

Parking data below is limited to area between MetroLink Station and DeBaliviere.

Updated 1/22/03.

TYPE OF PARKING	# SPACES
Public Parking at meters: (between MetroLink Sta. and DeBaliviere)	95

### Private Commercial Parking (Not open to public on a daily basis)

#### Northside of Delmar

5701-23 Delmar & Enright, People's Health Center	100
5847 Delmar, Big Jakes	50
5893 Delmar, leased by Bd of Ed to Shur-Sav	8
5897 Delmar, Shur-Sav	21
5935 Delmar, Dollar Store	22
5951 Delmar, Waldman lot	38
5977 Delmar, Parsons	15
5989 Delmar, Dentist	33

#### Southside of Delmar

5888 Delmar, Skinker DeBaliviere Housing Corp	8
5942 Delmar, Beauty Shop	9
5930 & 5950 Delmar, Jehovah's Witnesses	41
5990 Delmar, Check Cashing	7
Subtotal private parking	345
Current parking total	440

#### Potential Parking Additions

Undeveloped property*, 716 Hamilton, 5886-5896 Enright**	121
Delmar and Laurel derelict bldg/lot	33
5819 Delmar w of car wash	50

#### New metered parking

Both sides Hodiament between Delmar & Clemens	50
Remove 2 spaces/People's Health	-2

Subtotal potential parking additions (between MetroLink Sta. and DeBaliviere)	252
Total current & potential pkg spaces (between MetroLink Sta. & DeBaliviere)	692
Ttl current & po. PUBLIC parking sps (between MetroLink Sta. & DeBaliviere)	347

\*47,563 sq.ft. less 3% landscaping divided by 300 sq. ft. per car

\*\*City-owned property, some currently optioned to Bank of America Community Development Corp.

## Parking Study 2002-03 Recommendations

1. Initiate discussions with owners of substantial parking lots, to maximize public access to privately-owned parking, Possibilities include: New Cote Brillante Church, Southwestern Bell, Pageant, St. Louis Design Alliance, Ronald Jones Funeral Home, 621 Skinker Law Lot, Radiant Products, Delmar/Eastgate Building.
2. Encourage owners to share parking with other merchants and the public. Examples:
  - the lots owned by New Cote Brillante Church are only minimally used, on Sundays;
  - the Southwestern Bell lots are used only on weekdays during daytime hours.
3. Create consistent standards of landscaping and signage to make parking inviting and recognizable to the public. Ask the new Special Business District to consider funding some improvements.
4. Assist private owners in designing new and better parking for their own employees, tenants and customers.
5. Market the City's "Façade Program" through the Business Association to provide some design assistance and matching funding to the small business owners, much as we did with awnings in years past.
6. Add metered parking; 82 additional meters are possible on Delmar, Skinker, and Hodiament.
7. Consider publicly funded parking lots or garages. There are 679 public parking spaces in the University City Loop, compared to our current number of 211 between the MetroLink Station and the City Limits and 95 public parking spaces east of the station to DeBaliviere.
8. Investigate the possibilities of public financing to purchase land and/or build lots and/or structures.
  - A "TIF" designates up to 50% of future sales and other taxes for repayment.
  - Bonds can be issued by the Treasurer's Office or Bi-State to make construction feasible.
  - Block Grant and 108 funds can be used for acquisition of land and/or buildings.
9. Start acquiring property as soon as possible, so that the cost of land does not escalate further, making development of parking prohibitively expensive.
10. Continue working with Bi-State. Invite Bi-State's Tina Votaw (Real Estate Department) to help plan temporary parking during construction of streetscape. As part of "construction mitigation," Bi-State could offer temporary use of the MetroLink parking lot for employees.
11. Approach SW Bell for temporary help with employee parking during construction. Acknowledge that public utilities are more concerned about security since 9/11, more than ever before, and that is affecting management of facilities.
12. Schedule a meeting to begin working with Skinker-DeBaliviere Housing Corporation, Bank of America CDC, and others to focus on future parking needs for Delmar/Hamilton.



# Delmar Construction

Metro (formerly Bi-State) has announced that the Delmar Streetscape Project has been released for bidding. Neighborhood groups, including the Delmar Commercial Committee, Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, West End Community Conference, Delmar Wabash Link Business Association, and the Delmar East Loop Parkview Gardens Special Business District, have been working hard with Aldermen Clay and Krewson, the City of St. Louis, and Metro for several years to make this revitalization dream a reality. Progress of this kind creates some inconvenience, however, and the following should help to make the upcoming construction timetable and issues clearer.

### Project Description

Area A - Hodiament to DeBaliviere:

- The median project, completed by the City last year, is the major enhancement for this area.
- During 2003, additional work will take place to repair and replace many portions of the sidewalks, install accessible curb ramps and replace sidewalk trees where needed. Fortunately, several mature trees can be saved.
- Area B - Skinker to Des Peres:
  - When complete, the overall traffic configuration between Skinker and Des Peres will be changed to match the traffic pattern in The Loop: one traffic lane in each direction, with parking on both sides of the street. A left turn northbound onto Rosedale will be provided. The turning lanes at the Skinker/Delmar intersection will remain the same. A new traffic signal will be added at the Skinker/Rosedale intersection.
  - The sidewalks will be widened on both sides of the street to 24', about double of what they are now. This greatly expands the pedestrian environment, encouraging development and street activity. New landscaping will also be included. Also, the trees must be replaced, due to the overall change to the streetscape plan.
  - New pedestrian lighting will also be installed, chosen specifically to coordinate with new lighting to be installed in the University City part of The Loop. The

cobra head lights will be reset so that they will be across from one another. This will mean that in the future, the holiday lights can be installed from The Loop eastward to Des Peres. Alderman Krewson allocated additional funding specifically for these lighting improvements.

- Most existing driveways will remain; however, a few changes and closures must be made. Direct contact will be made with those property owners.
- Utility relocations will occur

### Project Schedule

May 1 - Notice of Bid Award

May 15 - Notice to Proceed (by contract, then has 150 calendar days for construction (except for planting)

May 15-30 - Mobilization

June 1 - Construction starts, lane closures begin.

October 3 - Construction ends

Oct. & Nov. - Landscaping

Project Contact Person and Hot Line Number: Elizabeth Johnson, 314-982-1400, x1365, ejohnson@bsda.org

where necessary.

### Lane and Sidewalk Closures

Area A - There will be periodic lane closures for sidewalk repairs, but traffic will remain open at all times. One sidewalk will be open at all times for pedestrians.

Area B - There will be one lane open in each direction at all times. One sidewalk will be open at all times for pedestrians.

### Parking During Construction

Area A - There will be periodic parking restrictions when sidewalk areas are being repaired or trees planted.

Area B - On-street parking will not always be available during construction. Employees will be encouraged to take MetroLink, and employers will be encouraged to make alternative parking arrangements for their employees. Metro will allow local business employees to park in the MetroLink Delmar Park-and-Ride lot by issuing windshield placards to businesses for their employees to use. Customers may also use the MetroLink lot when visiting area businesses.

Metro will provide a sign stating that area business are open during construction and directing

customers to the MetroLink lot. Please keep in mind that parking space will be limited, and there is no 24 hour parking allowed in the lot. Construction workers will also be using the MetroLink lot. Company vehicles or company delivery vans may not use the lot.

### Deliveries During Construction

Area A - There should be no impact to deliveries.

Area B - On-street deliveries will be difficult to accommodate. Business owners may need to use the alleys for deliveries temporarily. This may mean requesting suppliers to downsize to smaller delivery vehicles during construction.

### Business and Driveway Access

Area A - There should be minimal impact to business entrances or driveway access. Metro and the contractor will notify individual property owners when sidewalk repairs will take place at their entrances.

Area B - There will be impacts to business entrances and driveways. Metro is requiring the contractor to maintain access to entrances. Temporary wood plank entrances may be provided, when necessary. The contractor is responsible for setting his own construction phasing plan.

Once a contractor is selected and a schedule is generated, Metro will provide more information on this issue. Metro and the contractor will notify individual property owners when repairs will take place at their entrances.

### Accessibility Issues:

Wherever building entrances currently have steps, the building owners will need to plan additional improvements to meet the Building Code for Accessibility. Dave Mastin, President of the Delmar Wabash Link Business Assn., at 863-1313, Ext. 223, has volunteered his architectural firm to help fellow business owners to assess their individual situations. Another key resource is Gary Filmore, Commercial District Manager, SLDC, at 454-1894, for assistance in meeting the code requirements for handicap accessibility.

These important changes to the Delmar streetscape will mean a better future for the entire business and residential community. Any questions may be directed to the Hotline number listed above, or call Dave Mastin at 863-1313, Laure Porterfield at 862-5122, or Jo Ann Vatcha at 622-3400.

### MetroLink Construction

Continued from page 1

behind the "Village" (small group housing) will allow people to go west to Big Bend.

Forsyth Boulevard may see heavier traffic, and WU is aiming for a temporary traffic signal at Forsyth and Hoyt Drive.

In addition, the Forest Park Parkway will be closed from east to Kingshighway. The road there will be reconstructed and we all know it is not in good shape. The entrance ramp from Lindell at Union will be reconfigured to eliminate the dangerous, sharp clover ramp. The new entrance ramp will access the Parkway from Union just south of Lindell in the park. The exit ramp from eastbound Forest Park Parkway onto Lindell/Union will be straightened to make it safer. This construction will begin in the fall of 2003 and take a year.

At some point during the construction it will no longer be possible to take DesPeres to Lindell. DesPeres for vehicles will end at the Parkway.

However, there will be a pedestrian bridge over the MetroLink tracks just south of the Parkway that will make it possible for pedestrians to get to Lindell and the bike path. The bridge's design was initially controversial.

Alderman Lyda Krewson of the 28th ward held up bills critical to MetroLink construction in order to see that the bridge was reconceptualized to make it more aesthetically appealing.

The Times will provide more information as it becomes available.



**KINGSBURY**  
**ANIMAL HOSPITAL**  
 420 N. Skinker ( at Kingsbury )  
**Stephen A. Brammeier, DVM**  
**Kim Lynch, DVM**  
 Full Service Grooming Available  
 Hours by Appointment  
 9-6:30 Mon.-Thurs. / 9-4:3 Fri / 10-2 Sat.  
**721-6251**

# St. Louis Earth Day 2003

The 2003 St. Louis Earth Day theme is "Passport to a Healthy Planet" with a focus on the health of both our planet and ourselves.

The St. Louis Earth Day Festival will be on Sunday, April 27th, 2003, 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on and around the Muny grounds in Forest Park. The festival will feature 5 eco-villages which highlight this year's theme, including a "Clean Air", "Clean Water", "Healthy Land", "Healthy Self",

and an "Art" village. In addition, an intergenerational performance arts area will feature both a children's performance troupe stage and an elders' storytelling theatre. Festival attendance is free.

Three service projects in Forest Park also on Sunday, April 27th, will provide volunteers with the opportunity spend a few hours as eco-stewards, either planting trees, sowing wildflowers, or picking up trash.

An Earth Day Run for the Rivers the morning of the festival benefits four local non-profits working on clean water and healthy rivers. Run registration is \$12 in advance.

For more information, check out the St. Louis Earth Day website at [www.stlouisearthday.org](http://www.stlouisearthday.org) or call Cheri Hutchings at (314) 973-0322 or (618) 398-1635.

OFF. 721-5600  
 RES. 863-0220

BROKER®  
 ASSOCIATE

**RENNI SHUTER, GRI**  
 LIFE MEMBER MILLION DOLLAR CLUB  
 RELOCATION SPECIALIST

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

## Breakfast Garden Tour Coming June 7

The sixth annual Breakfast Garden Tour will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2003. Each year we serve a delicious breakfast at the McPherson Community Garden and set you off on a tour to discover wonderful backyards and friendly neighbors. Mark your calendar now for this fine event.

## Historic District Corner

Katherine Kurtz

When we build, let us think that we build forever.

Let it not be for present delight nor for present use alone.

Let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for; and let us think, as we lay stone on stone, that a time is to come when those stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and that men will say, as they look upon the labor and wrought substance of them, "See! This our father did for us."

— John Ruskin,  
reprinted in Audel's Carpenter's  
and Builder's Guide 1923



VOICE MAIL 721-5600 x115  
karleenhoerr@aol.com  
Fax 721-3678

**R**  
BROKER &  
ASSOCIATE

**KARLEEN HOERR**  
LIFE MEMBER MILLION DOLLAR CLUB  
MEMBER MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR CLUB

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



Meet your friends for:

**HAMBURGERS**

Hamburgers • Jerk Chicken  
Vegetarian Specials  
Appetizers • Chili • Salads,  
NEW Veggie Burger • Soups

★ ★ ★ ★  
BREAKFAST served  
every day & night from 11 am

Bacon, Sausage & Eggs  
Golden Waffles  
Biscuits & Gravy  
Fresh Fruit  
Blueberry Muffins

6504 Delmar • 727-0880

## Cuba

By Lu Green

Sam and I had the most wonderful experience in early March. We had the privilege of attending a tour to Cuba sponsored by Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) and People to People Ambassadors. We spend a week there, most of the time in Havana, visiting non-profit groups and learning about the country.

We really had no idea what to expect in Cuba and had relatively little knowledge of the history - other than it was a communist country ruled by Fidel Castro.

There were many things that are surprising in Cuba. You notice right away that there is very little visible signs of Castro around Havana. He has chosen to have Che Gueverra be the symbol of the revolution and his photo is carried on souvenirs and in public places. The average Cuban does not even know where Castro lives.

The people are very friendly to Americans. One person asked Sam if he was American and gave him the "thumbs up" to an affirmative answer. You meet many people who speak English. The place is warm and friendly and you feel safe everywhere.

We were told that the crime rate is very low. The streets are clean and while most of the buildings need paint there is no trash anywhere. Outside Havana the countryside is lush and green.

The Cuban people are very proud of their health care and education systems, and it appears they should be. The country has over 46 Universities throughout Cuba. We saw school children out and about everywhere visiting the museums and other cultural attractions. The literacy rate is 96%, just one point lower than the United States.

In a meeting with the Federation of Cuban Women we were given some of the statistics for health care; the infant mortality rate is 6.5% where in Missouri it is 7.3%. Life expectancy is 76. The immunization rate is 98.5% and there is one doctor for every 192 Cubans.

The family doctors live in the community and regularly visit the homes of all who are their responsibility. Although the doctors are apparently very well trained, the problem lies in the fact that they lack all types of medical supplies and medication.

One of our interesting visits was to a block party of the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR). Started in 1960 and based in each neighborhood, the original intent was to form



Sam and Lu Green in Cuba in early March.

defense committees. Today they organize vaccination and blood drives, neighborhood clean ups, and recycling programs. Their current economic conditions have created a need for community gardening for food and medical plant harvesting.

Religion has apparently not been subdued in Cuba. We visited a nursing home, run by the Notre Dame nuns, that has been operating long before, and throughout, the Castro administration. Many religions are apparently active in Cuba.

Probably the most interesting part of the trip for us was learning from our two guides the economic and political parts of Cuban life. Our guide, a 37 year old man from Havana named Evelio, was very forthcoming about everyday life and spend hours with us on the bus asking "Are there any more questions?"

He had studied civil engineering in Russia for five years, had worked on a cruise ship for a couple of more years and yet was working as a tour guide because he could earn more money. He lives in a two bedroom apartment with his mother, sister, wife and two small children. Hot water is heated on the stove, very few people own cars and the public transportation system is comprised of a few extremely crowded buses.

Evelio told of life in Havana, especially in the last 12 years. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1990 it created an economic crisis in Cuba that the government refers to as the "special period". He referred to it as the crisis.

Cuba was apparently receiving tremendous amounts of money and food from Russia, along with oil that powered their industries. When that dried up in the early '90s Cuba saw many changes. Almost all of the factories closed, people all over the country became unemployed and food became extremely scarce.

Evelio told a story of how during this period he was living with his mother and sister. His mother was recently retired and his sister had been laid off and

he had just returned from working on the cruise ships. They had no food and could not find anything to buy. He told of riding his bike with \$1,000 in his pocket for 2 and 1/2 hours before he find a pound of rice to purchase.

The crisis forced Castro (our guides always said, "the government") to make several changes that appear to be opening up the free market system;

farmers are now allowed to keep some of their produce and sell it and keep the profit, likewise for artists and crafters. The dollar was accepted as currency; and food and other items can be purchased by Cubans at the dollar store where only US currency is accepted. Apparently many Cuban receive US dollars from relatives in the States.

A major effort was made to bring tourism to Cuba. Castro signed deals with European corporations to build hotels and the beaches of Veradero, a resort community about 2 hours outside Havana, were filled with hotels, shopping centers and restaurants, but are declared off limits to Cubans. Every restaurant had roving musicians and each has their own CD. You had the feeling that Castro said, "We will have tourism" and all the tourist amenities appeared.

The average Cuban earns about \$200 pesos per month or the equivalent of \$10 US dollars. There was much talk among our group about how food was on a ration system, with children only receiving the milk ration until the age of seven. Our guide's answer to this was that "the ration system is there to prevent the same thing that happened in the early '90s when he could not find food. It is not enough to live on, but it is enough so that you will not starve." He explained that Cubans purchased the other food needed in the farmers market or the dollar store.

It seemed to us that there currently is a dual economic system in Cuba, partly free enterprise and partly communism. We definitely had the sense that things were changing rapidly there and that more changes are on the horizon.

We asked Evelio, "Why are the Cubans so friendly to Americans after so many years of the embargo?" His response was, "Oh, those are things that governments do, we like Americans as people."

An incredible experience!

### COLONIAL RUG COMPANY

2626 Woodson  
(Our New Location)

Complete Floor Service  
Remnants Always in Stock

Bill Schiller  
726-3281

### KINGSBURY ANIMAL HOSPITAL

420 N. Skinker ( at Kingsbury )

Stephen A. Brammeier, DVM  
Kim Lynch, DVM

Full Service Grooming Available  
Hours by Appointment  
9-6:30 Mon.-Thurs. / 9-4:3 Fri / 10-2 Sat.

721-6251

### WE CATER TO COWARDS

THE FORSYTHE DENTAL GROUP

HARVEY W. SMALL, D.M.D.

VALERIE PARRIS O'BANNON, D.M.D.

The Dorchester  
665 S. Skinker  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
725-0988



Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Bd. of Dir. Mtg., Jan. 13, 2003, Minutes  
**Call to Order**  
Meeting called to order by President Dan Schesch at 7:06 PM. Minutes from Dec. Board Meeting reviewed and approved with corrections to attendance. Treasurer Peggy Droege presented the Dec. financial statements, which were reviewed and approved by the Board. The 2003 budget was also reviewed and approved as presented.

**Election of Officers**

Steve Givens of the Nominating Committee reported that there were two candidates for President and one candidate for each of the other offices. The candidates were:

- President . . . . . Dan Schesch
- . . . . . Joe Keaveny
- Vice President. . . . . John Thomas
- Treasurer . . . . . Peggy Droege
- Secretary . . . . . Tim Schoemehl

Each of the candidates for President spoke, and ballots were distributed. By a vote of 8 to 7 Joe Keaveny was elected President. All candidates for other offices were also elected.

**Security Report**

Officer Sam Hill of the 7th District gave the Security Report. Car thefts and car break-ins continue to be a problem, not only in the neighborhood, but city-wide. Officer Hill reported that plain clothes officer are patrolling the neighborhood during the times of the highest number of thefts. Laure Porterfield reported that the Council is working on a Security Seminar that will include steps car owners can take to deter theft and break-in. Arline Webb reported that she is continuing to monitor for broken or burned out streetlights in the neighborhood. She presented a list of burned out lights to Alderwoman Lyda Krewson, who will follow up.

**Aldermanic Report**

Alderwoman Lyda Krewson reported that no building permit has been issued yet for the new curb cut to be installed at Talanya's restaurant, however, the owner has met with the building division. The Delmar streetscape enhancements are scheduled to begin in April. This will be about a 5-month project. Bi-State has said they will schedule a neighborhood meeting to discuss issues related to MetroLink construction after the construction contract is awarded in March or April. Lyda noted that Alderman Irv Clay of the 26th Ward is retiring in April. Since a significant portion of the neighborhood is within the 26th Ward, Lyda encouraged the Council to work closely with Alderman Clay's successor after the election and let him know the projects and priorities the neighborhood is working on.

SDCC Board of Directors, January 13, 2003  
**Beautification Committee**

Andy Cross thanked Dan Schesch for his support for the beautification committee and their many projects throughout this year and past years. Andy and Laure Porterfield also reported that the grant request to the Regional Arts Commission has been submitted. The grant will include a proposal for a concert series at Four Corners; an installation of a mosaic at the stage at Four Corners; and on enhanced Wintermarkt.

Washington Heights Organizing Committee John Thomas reported that the planning meetings for the Washington Heights organization continue to go well. They are developing proposed by-laws and a system for electing representatives to the Council that will be presented at a neighborhood meeting on February 19th at Hamilton School

**Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial**  
The annual MLK commemoration is scheduled for January 26 at New Cote Brillante Church of God. This year, the commemoration will also tie in a memorial for Greg Freeman. Speakers will include Dan Schesch, Lana Stein, Elizabeth Wright, Lorraine Kee, and Emmanuel Kintu. Children from Carr Lane Visual and Performing Arts Middle School St. Roch and Grace will also perform.

**Executive Director's Report**  
Laure Porterfield reported that the Police and

Firefighters appreciation luncheon was very successful, with great attendance, and lots of participation. Many thanks to Ruth Johnson, who again organized the event. Laure noted that the CDA Work Program would be ready for signature shortly. The Board passed a resolution approving the CDA contract and authorizing the Executive Director, the President, the vice-President, and the Treasurer to sign all necessary documents. The Board also passed a resolution authorizing the SDCC's signature cards at Central West End Bank to be updated to include the signatures of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and the Executive Director.

**Housing Corporation Report**

Gary Boehnke reported that the Housing Corporation held its annual meeting in December and elected new officers:

- President . . . . . Richard Wilkes
- Vice-President . . . . . Steve Krammer
- Secretary. . . . . Harriett Hubbard
- Treasurer. . . . . Jennifer Olmstead

In response to a question, Gary gave a brief update on property the Housing Corporation had sold in the 5700 Block of McPherson and what he knew about the status of redevelopment in that block.

**Executive Committee Report**

Dan Schesch reported that a letter had been sent to Bi-State regarding the resolutions on design elements for MetroLink that the Council approved in December.

SDCC Board of Directors, January 13, 2003

Dan also gave an update on the status of liquor licenses on Delmar. Dan reported that the license for the Country Store was coming up in February. Dan reported that some neighbors would be collecting signatures from near by residents, businesses and property owners opposing a liquor license for the Country Store since the owner has no restrictions placed on the Country Store and the Shur-Sav last year.

**Other Business**

Shirley Polk noted the recent death of Greg Freeman, who was a long time resident of the neighborhood, and a former a member of the Community Council. Shirley suggested that the Council consider setting up a scholarship fund in Greg's memory. Dan Schesch suggested that SDCC might partner with the United Negro College Fund, or a similar organization, who could administer the scholarship. Steve Givens noted that Greg was a Washington University alumnus, and that there was talk at the University of setting up a scholarship in Greg's name. This also could be an opportunity for the neighborhood to establish a partnership. Dee Joyce-Hayes suggested that we pursue naming a neighborhood landmark, such as Lucier Park, in honor of Greg. There was widespread support for some type of memorial in honor of Greg. Members of the Council will explore various possibilities and report back at the next meeting. Respectfully submitted, Tim Schoemehl, Sec.

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Bd. of Directors Mtg., Feb., 2003 Minutes  
**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by President Joe Keaveny at 7:05 PM. Minutes from January Board Meeting reviewed and approved with a correction to the attendance. Treasurer Peggy Droege presented the January financial statements, which were reviewed and approved by the Board. Peggy reported that the 2002 Friends campaign had reached its goal of \$6,000. Peggy and Laure Porterfield also reported that SDCC's tax documents for the year 2000 were audited by the IRS. No determination letter has been issued as yet from the audit.

**Security Report**

Officer Sam Hill of the 7th District gave the Security Report. Car thefts continue to be a problem in the neighborhood and around the City. The undercover patrol near Waterman

and Pershing seemed to deter auto thefts for a while. A security seminar focusing on auto theft prevention will be held Wednesday February 26th, 7:00 p.m., at Grace Methodist Church. P.O. Denise Young, 7th District, and P.O. Gwen Patton, Washington University Police, will conduct the program. Police have been enforcing City Ordinances against solicitations and sales at intersections. Such activity can pose a traffic safety hazard. Police have issued verbal warnings, followed by written citations when the solicitations continue. If the problem continues, the next step will be to make arrests. Police continue to enforce the Waterman/DeGiverville Parking District. Captain Isom stated that if residents who have received tickets purchase their decals, police will void their tickets.

**Aldermanic Report**

Alderwoman Lyda Krewson reported that in response to a request from the Council, she has asked the Parks Department to repair the electrical service at Four Corners Park. Lyda reported that a liquor license has been applied for a new restaurant at 609 Eastgate. The restaurant owner originally applied for a 3AM license, but the 3AM request has been withdrawn. The restaurant operator will meet with the Commercial District Committee on Friday to discuss his plans in greater detail.

Lyda reported several developments with Bi-State regarding the MetroLink extension through the neighborhood:

- \* Bi-State has agreed to install a wrought-iron type fence on the North side of Forest Park Parkway. The cost will be split between the Ward Capital improvement funds, and Bi-State Funds.
- \* Bi-State has agreed to landscape, irrigate, and maintain the green space areas around the entrances to the Skinker station.
- \* Bi-State will restore the medians in the Forest Park Parkway to pre-construction appearance (replace any trees or planters removed during construction, etc.)
- \* The pedestrian bridge at Des Peres will only cross the MetroLink tracks (not the Forest Park Parkway.) The design of the pedestrian bridge is still unresolved. Bi-State will hold another NAC meeting to discuss this and other unresolved design issues.

**Beautification Committee**

Laure Porterfield reported that this year's Blitz Day is April 5. An organizing meeting for block captains and others involved

in Blitz Day will be held March 12th. Participation has been stronger on some blocks than other in recent years. Hoping to energize block captains and have good participation on all blocks. Des Peres is being discussed as a possible "target area" for Blitz Day.

**Commercial District Committee**

The Committee is meeting on Friday to discuss plans for a renovation of Kingsbury Animal hospital... The proposed restaurant at 609 Eastgate will also be on the agenda. The Historic District Review Committee will also meet (February 25 or 26) to review the plans for the Kingsbury Animal Hospital.

**Executive Director's Report**

Laure Porterfield gave an update on the discussion of possibilities for a scholarship in honor of Greg Freeman. After some discussion, it was decided that an Ad Hoc Committee should be formed to discuss appropriate ways the neighborhood could remember Greg. Dee Hayes, Shirley Polk, and Tim Schoemehl volunteered to serve on the Committee. Gwen LaZard said she would speak with several neighbors who might also be interested in serving on the Committee.

**Other Business**

Terry Vanicelli (62XX Washington) expressed his concerns about a possible 3AM liquor license at 609 Eastgate, and the current 3AM license at Delmar lounge. A discussion followed about the status of liquor licenses on Delmar and various protests that neighbors are considering.

**Housing Corporation Report**

Gary Boehnke referred to the project report in the Board packets. He stated that the Housing Corporation is focused on making their development on Delmar a success.

**Executive Committee Report**

Joe Keaveny presented a Resolution honoring Dan Schesch for his contributions to the SDCC and the neighborhood. The Board approved unanimously. Joe also reported that he has spoken with the Housing Corporation about becoming a member of that Board and asked if any SDCC Board members had any concerns. None were expressed. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM. Respectfully submitted, Tim Schoemehl.



**Renee Flanders (right), 61XX Westminster, was among ten award winning artists to be recognized with a show of recent work at the Art St. Louis 2003 honor awards. Renee noted that the found objects featured in her works were discovered while walking the family dog through Skinker-DeBaliviere. Shown attending the March 8th opening with Renee is husband Bill Yonker. The show, at 917 Locust, Suite 300, through April 11th, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 to 4 Saturdays.**

**Neighborhood Greening – Saturday, May 3rd, 2003 at Four Corners Park and all around the neighborhood.**

Our seventh annual Neighborhood Plant Exchange will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Four Corners Park. Bring plants that are crowding your garden and need to be thinned out. Give them to a neighbor or trade for something you would like in your garden.

Last year we traded day lilies, iris, lambs ears, zinnias, lily of the valley, coneflowers, daisies, hostas, basil, dill, and much more.

Available FREE at your Four Corners Park on Saturday, May 3rd:

- woodchip mulch (for garden beds and trees, etc.)
- grass seed packets for small bare spots in lawns
- sign up to water flowers at Four Corners
- hot dogs and soda from 11:30 to 1:00
- Block Captains' flower orders to be picked up

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

We're happy to be part of the Skinker-DeBaliviere community  
**Come visit your new neighbor!**

Direct from the artists of South Asia

**Jewelry • Clothing • Home Decor • Artifacts • Gifts**

**6171 Delmar - East of Skinker - Across from the Pageant**  
**314 - 726 - 0222**  
www.macrosun.com





Here, Alderman Lyda Krewson signed the first official Crossroads School Athletic Facility and Community Center basketball, which she presented to Head of School Billy Handmaker.

With our April issue, THE TIMES OF SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE celebrates our 33rd anniversary of continuous service to the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood. As the "oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis," we're entitled to brag a little. So congratulations to our columnist who usually fills this spot. **Tom Hoerr this month insisted on the front page (and it's only been twenty something years).** Here's hoping that, as a result, everyone feels a bit lighter about all the upcoming changes to our transportation system and streets and sidewalks. We invite you to let us know how the changes are affecting your family. As your current Times "staff", we feel honored to be keeping alive one of the great traditions of our neighborhood.

Jo Ann Vatcha and Lana Stein, Co-Editors  
and Lois Schoemehl, Business Manager

Once again, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Brings You

## Operation Brightside BLITZ DAY

Saturday April 5, 2003

### Help cleanup your neighborhood!

The Beautification Committee of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council needs YOU to join us in our special projects including:

- neighborhood-wide alley clean-ups
- clean-up of Four Corners Park area
- a chance to purchase Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood T-Shirts (12.00 each)
- clean - up of DesPeres to Delmar

After making the neighborhood sparkle, join us from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for free hot-dogs & soda at Four Corners Park (Kingsbury & DesPeres)

# LEFT BANK BOOKS

**399 N. Euclid  
St. Louis, MO  
63108  
314-367-6731**

fax  
314-367-3256

website  
www.left-bank.com

e-mail  
info@left-bank.com

**Mon - Sat  
10 -10  
Sun  
11 -6**

**Hardbacks  
10% Off**

**Since 1969**

## CONTRACTOR REFERRAL LIST

For many years now, the SDCC office has attempted to maintain a contractor referral list for those seeking to find reputable contractors for projects on their homes or investment property in the neighborhood. Without offering any endorsement, the SDCC Contractor's list has been compiled when YOU think enough of a craftsman's work to pass that information on to the council – and thus your neighbors.

We currently seek more referrals.

Your name will not be released, and the Council does not certify any contractor. We seek help in finding workers in the following categories: roofers, gutters and downspouts, concrete work and other masonry projects, tuckpointing, electrical, painting, plastering, plumbing (indoor and outdoor), windows, general handyman, lawn work, and any other category that you can create. Please use the following form to send us your information:

Contractor Name: \_\_\_\_\_


Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please include address, phone number, cell phone where available)

Kind of work: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Your name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Return this information to SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, St. Louis, MO 63112. Questions? Call 862-5122.



9 Years Experience in St. Louis  
Historic Neighborhoods and Suburbs

**Life Member Million Dollar Club**

Bus: (314) 721-5600  
Res: (314) 727-6377

Katie Kurtz

**Daniel B. Feinberg Real Estate Co.**



**Meet your friends for:**

Hamburgers • Jerk Chicken  
Vegetarian Specials  
Appetizers • Chili • Salads  
NEW Veggie Burger • Soups

☛ **BREAKFAST from 11 am**

Bacon, Sausage & Eggs  
Golden Waffles • Biscuits & Gravy  
Fresh Fruit • Blueberry Muffins



**"I LOVE THIS PLACE!"**

6504 Delmar • 727-0880