

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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Summer 2003

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

A Wild and Woolly Grand Opening for MacroSun

By Lana Stein



Two Llamas and Lyda; Tibetan Lama Lobsang Palden and a Peruvian llama named "Cinnabun," along with 28th Ward Alderwoman Lyda Krewson, enjoy the festivities at MacroSun International's Grand Opening celebration. More photos on page 7.

There are now four new businesses on Delmar, housed at 6192 in newly refurbished space. Joe Edwards purchased this site and supervised its revitalization. The facade has been restored while the interiors have been completely updated. MacroSun is consolidating its operations in two bays at this location. Big Shark Co. is opening a store devoted to athletic wear. The last storefront is now home to Bittersweet Botanicals. Upstairs Patrick Davis Communications has taken over the office space.

On Saturday, May 10, the sky was very dark. There were tornado warnings around 9:30am. Although no tornado touched down in our vicinity, a heavy downpour did cover the area. MacroSun was celebrating its grand opening beginning at 1:00pm. Perhaps providentially, the clouds parted and the sun broke through just before the festivities were to begin. And, it remained dry for the rest of the day.

Gil Williams, owner of MacroSun, made this a memorable event. A llama visited and allowed children (and adults) to pet her. There were dignitaries everywhere. Mayor Francis G. Slay came by as did his executive director of development, Barbara Geisman. Alderman Lyda Krewson with her family enjoyed the festivities. From city planning, Rollin Stanley and Don Roe experienced Delmar

renewal first hand. State Sen. Pat Dougherty and State Rep. Bob Hilgemann also mingled. Former alderman Dan McGuire and his wife Jill took part too. Karen Baxter, who served as a preservation consultant, admired the restoration. JoAnn Vatcha and myself were there from the Commercial Committee. SDCC President Joe Keaveney, accompanied by his son, represented the Council.

Joe Edwards welcomed the crowd and said that this building was part of the expansion of the Loop eastward and he was pleased to be involved in it. He introduced Mayor Slay. The mayor said this is helping to make his area the great place it can be. It's good to bringing back businesses and customers.

Slay presented Joe and Linda Edwards with a key to the city and praised their commitment, made at significant risk. Slay introduced chief aide Barbara Geisman. She noted that retail means a great deal to the city of St. Louis. There is considerable disposable income in the city and it's good that it can be spent in the city. She also recognized new \$250,000 homes built near here north of Delmar. She noted that now people believe that developments can make money in St. Louis. Alderman Lyda Krewson concluded the speeches by not-

Continued on page 7
MacroSun

Fifth Annual Garden Tour

This year's Breakfast Garden Tour is scheduled for Saturday, June 7th, from 8:30 a.m. til noon. Tour participants check in at the award-winning McPherson Community Garden, 5900 McPherson. A generous continental breakfast is served starting at 8:30 a.m., with a selection of fresh coffees provided by Genesis House. There will be children's activities and a bonsai demonstration by horticulturist Johnathan Watt. Fast becoming a Skinker-deBaliviere tradition, this event is not just for gardeners, but for neighbors of all ages.

The self-guided walking tour of participating private gardens commences at 9:00 a.m. This year's tour focuses on gardens on the 6000 and 6100 blocks of Kingsbury and the 6000 block of Westminster.

Homes in the Skinker DeBaliviere-Parkview-Catlin Tract Historic District are situated on quiet, tree-lined streets, with shaded, private backyards that permit gardeners to create intimate settings full of surprises. Tour participants report that they can satisfy their curiosity and learn a gardening tip or two at the same time.



The tour benefits the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council and is a project of its Beautification Committee. Tickets are \$12.00 on the day of the tour. Children's tickets are \$5.00. Children under ten are admitted free. Under the leadership of Andy and Linda Cross, the tour has become a significant marketing as well as fund-raising event, providing attendees with the opportunity to learn more about this vibrant and diverse city

The Loop Goes Vertical on June 12

Please join us for an Ice Cream Social to dedicate Vertical Loop By artist Ron Fondaw

June 12th, 7:30 pm

Pageant Walkway, east side of the Pageant at 6161 Delmar Blvd.

Along the public walkway connecting Delmar Boulevard and Enright Avenue, adjacent to The Pageant, one can't help but notice the new public art sculpture, Vertical Loop, a sequence of seven, colorful, 30-foot high poles reaching toward the sky, arranged with carved images representing life in the Delmar Loop. Four of the poles are topped with wind vanes in the shape of a ballet slipper, book, guitar, and painter's palette. All are adorned with glowing fiberglass light shades and LED top lights, which will be lit for the first time on June 12th.

Vertical Loop is a public art commission of the City of St. Louis in conjunction with Arts in Transit. Special thanks to Joe Edwards, Kiku Obata & Company, the Missouri Department of Transportation and the Regional Arts Commission.

Arts in Transit (AIT) is a community partnership program of Metro. Arts in Transit furthers Metro's mission of "economic development through excellence in transportation" by forging community partnerships and creating customer friendly and aesthetically appealing, community oriented transit environments. Since its inception in 1986, Arts in Transit has completed more than 100 public art projects, installations and community enhancements. For further information and to view past projects, visit our website at www.artsintransit.org.

Editor's Notebook

By Lana Stein

I often acknowledge the progress this neighborhood has made in the last couple decades. Better appearance, higher property values, less crime, new housing, community gardens, etc. But, giving a recent visitor a tour of the city demonstrated to me that the city has also improved a good deal. Since my friend has been here several times, I decided to show what is new since her last visit.

First, there's Forest Park. Although I don't agree with every change, it clearly looks good and well-taken care of. Then it was off toward the river. We went by WireWorks and Sqwire's, great new additions. Then, it was on past the King Louis Apartments with the last of the high rise public housing coming down. The next stop was Washington Avenue and the Loft District. The street enhancements are first class, particularly the lighting. New clubs and shops are opening up. Next stop, Grand Center.

The Pulitzer Repository and the Contemporary Art Museum are new and arresting in their architecture. The Continental Building is alive again and the new Cardinal Ritter High School has an imposing presence. Then west on Delmar where there are more new homes on what had been a very decayed thoroughfare. Getting closer to home, we looked at Maple Acres and some of its neighbors, new construction, over \$150,000 and selling well.

There are a lot of people to thank for these developments, neighborhood leaders and aldermen with vision. There is also a big thanks for Historic Tax Credits without which much of this development could not have occurred. Government, the private and the voluntary sectors together enhancing our city living.

We can be positive about St. Louis. Down with naysayers. We're doing well.

New Veterinary Hospital Planned

On June 9, Dr. Steve Brammeier of the Kingsbury Animal Hospital will show plans for a new clinic to the SDCC. The old structure, a former Shell filling station, will be demolished. There will be more room to treat our cats and dogs. The building will be at the sidewalk line and parking will be at the back. If all goes well, construction will begin in August.

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.

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 September/October issue: August 15, 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.

Calendar

Upcoming Events Calendar

June 7, 2003 — Breakfast Garden Tour, 8:30 a.m. - noon. Start tour at the McPherson Community Garden, in the 5900 block of McPherson. COST: \$10.00 in advance, \$12.00 day of the tour.

June 9, 2003 — Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. SDCC Office, 6008 Kingsbury. Open to all residents.

June 12, 2003 — Ice Cream Social and Dedication Ceremony for "Vertical Loop" Artwork along Community Path at the Pageant, 7:00 p.m.

July 14, 2003 — Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., SDCC Office, 6008 Kingsbury. Open to all residents.

August 5, 2003 — National Night Out. Party at Four Corners Park. 6:00 p.m. to midnight. Concert. Barbecue. A community celebration. Watch for exciting details.

August 11, 2003 — Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., SDCC Office, 6008 Kingsbury.

Other Nearby Events of Interest

At the History Museum in Forest Park:

- American Wanderlust begins June 15—Celebrate our love affair with the open road by viewing vintage cars from a number of eras.
- Through the Eyes of a Child: Growing Up Black in St. Louis, 1940-1990.

"From Tupelo to Graceland," Sat., Aug. 16 at **Blueberry Hill**. To commemorate the 26th anniversary of Elvis' death, the entire Presley Family will be impersonated in free 20 minute shows at 8pm and 9pm in Blueberry Hill's display window followed by a 3-hour live musical tribute (\$20).

Don't miss! Stop by the brand-new MacroSun International shop at 6172 Delmar for a schedule of monthly events all through the summer.

Three Free Concerts 4th Sunday of the Summer Months

Grab your lawn chair, blanket, food (no glass, please) and head over to Ivory Perry Park, formerly Visitation Park, the 4th Sunday of each summer month. Denise Thimes, renowned for her performances at the Black Rep and around the world, will lead off the series premier on Sunday, June 22, 2003, from 6-8 p.m. Thimes has recently traveled around the country with the Teach Personal Freedom Tour, sponsored by the Proctor and Gamble Company.

The 4th Sunday in July will bring the three-octave range of rhythm and blues vocalist Charles Glenn. You may have caught Glenn sing-

ing the national anthem at the Blues' or Rams' games. Kim Massie, a remarkable blues and jazz singer, will conclude the series on the 4th Sunday in August. Massie will also be appearing in the Black Rep's "Damn Yankees" this summer.

Ivory Perry Park is located on Belt Avenue, two blocks north of Delmar. Belt is one stoplight west of Union. Secured parking is available in the St. Louis Connect Care Community Health Center's lots. During the concert, children can enjoy the park's playground equipment, complete with its famous rocket.

Thanks to the efforts of many community and school groups, local businesses and churches, and St. Louis City officials, these free concerts will be a great place to hear wonderful St. Louis talent this summer. Plan to attend on the 4th Sunday of each month.

For more information, or to volunteer to help with these concerts, call Carla Mash Duncan at 314-727-2309.



Denise Thimes

Community Meeting Discusses MetroLink Construction

By Lana Stein



Legend:
 Closure begins April 2003
 Big Bend to Central Ave
 (Ritz Carlton westbound ramp open)
 Closure begins June 2003
 Skinker Blvd to Big Bend Blvd
 Closure begins July 2003
 DeBaliviere Ave to Skinker Blvd
 Closure begins Mid-2004
 Central Ave to Brentwood Blvd



Only a few weeks before the first parkway closings, Skinker DeBaliviere residents, along with their brethren from other impacted neighborhoods, met with METRO officials in the St. Roch Church Hall to learn more about what to expect and when. Discussion was limited to construction. A number of METRO executives were present. The fol-

lowing points were made:

- There will be some disruption to everyday lives.
- If contractors are ahead of schedule, the parkway might reopen sooner.
- The parkway will be redone with new pavement and signals.
- After the parkway is completed, tracks will still need to be laid and overhead wires put in.

- DesPeres south of the parkway will close only after the parkway is reopened between DesPeres and DeBaliviere.
- There will be 2 weeks notice of any additional closure.
- Skinker and Big Bend will each be closed for one week-end when the temporary bridges are put in. There will be 2 weeks notice.
- There will be a temporary signal at Lindell and Skinker.
- There will be no designated detour route.
- Two lanes will be kept open in each direction on Skinker, Big Bend and DeBaliviere.
- Delmar improvements will occur between June 1 and mid-September. Residents voiced various concerns. Mgrs. Polizzi of St. Roch made the point that Washington University had been con-

sulted more than once regarding construction. Neighborhood schools and churches were not. Some spoke in favor of reopening DesPeres at Delmar; others opposed it.



Photo by King Schoenfeld

Editor's Note: During May, John Burroughs School students Ross Curly and Fiona Fordyce became TIMES volunteers, attending neighborhood meetings, as well as surveying businesses on Delmar for future advertising in the TIMES. The following observations were written especially for THE TIMES.

Traffic Woes

By Ross Curley

The April 26th meeting at St. Roch's church concerned the impact of Metrolink construction on the Skinker-Debaliviere neighborhood for the next two years. It also shed some light on the neighborhood's general emotions towards Metro and Washington University. Municipal leaders decided there would not be a designated detour because no businesses and residents on Delmar and Olive were willing to accept the immediate traffic burden from the Forest Park Parkway using neighborhoods. When asked whether trucking companies would be alerted or deterred from using Skinker for the next two years, the representatives from Metro (previously Bi-state) responded, "We can't be so bold as to limit trucking traffic on Skinker." Metro said that they hope trucking companies will search for alternate routes on their own accord. The lack of action with the trucking companies clearly perturbed some already disgruntled residents. Residents were not pleased to learn that the Delmar beautification program will be implemented during the closing of Forest Park Parkway. One resident pointed out that it makes little sense to narrow Delmar to one lane in each direction when the traffic flow will be so greatly increased for the next two years. Attendees of the meeting were apparently also surprised to learn that traffic would also be permanently affect-

ed, as Metro plans to eliminate the section of Des Peres between Lindell and Forest Park Parkway. Further anxiety was generated when Metro announced a new plan for the intersections of Lindell Boulevard and Skinker that includes a traffic signal. Frustration with Washington University and its role in the plans was rampant. Additional traffic signals included in the plan are mostly for Washington University pedestrians. One attendee asked why Wash. U. is to be given a lane of traffic all to itself once construction is intensified, while the

residents of Skinker-Debaliviere are left with greatly increased traffic and many fewer entrances and exits from the neighborhood. The Pastor of St. Roch's church sarcastically commented, "I recommend this line be named the Washington University line." The meeting provided many answers and important new information, but often Metro's decrees were not what residents wanted to hear.

Artist Seeks Community Input in Design for New RAC Building

William Cochran has been selected to design the public art made of architectural glass that will be on the east wall of the new Regional Arts Commission facility now being constructed on 61xx Delmar. He has put forward a survey to tap the community's experiences with art that will then be reflected in his work. The survey is available at the following web site: art.stl.com/building_survey.ctm. The deadline is May 31 but later comments may be integrated into later work by this artist. Jill McGuire, Regional Arts Commission Executive Directors, hopes to move into this new building in August.

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A Brief Tribute to Our Commercial Committee and Its Leadership

by Lana Stein

As part of Operation ConServ, a planning committee was established for Skinker DeBaliviere in 1989. In turn, several specialized committees were also created. JoAnn Vatcha was asked to chair the Commercial Committee. She immediately found consensus that it would be best to concentrate on Delmar, our premiere, though quite run down, thoroughfare. An initial act of the committee was to walk Delmar to get a feel for what was there and what the conditions were. It was a very hot June afternoon and brief respite was sought at the then-McDonalds in the 58xx block.

After discussion with SDCC Executive Director Nancy Farmer and Alderman Dan McGuire, it was decided to create a redevelopment plan for Delmar between city limits and DeBaliviere. The Committee took on the form it has held almost until today. Members included Lana Stein, Sam Green, Dennis Townsend (owner of Boulevard Cleaners on Delmar), Loretta Lloyd (owner of Sunshine Academy), Steve Brammeier, two neighborhood architects: John Reeve (who moved from our neighborhood) and George Johannes (who participated for years). Deborah Smith, a Washington University graduate student, administered a survey of businesses and residents, assisted by Jack Wright. As work on the plan began, Alderman Irving Clay and Marie Fowler of the West End Community Conference became active participants. In more recent times, Joe Edwards, Neal Shapiro, and

Jennifer Olmstead have joined, as well as people from the business association.

While the redevelopment plan took form, JoAnn Vatcha guided successful grant applications, which brought trees, awnings, banners, and, later, funds for the major streetscape improvements to Delmar. The committee met frequently and its members developed a strong rapport. Vehement disagreements did not take place. Sponsored by Aldermen Clay and McGuire, the plan was passed by the Board of Aldermen and provided standards for building height, parking, railings and other physical forms. They also contained a set of prohibited uses. Prior to passage, the ordinance was published in the Times and community hearings were held.

Lyda Krewson took Dan McGuire's place as 28th alderman and brought her experience in redevelopment to the table. Joe Edwards' desire to move east in the Loop and construct the Pageant was the pivotal decision that guaranteed a successful reworking of the Delmar thoroughfare.

Yet, without the work of the Delmar Committee and its chair, JoAnn Vatcha, the area would not have been ripe for Edwards' multiple efforts. Vatcha worked many hours on Delmar redevelopment and through her patience, her steadfastness, and her vision she contributed incalculably to the committee, the neighborhood, and rebirth on Delmar.

JoAnn Vatcha has lived in Skinker DeBaliviere with her



Several members of the original Delmar Commercial Committee were photographed by King Schoenfeld in 1991: Sam Green; Jo Ann Vatcha; Dennis Townsend; graduate student Deborah Smith, who did a survey of merchants and potential riders of the MetroLink; Lana Stein, the late Jack Wright; and then-Executive Director of SDCC, Nancy Farmer.

husband, Neville, since the late 1960s. They raised their two daughters, Chanaya and Dina, here and formed very strong bonds with their neighbors and their neighborhood. After graduating from Southeast Missouri State, Vatcha became an English teacher in the Parkway district. After motherhood, she changed career directions and is now a housing analyst at CDA, working to revitalize neighborhoods like Benton Park West. At one time, she headed Neighborhood Housing Services and is now a housing analyst at CDA. She has been able to use the knowledge and skills she has gained from working in Souldard and Benton Park to achieve progress on Delmar.

Without her dedication, intelli-

gence, and perseverance, history would be evolving quite differently. JoAnn's skill in dealing with people and respecting their ideas has been paramount. She was never deterred from the goal even though it at one time may have seemed like a long shot. Working amid diversity, she maintained harmony. It is hoped that the contribution of her and her committee will be lasting. They have assisted an avenue devastated by the systemic disinvestment that frequently accompanies racial transition and they have done so by including neighbors to the north as well as the south, existing businesses, and interested residents.

THE TIMES OF SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE will once again sponsor a "New Neighbors Party" to welcome newcomers and greet old friends and support the all-volunteer publication of the oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis.

The event will be held Saturday, June 28, 2003, starting at 7:00 p.m. in the collective backyards of the Greens and Vatches, at 6115 and 6117 Westminster. The \$ 10 contribution will help THE TIMES continue, and all new neighbors attend for free. There will be a cash bar and complimentary snacks, donated by TIMES Board Members and other generous neighbors.

For more information, call Jo Ann at 726-6974 or Lana at 721-7532.

Blitz Day Cleanup 2003

By Andy Cross

The great weather on April 5th contributed to the big turnout and successful cleanup in our alleys this year. The City of St. Louis Refuse Department was very busy, visiting some alleys multiple times. Hundreds of Operation Brightside trashbags were distributed to block captains at the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Office.

A special clean up project took place on DesPeres at Westminster by Nicole Blumner, Katrina Stierholtz, and other neighbors of the 6000 block of Westminster. The pocket park at Washington and DesPeres was cleaned up, overgrown juniper bushes were trimmed back, dead branches were removed from trees, and two deceased trees were removed. The debris was bundled up and hauled off by the City's cooperative bulk pick-up crew.

Jennifer Olmstead led a cleanup crew at DesPeres at Delmar and Washington, in preparation

for the St. Louis Marathon. The following day, they set up a canopy and served coffee and doughnuts to runners who made their way down Delmar.

Rebecca Barefoot of Washington University provided our neighborhood with an energetic crew of volunteers from the Environmental Engineering Students Association. About 20 hardworking students helped pick up trash in various parts of the neighborhood.

Hot dogs were served by volunteers Robert Wood and Stephanie Schiller assisting SDCC staff Laure Porterfield and Juanita Wood. The 7th District provided community service workers, who helped clean up the alleys and roadside at 5700 through 5900 Pershing at the Forest Park Expressway. Thanks to all who participated in the Blitz Day 03 from SDCC and the Beautification Committee.

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Groundbreaking for Delmar Street Improvements



Photo by Lee Harris

In front of the Wabash Station, numerous dignitaries helped kick off the "Delmar Streetscape Project". Speakers included Congressman Wm. Lacy Clay, Mayor Francis R. Slay, Alderman Lyda Krewson, former Alderman Irving Clay, Metro Commissioner Jacob Johnson (at the podium), Metro Director Larry Salci, BPS Director Ronald Hearst, and Jo Ann Vatcha. MC Joe Edwards made everyone feel like a star.

May 28 dawned dark and dreary but, once again, as festivities commenced on Delmar at the Wabash station, there was bright sunshine. At 2pm, city officials, METRO officials, activists, and others met to celebrate the imminent start to street improvements on Delmar between the Wabash Station and Skinker. A sizeable crowd gathered. Joe Edwards served as emcee, celebrating the Delmar revitalization and the creation of great arts and entertainment district.

Congressman William Lacy Clay greeted the crowd and said

he was pleased to see the start of this new phase of revitalization that began 12 years ago. He noted that former Ald. Irving Clay had made it his top priority, cosponsoring development legislation with Ald. Dan McGuire. Congressman Bill Clay helped bring in transportation funds. Private investment is really helping now too. A free-spirited, artsy atmosphere is being created and Joe Edwards took that first bold step. Clay also noted the opening of Big Jake's Barbe-que.

Mayor Francis Slay was then

introduced by Joe Edwards. Slay thanked Edwards for his vision, leadership, and resources in extending the Loop into the city. Slay noted that ten years ago the Delmar MetroLink station opened. Plans for the streetscape have been in the works for years. These changes will improve pedestrian accessibility and enhance the appearance of the area. Slay acknowledged the help of 26th and 28th ward aldermen, University City and its mayor, Joe Adams, and both Congressmen Clay. There is also new residential construction occurring to the north. In addition, the 6172 Delmar building has renovated commercial and office space.

Twenty-eighth ward Alderman Lyda Krewson greeted everyone. She said work had begun on Dan McGuire's watch with the neighborhood committee and Alderman Clay. Now they've been able to put money with the vision. This project represents a bridge of east to west, north to south.

Edwards introduced former Alderman Irving Clay. Clay mentioned the new homes being built close by. He said we have to keep working on Delmar all the way to DeBaliviere. He said "Tell your friends and family to come down below Skinker."

Jacob Johnson, of METRO's Board of Commissioners spoke of how transit enhances community living. He introduced new 26th Ward Alderman Frank

Williamson, Marie Fowler of the West End Community Conference, and fellow METRO Commissioners Betty Van Uum and the Rev. B. T. Rice. Ald. Williamson said this was a great thing — redeveloping the business district. Larry Salci, executive director of METRO, also spoke and mentioned the creation of a transit plaza next year, which places the station's main entrance on Delmar.

Edwards introduced the head of the Delmar Commercial Committee, "a wonderful level-headed woman who keeps everything together," JoAnn Vatcha. She acknowledged the presence of Mayor Adams, state Sen. Joan Bray, state rep. Barbara Fraser, and the city's Comptroller, Darlene Green. She then acknowledged the longtime and important commitment of her committee's members including Lana Stein, Sam Green, Dennis Townsend, Loretta (and Willis) Lloyd, SDCC Director Laure Porterfield, and Director of Arts-in-Transit Sarah Smith. Vatcha also noted Dan McGuire's contribution to the planning, particularly his knowledge of city history and city rules.

On June 12, there will be a grand opening of the walkway created between the Pageant and the MetroLink parking lot.

Attendees were then served refreshments and were able to tour the Wabash Station, eventually possibly to become a restaurant.

The Price of Comeback: Neighbors vs. Businesses

by Lana Stein

The Delmar Lounge, located on Delmar at Eastgate, is reputed to be a successful dining establishment with drinking and music later in the evening. The current owners wish to sell to their manager and his family.

In the event of a sale, the new owner must apply for a liquor license anew, getting the requisite signatures and having a hearing before the Liquor Control Commissioner, Bob Kraiberg. The prospective owners here have been seeking a 3 am license, the same as that of the present owner.

Some neighbors on 62xx Washington oppose the granting of the 3am license, objecting because of noise caused by patrons leaving the establishment and their fear that a 3am license begets more crime.

On May 20, residents of 62xx Washington met at Grace United Methodist Church to discuss the situation and possible alternatives that could mitigate the rift between opponents and proponents of the Delmar Lounge. Teresa Butler chaired the meeting. She mentioned that some residences were impacted by the Lounge while others were not. Opinion was divided about the liquor license. She noted that everyone was concerned with safety and security.

Neighbors had been worried by public urination and car break-ins. Calling 911 did not appear to produce the desired results. Southwestern Bell's building and parking lot created a sound tun-

nel. She said that the neighborhood was safer than it used to be but growth could interfere with the quality of life.

Captain Isom of the 7th District attend the meeting. He said there were some pros to a 3am license: Robberies usually occur where there are not a lot of people. The more people about the better. In the area of the Loop, it is not that populated. The problem with a 3am establishment is that people have more time to drink. More leave who are enibriated. The person who controls the establishment should control the loud music and unruly behavior.

Residents in the middle expressed the desire to approach the noise situation. Terry Vanicelli said he made 4 calls in a year to 911 regarding noise at the Delmar Lounge. He said he did not know if anyone responded. Capt. Isom said loud noise is generally a low priority call. "We would hope owners would deal with these issues."

The manager of the Delmar Lounge said he was not aware of noise complaints until he started the process for a liquor license. He circulated his personal cell phone number to 22 houses. He wants better lines of communication. He has hired security police officers for 3-7 nights a week and will increase their job description. They will stand at the door and also go into the Meinecke parking lot to break up people congregating there, especially at closing. He has posted a

sign in the Lounge to discourage congregators. He would like to explore the issue of a sound wall at the Southwestern Bell lot on the north part of the property.

Ordinances give Liquor Control Commissioner Kraiberg the ability to tailor make restrictions on businesses. Having patrol officers can help. Playing soothing music at the end of the night is good. There can be a 3am license just for certain nights such as Thursday-Saturday. Bright lighting causes people to disperse.

Mike Stevens, the president of Parkview, said that sound wall engineers could analyze whether a wall would help here. It has to be pretty close to where the sound is coming from.

JoAnn Vatcha, chair of the Commercial Committee, said that filling in the gap with shops could be a long-range answer. The Meinecke lot is an incredible eyesore needing development. Vatcha invited the neighbors to Commercial Committee meetings and if they feel the committee could help, let her know. They are trying to get Southwestern Bell to sell the lot to people who would build there. That would end the wind tunnel effect.

Alderman Lyda Krewson (D-28) said that she had spoken with Southwestern Bell about selling one or both of their lots. The spokesperson did not say yes or no. The owner of the Meinecke lot does not want to sell or develop his property.

If there is agreement on

restrictions on the liquor license, Kraiberg will be able to yank that license if the conditions are violated. There has been a 3am license on the site for 7 years; no complaints had been received until 3 months ago. Restrictions were placed on the Halo Bar before it opened. Kraiberg said that if ownership were not changing, the license would not be in contention. Joe Edwards suggested lights underneath the awnings. The added illumination would deter loitering, panhandling and mugging. The problem with the music emanating from inside the Lounge comes from the base section. Edwards suggested lowering the decibel level. Kraiberg agreed to furnish a shopping list of restrictions to residents that could be made part of the license. Violations result in progressive discipline with a day or more suspension of the license.

Concern was voiced about becoming a 3am district, concern for safety. Alderman Krewson said the Maryland/Euclid area had been helped by secondary officers. M.P. O'Reilly's now uses music to settle things down.

This meeting did not come to a conclusion. The prospective owner expressed willingness to take more steps to keep down noise and loitering. The liquor control commissioner explained that restrictions could be placed on licenses to address neighbors' worries. Perhaps compromise can yet occur. This type of meeting will not remain anomolous however as more commercial activity

Skinker DeBaliviere Comm. Council Board of Directors Meeting March 10, 2003 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Joe Keaveny. Minutes from the February 2003 Board Meeting were reviewed and approved as presented. The treasurer's report was presented by Peggy Droege and approved by the Board.

Police Officer Denise Young, the 7th District Public Affairs Officer, gave the security update. Car theft continues to be the single biggest problem, and an increase is likely as the weather gets warmer. The auto theft prevention seminar sponsored by the Council, Washington University and the Seventh District went well. Police recently arrested a suspect in connection with several "car cloutings" in the neighborhood. (Officer Young explained that a "car clouting" refers to breaking a car window and stealing items from the car.) Police are continuing to issue citations enforcing the Waterman/DeGiverville Parking District.

Aldermanic Report. Alderwoman Lyda Krewson (28th Ward) gave an update. Work continues with Metro (formerly Bi-State) to finalize design for the pedestrian overpass and fence along the Forest Park Parkway for the MetroLink extension through the neighborhood. The contract for Delmar streetscape enhancements is out to bid. Bids are due in April and constructions should be complete by October, with landscaping to follow in the fall. Conditional use hearings are scheduled for a number of new businesses on Delmar, including the new "Pin-Up Bowl," the Delmar Theater, and new restaurants at 6172 Delmar and the former Delmar Cleaners building. Neighbors presented concerns about an increase in "wrong way" traffic on one-way streets during MetroLink construction and Delmar construction. Suggested placing more one way and do not enter signs at the end of each block. Lyda will follow up with the Street Department.

Katie Kurtz of the **Historic District Review Committee** presented a report. The Committee has been reviewing plans for proposed new construction at Kingsbury Animal Hospital, a new air conditioning compressor on Dan Schesch's building, and a possible expansion of Bill Christman's art studio.

Andy Cross presented the **Beautification Committee** report. Blitz Day is April 5th. The Committee will be working on a clean up along Des Peres that day. The design of an art installation for the new Regional Arts Commission (RAC) building on Delmar is being decided. 75 artists responded to a call for entries. This has been narrowed to 5 or 6 finalists and the models will be on display at the RAC offices March 17th and 18th. The choices will be narrowed on the 19th. This summer, Andy will work on

repairing the barricade boxes along Rosedale. Planning is underway for the Breakfast Garden Tour in June.

Dan Schesch presented the **Transportation Committee** report. The Committee is planning a neighborhood-wide meeting in late April to discuss options for traffic mitigation during MetroLink construction. Representatives from Metro and the Streets Department will be invited.

Executive Director's Report. Laure Porterfield referred to her written re-port in the board packets. Noted an upcoming meeting (March 11) re: street crime sponsored by the Central West End Association that may be of interest to some Skinker-DeBaliviere residents. Also noted the Forest Park Master Plan update that was recently distributed. Lyda Krewson noted that all construction in Forest Park should be done by the end of the year. A number of events will be held in the park to celebrate 2004.

Housing Corporation. Gary Boehnke referred to the minutes and project report for the Housing Corporation included in the Board Packets. Gary noted that Joe Keaveny and Nancy Hohmann are new Housing Corporation Board members.

Executive Committee. Joe Keaveny reported that John Thomas has resigned as Vice-President of SDCC. Dee Joyce Hayes has resigned from the SDCC board after accepting a mayoral appointment to the MSD Board of Trustees.

Other Business. Shirley Polk reported that a special neighborhood committee has been established to find a way to commemorate Greg Freeman and his contributions to the neighborhood. The Committee will meet soon to discuss various options.

Georgi Fox reported that the former St. Roch convent at Waterman and Rosedale, which was purchased by the Sisters of St. Joseph from the Mercy nuns in order to house the Center for Women in Transition, may lease the property to the Sisters of Loretto for a Novitiate. The property is currently vacant. Lyda Krewson noted that such a use would require a conditional use permit. Until they apply for one, there is not much the neighborhood can do. The residential committee will continue to monitor the situation.

Steve Givens reported that a tenant (a "Northwest-themed" coffee shop called "Kayaks") has been secured for one of the commercial spaces in the new building at 276 N. Skinker.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Timothy Schoemehl, Sec.

Skinker DeBaliviere Comm. Council Board of Directors Meeting April 14, 2003 Minutes

Meeting called to order 7:01 PM by President Joe Keaveny. Minutes from the March 2003 Board meeting reviewed and approved as presented. Treasurer's report presented by Peggy Droege and approved by board.

Rev. Mary Harvey, Pastor of Grace United Methodist Church, was introduced as Grace's new representative to SDCC. Rev. Harvey also introduced Jason Roberts as the alternate for Grace Methodist.

Aldermanic Report. Alderman Lyda Krewson (28th Ward) distributed an update on the schedule for MetroLink construction on the Forest Park Parkway. Lyda reported that after the Parkway closes, Des Peres will remain open to Lindell for about one year. After that time, Des Peres will close permanently south of the Parkway. However, when Des Peres closes, the Parkway will be opened with one lane of traffic in each direction for the remainder of construction. Lyda also reported that the design has been finalized for the pedestrian overpass at Des Peres. Lyda presented drawings of the new overpass, the screening wall that will be constructed south of the Pershing alley, and the entry markers that will be placed at Des Peres.

Security Update. Officer Sam Hill of the 7th District gave the security update. There has been a recent increase in burglaries, with most occurring during the day. Officer Hill reminded neighbors to keep doors and windows locked, and report suspicious activity. There was a question about soliciting in the intersections. Officer Hill indicated that even if the individuals have a permit, they should not be in the intersection since it poses a safety hazard. Police continue to issue citations for this problem, and neighbors should report the problem to police.

Executive Committee Report. Joe Keaveny reported that the SDCC will need to elect a new Vice-President. Steve Givens agreed to serve as the nominating committee. Nominations should be submitted to Steve, and he will present the nominations at the May meeting.

Neighborhood/Committee Reports. Tim Schoemehl gave an update on the "ad hoc" committee that has been meeting to discuss an appropriate neighborhood memorial for Greg Freeman. Tim reported that the Committee had considered a range of possibilities, including a scholarship fund. However the scholarship posed a number of practical challenges including how it would be administered. The Committee decided to recommend renaming Four Corners Park "Greg Freeman Park at Four Corners." Such a change would require an Ordinance passed by the Board of Aldermen. The Board voted unanimously to endorse the Committee's recommendation. A letter will be written making a formal request.

Dan Schesch presented the Transportation Committee report. The Committee has scheduled a neighborhood-wide meeting for April 29th to discuss options for traffic mitigation during MetroLink construction. Representatives from Metro and the Streets Department will attend. Pursuant to a meeting with Alderman Krewson and the Streets

Department, the Street Department will install "One Way" and "Do Not Enter" signs on streets where they are needed. Dan will get suggestions from neighbors on where signs are needed, and they will be put onto a map for Streets.

Andy Cross reported that the Regional Arts Commission has accepted the West End Arts Council's grant request. The grant will fund a tile installation on the stage at Four Corners, a summer concert series at Four Corners, and Wintermarkt. Andy also reported that the neighborhood Brightside Blitz day was a success. Lots of trash was picked up throughout the neighborhood, and the area along Des Peres near Delmar was cleaned up. Laure Porterfield reported that the neighborhood's Blitz cleanup included help from the Environmental Engineers Club at Washington University and the 7th District Community Service group. There was some discussion of items that were missed in Blitz bulk pick-up. Lyda Krewson reported that a special pick-up has been scheduled to catch items that were missed. Andy also reported that the neighborhood Plant Exchange will be on Saturday, May 3rd. The Plant Exchange is held at Four Corners park and will include distribution of flowers for planting in public locations, free mulch, free grass seeds and much more. There will be hot dogs and soda as well. The Breakfast Garden Tour is June 7th, and will include gardens on the 6000 and 6100 block of Kingsbury and the 6000 block of Westminster. Board members are asked to help sell tickets to the event to raise money for the Council.

Steve Givens reported that Washington University's Commencement will be on May 16th. The University has scheduled a number of extra trash pick-ups and bulk pick-ups to coincide with students moving out of apartments in the neighborhood. Steve asks that neighbors let him know if any items are missed during the pickups. The new building at Skinker and Forest Park Parkway is to be completed in June. Plans are moving forward for a coffee shop to be the first commercial tenant. Steve also reported that the University will be hosting a celebration of their 150th anniversary in September. More details will be provided later.

Executive Director's Report. Laure Porterfield reported that the Special Business District for Delmar was approved by voters at the April Election. This will fund a number of improvements along Delmar. The Council's strategic planning process started with FOCUS St. Louis last year should get going again soon with a new facilitator. Grace Methodist is seeking the Council's support for their application to the Affordable Housing Commission for their home repair activities in the 5700 block of McPherson. The Council supported their application last year. A motion to support Grace's application again this year was made and seconded. After some discussion about the program, the motion passed unanimously. Gary Boehnke reported that there was no update for the Housing Corporation and referred Board members to the Housing Corporation's Board minutes and Project Report.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Tim Schoemehl, Sec.



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Planting Day 2003

By Andy Cross

Not long after "Blitz Day", Operation Brightside offers flowers for neighbors to plant in public areas. This has become the basis for our neighborhood Plant Exchange, held this year on May 3. Operation Brightside gave the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood 18 trays of seedling flowers, with approximately 200 flowers per tray. Thus, about 3,600 marigolds, dianthus, and zinnias were given to block captains who had placed orders for flowers and to neighbors who visited the Plant Exchange Day. Also available at the 4 Corners Park were some beautiful plants from the gardens of nearby residents, including liriopse, snow-on-the mountain, coneflowers, daisies, iris, and more, even a couple of towering arborvitae evergreens.

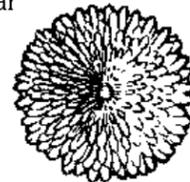
More packets of grass seed were given away this year than ever. Our mulch from the City of St. Louis was late, due to a

backlog of orders, but it arrived in time for the following weekend. Volunteers served the traditional hotdog lunch to participants in the plant exchange after they greened up the

neighborhood a bit. The Beautification Committee, under the guidance of Nicole Blumner planted iris, day lilies, and marigolds in the pocket park at

Westminster at Des Peres, and near Delmar at DesPeres. Later the Beautification Committee was assisted by Jr. Girl Scout Troop 3528, who planted hundreds of flowers in the playground and planters at 4 Corners Park.

Thank you from the Beautification Committee and SDCC for all who participated in this most successful Plant Exchange to date.



Katie Kurtz

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Rags to Riches The Ultimate Yard Sale

Back by popular demand, Rags to Riches, the wildly successful neighborhood-wide yard sale sponsored each year by the Rosedale Neighborhood Association and co-sponsored by the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, will be held Saturday, August 23rd, from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. throughout the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood.

Registered participants will benefit from advertising in local newspapers and promotion of their location on a map distributed to attendees at the registration area. If you are interested in participating, either on your own front lawn or in spaces "rented" for the occasion at the Skinker/Westminster parking lot and Four

Corners Park, fill out the form below and return it by August 14th to:

SDCC- Rags to Riches
6008 Kingsbury
St. Louis, Missouri 63112
Make checks payable to the Rosedale Neighborhood Association.

Food and beverage sales benefit Rosedale and the SDCC. No other food vendors will be accepted at this year's event. All are thanked in advance for their cooperation.

Return your form and your check to 6008 Kingsbury as soon as possible.

Yes, I would like to participate in Rags to Riches. I have enclosed my \$10.00 Early Registration Fee (\$15.00 day of sale)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Selected items for list on sale _____

Map _____

Sale spots (size of a parking spot) for rent on a first-come, first-served basis, in the Westminster/Skinker parking lot and at Four Corners Park are \$10.00 each.

Yes, I want a Spot _____ on Skinker _____ on Des Peres at Four Corners

Continued from page 1
MacroSun

ing the remarkableness of the achievement of Joe and Linda Edwards and their contribution to community redevelopment here.

The building and the MacroSun store were then blessed by a Buddhist lama.

After this ceremony, refreshments were available. A number of people were able to tour the 2nd floor office space, designed by Kiku Obata and Associates. The offices are spacious and inviting with clean lines. The

style is modern and open. Some of us thought that this would be a delightful place to work—light and bright with a great deal of utility. Obata and her staff also worked on the design of the entire building.

There will be many openings on Delmar in the future. This one was special because of the location, the unexpected sunshine, and everyone's happiness and good spirits.



Photo by Marian Brickner

Ribbon cutting ceremony at the May 2 dedication of the new pavilion at Crown Center for Senior Living, 8360 Delcrest Drive, in University City: (from left) Anne Jordan, Washington University student, Della Epstein, resident, age 102, Nikki Goldstein, executive director. Chosen as the design-build project by the Washington University Architecture Design Studio class, it was built in just 4 weeks by 13 promising young architects and their instructor, Prof. Carl Safe.

Crown Center, a nonprofit agency, provides affordable housing and supportive services to senior adults.



Joe Edwards and MacroSun International owner Gil Williams with a number of neighborhood friends and customers just before the official opening of the MacroSun space. Gil is showing the silk blessing scarf to be used in the Tibetan blessing ceremony.



The ribbon is cut, and MacroSun International is open for business! Alderwoman Lyda Krewson congratulates MacroSun owner Gil Williams, Joe Edwards performed the ribbon-cutting duties and Mayor Slay applauds.

IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Q. Hoerr

There I was, sitting in "Rob's Tattoo Parlor" in South Beach, Florida. It was a March Saturday evening, warm by Miami standards. The crowd was a-buzzing and the music was blaring. It was all, the music, that is, coming from cars trolling the road, First Street, packed with Generation X'ers and their younger counterparts, all on the make. And I was in Rob's, enjoying every bit of it.

How I got to Rob's is another story. The first wife and I like to get out of town when we can. That's nothing against town, mind you, just that as Uncle Zeke used to say, "there's a lot to see out there." It's sad, actually, that Zeke who said (and fervently believed) this has been locked up in the State Penitentiary for over 20 years now. Thank Heaven for cable t.v.!

Anyway, the first wife and I take turns picking where we're going to go. And it was her turn this time. She suggested South Beach and I, ever the agreeable sort, said, "Great, where is it and why would we go there?" It turns out that South Beach is the Art Deco capital of the world. People go there from all around, just to see the architecture. That appealed to me, plus we could

drive an hour or so and see a Cardinals' spring training game. In no time at all, we were booked and on our way to the airport.

The flight was uneventful, far more so than was getting through security at Lambert. How was I to know that a cigar-cutter would resemble a pocket knife as it passed through the x-ray machine? Of course, they asked for permission to go through my luggage, which I readily granted. After only a couple of minutes of sorting through my dirty clothes (we were running late and I figured we'd wash in Miami), he found the cigar-cutter. It could have been handled easily, but these security people have no sense of humor at all. How could he have not understood I was being sarcastic when I said, "You're not very skilled at all, or you would have seen the letter openers hidden in my wife's luggage." Isn't it obvious to you that I was kidding? I mean, if I really had done that, I sure wouldn't have told him. He should have understood that. He didn't. A missed flight later — fortunately there is more than one St. Louis-Miami flight each day — we were on the plane.

There are over 200 Art Deco buildings in South Beach: office buildings, hotels, condos, and retail, all gleaming and in various shades of pastels. Think Central West End with Art Deco, then imagine the Central West End and Delmar Loop merging and you get the picture. Aside from the fact that even a hovel would cost six-figures, there must be some zoning restrictions for South Beach. Each and every person I saw, every one, except for the first wife and myself when we walked by a mirror, was under 35 years of age, and was trim and tanned. It was like being at an Anorexia Convention. Richard Simmons would have felt fat (and normal) in this crowd. They were all, regardless of gender or race, a nice buttery cocoa shade; their gleaming white teeth presented a nice contrast when they smiled (which was all the time). I would love to have the Botox concession at the South Beach Walgreens.

I never saw anyone in the ocean (or the hotel swimming pool, for that matter) but everyone, except the first wife and yours truly, was always wearing a swim suit. People walking up and down the boulevard had on swimsuits, the clerk at the front desk of our hotel had on a swimsuit, and even the policemen were wearing shorts, which could work as

a swimsuit.

The swimsuits, alone, were worth the flight. My handkerchiefs have more material than just about every swimsuit I saw. Bikinis were commonplace and thongs weren't unusual (and I don't mean the thongs that you wear on your feet!). Given how much little material was used and how much was uncovered, they shouldn't be called a swimsuit at all; smst would be more fitting. Or maybe just s-t, maybe s.

But swimsuits and tans, along with discernible and countable rib cages, aside, the most memorable thing about my journey was the tattoos. They were everywhere. Each and every single person had a tattoo, honest. After the second day, the first wife and I did a sort of visual scavenger hunt. Whether we were walking, shopping, or eating, we tried to find someone without a tattoo. (This was a lot more fun than looking for licence plates on cars from other states.) We never succeeded! I am not exaggerating: every person had a tattoo. I became a sort of tattoo connoisseur.

Tattoos were on lower arms, upper arms, hands, shoulders, necks, thighs, upper rear tooshes (I think that's a medical term), calves, and feet. The only places that I could see that I didn't see a tattoo were foreheads, eyelids, and noses. Some of the tattoos were tiny, a few were gigantic, and most were medium-sized; you know, between a breadbox and a widget. Before this trip, I, silly me, hadn't realized that tattoos came in colors too. Wow.

Mom and God are big in tattoos. So are snakes, musical instruments, lightning bolts, skulls, and geometric designs. The guys had these same pictures only occasionally you'd see a tattoo of a motorcycle, football, or car. One guy had a tattoo that started on his neck and went down across his chest, ending near his navel. It was of a mermaid playing a guitar, musical notes wafting across his stomach, with a hand from Heaven, coming down from the clouds, reaching to touch her. Man, I wonder what he was smoking that night?

One young girl with hair as blonde as a yellow crayon, and just as natural, had a 9-inch tattoo on her upper thigh that, I swear, was of Dan Quayle. I would recognize his smile and vapid look anywhere. Now that's being a dedicated Republican! My favorite, however, was on a guy with

some girth, probably a weight-lifter. He had an American flag on his front and back, the same tattoo, but the effect was that he was wrapped in the flag. I almost saluted him.

So, ever the researcher and wanting to vindicate my Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere expense account, I decided to investigate, taking the first wife with me. There were many tattoo parlors on First Street, but I decided to visit Rob's Tattoo Parlor. It seemed clean and was next to a Hagen-Das. We walked in and Rob looked up.

"No, no tattoo for me," I said, "unless you can tattoo some hair on my head." Rob didn't have

much of a sense of humor. He must be related to the security guy at the airport. I asked him if I could spend a bit of time there and just watch. He seemed a bit suspicious but then my press card, disguised as a \$10 bill, did the trick. "Sure, find a seat," he said and went on about his business.

Rob is an artist, make no mistake about that. I came away impressed with his ability to draw just about anything and enamored of his patience (his pen never wavered despite the pain he was administering). I was there a bit over three hours and he "beautified," as he put it, six people, four women and two men. He did a shoulder eagle, a leg snake, a back composite of a sunset and clouds (this one took almost an hour), an arm pennant and armored knight, an ankle geometric design, and a dragonfly in a hidden place.

You may wonder how I know about the dragonfly tattoo in the hidden place. Well, here's a hint. I saw the pain that these folks experienced and I'm a natural coward; no tattoo for me. The first wife, however, is a brave soul and the first wife is a dragonfly aficionado.



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