

# The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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Fall 2003

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

## Delmar Construction Finally Set to Start

As of September 2, westbound traffic on Delmar Boulevard, between Skinker Boulevard and Des Peres, has been reduced to one lane. This is the first lane closure to be implemented as a result of the Delmar Streetscape project. Both eastbound lanes will remain open through mid-October, when workers move to the south side of Delmar. At that time, eastbound Delmar will be reduced to one lane. Gershenson Construction plans to begin major construction on the north side of Delmar, beginning at Des Peres and moving west. Then the contractor will move to the south

side at Skinker and move east. This plan is based on coordination with adjacent building renovations and will be finalized upon receipt of the MSD permit.

Construction appeared to be beginning earlier in the summer, when utilities were moved and trees cut down. However, the actual start of the street construction was delayed, due to unknown conditions, including some unknown conflicts with underground utilities, which caused a last minute redesign of the sewer system. The redesign meant revised permitting by the Metropolitan Sewer District

(MSD), which caused this major delay.

According to a Metro spokesperson, the permit should be issued by MSD by Labor Day. "The survey of the redesigned sewer system has been started, but this has caused a delay in the completion schedule." Metro now says that the majority of the streetscape enhancement will be completed by January, 2004. Alderman Lyda Krewson commented that, "This puts a further strain on many new businesses, as well as neighborhood residents, who were promised completion of the Delmar improve-

ments even before Forest Park Parkway was closed." With this unfortunate delay, it will be hard to keep up the positive momentum which has come about because of the Pageant and other businesses brought to the area by developer Joe Edwards and others. According to Jo Ann Vatcha, Chairman of the Delmar Commercial Committee, "participating in activities like the Regional Arts Commission Grand Opening will be more important than ever, as we try to work with the business community to help

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**Delmar**



## RAC Building Grand Opening October 11

By Lana Stein

On July 31, 2003, the moving truck appeared at the new home of the Regional Arts Commission on Delmar. RAC employees found themselves in an exciting new environment while they tried to cope with the chaos of moving. In addition, some construction is continuing on the facility. September should see all the final touches in place, and on Saturday, October 11, RAC will open its doors on the 6100 block of Delmar to the community. From 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., people can tour the facility and enjoy refreshments. Skinker DeBaliviere neighbors are all invited to see this stunning addition to our environs and to the arts community in the St. Louis area.

The building of almost 19,000 square feet has three floors, all of which are designed to enrich or facilitate the arts and other community activities. The first floor contains a gallery which will display the art works of local artists, including sculpture. Jill McGuire, RAC Director, hopes eventually to be able to sell local artists' creations on site. The first floor also contains rehearsal

space, suitable to a dance company or theatre troupe. Those who rehearse in this edifice will also have storage space.

The second floor is the Cultural Resource Center. Its conference facilities will be leased to art groups, nonprofit organizations and for-profits on a sliding scale. There is a board room for meetings and two designed for training. Arts groups can use the area for fundraising and a catering kitchen is also available. The third floor holds the offices of the Regional Arts Commission, as well as of Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts. Everything is state of the art and well thought-out. A fourth story holds a rooftop garden for arts events. Many rooms have large banks of windows which make everything bright and allow people at RAC to look over the continuing evolution of Delmar.

Kevin Flynn of Kiku Obata and Company designed the building, and Arco Construction Co., Inc. brought it into being. It is modern, but fits into the historical Delmar scene.

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**Grand Opening**

## SDCHC Receives \$200,000 Loan for Alanson Building Redevelopment Project

The Affordable Housing Commission of the City of St. Louis has approved a \$200,000 loan for the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation's Alanson Building Redevelopment Project. The three-story Alanson Building at 5888-98 Delmar, formerly housed a liquor store. Built in 1908, it will be renovated as eight residential apartments and four storefront commercial units. One commercial tenant, Marion's Café, will be staying after rehab is complete. The architect for the project is Karl Grice, and RG Ross is the general contractor.

Of the eight residential units, four will be designated "affordable housing", meaning the incomes of the tenants for those units must be within specific guidelines. For example, a household of two is eligible if the members earn no more than \$25,500 per year. These are deed restrictions

in place for thirty years. The funds from the AFC are available because of a new City of St. Louis ordinance that was passed by voters in 2001 and modified by another vote in 2002. Up to \$ 5 Million per year is available to the AFC from this tax, which is collected from purchasers of goods from outside the state of Missouri. The mission of the Affordable Housing Commission is to promote City living and neighborhood stabilization through the preservation and production of affordable, accessible housing and support services that enhance the quality of life for those in need.

In addition to the loan from the Affordable Housing Commission, this \$ 2.6 million redevelopment project is being financed with tax -exempt bonds, Federal and State Historic Preservation and

(Continued on page 7)

**Alanson Building**

## Nancy Farmer Aims High

Nancy Farmer began her career in St. Louis as the Executive Director of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. She served in that post for over 7 years and is remembered for her involvement in many, many community activities. In 1992, she was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives and was reelected twice without opposition. She left the House to serve briefly as Intergovernmental Liaison at City Hall in 1997. In November of that year, she was named



Deputy Treasurer of Missouri. She went on to be elected Treasurer in 2000. She took some of her old pals a bit aback by announcing a few weeks ago that she would seek the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senator, and, if successful, would go on to challenge incumbent

Republican Kit Bond. Farmer is a proven campaigner and it will be an interesting race.

And, it all began at 6010 Kingsbury!

# Editor's Notebook

By Lana Stein

This little column often provides me the opportunity to voice pet peeves.

Earlier this week, I was once again bugged by people who don't use their turn signals. It was the same place: Vernon at Kingsland. No matter whether I'm headed east or west, I end up behind someone who is turning but only signals when the light changes and I'm trapped behind them. A petty complaint really.

I have been impressed by the grace our neighbors are showing during the tremendous inconvenience caused by the closing of the Parkway.

Perhaps the greater the burden, the more positive the response. Thursday's gigantic blackout showed many from Manhattan to Detroit grace under pressure. Turn signals are a minor irritation compared to complete loss of electricity. Frankly, I don't know if I could exhibit the patience to endure the latter and I hope we're not tested here. Modern technology does have its lapses. My relatives in Detroit were bothered most by the lack of water there.

I'm glad there will be investigations of the power industry and why this blackout took place. Did executives fail to modernize as they maximized profits? We'll find out in the coming months. Meanwhile, watch your turn signals on Vernon.

## Welcome 276 N. Skinker

A new building on the site of the old Arthur Building (Talanya's) has opened.

In mid-June, more than 50 Washington University employees moved into their new offices. They are from the Office of Public Affairs and include components of Commencement, Major Events & Special Projects, Marketing & Strategic Planning, Photographic Services, Product Licensing, Publications, and University Communications. Staff occupy the second and third floors of the building.

The first floor will be retail. Kayak's Coffee and Provisions will be the first tenant, moving in imminently.

## 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:

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### Guidelines for Submitting Copy

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

The 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 November-December issue: October 15, 2003. Please**

# Calendar

## Upcoming Events Calendar

**September 12th** — Groundbreaking - the NEW Kingsbury Animal Hospital - 420 North Skinker -5:00-6:30 p.m.

**September 17th** — SDCHC Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m., SDCC Office, 6008 Kingsbury

**October 1st** — SDCHC Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m., SDCC Office, 6008 Kingsbury

**October 5th** — Lucier Park Fall Festival - details to be announced. Watch for flier

**October 13th** — Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Annual Meeting - 6:00 p.m., SDCC Office, 6008 Kingsbury

**October 15th** — SDCHC Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m., SDCC Office, 6008 Kingsbury

**October 31st** — Rosedale Neighbors host Halloween party in St. Roch School Gym, 6:00-7:00 p.m. before the traditional neighborhood "Trick or Treating". Children and their parents are invited.

**November 8th** — FOOD DRIVE - throughout the neighborhood

**November 10th** — Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., SDCC Office, 6008 Kingsbury

## Other Nearby Events of Interest

**September 12-28** — Historyonics presents "Cool & Hip: Gaslight Square" by Joe Dreyer. Call 361-5858 for tickets or information.

**September 12-October 19** — Craft Alliance, 6640 Delmar, presents "Folk Pottery of North Carolina."

**September 16, September 23, September 30, October 7** — Twilight Tuesdays. Music on the lawn of the History Museum at Forest Park. 6:30pm-8:30pm.

**Friday evening, October 3 and all day Saturday, October 4** — Loop in Motion.

**October 11** — Grand Opening Open House, Regional Arts Commission Building. Open House for neighborhood residents 10-2

**October 17-January 11** — Saint Louis Art Museum presents German Art Now, including 40 works from the Museum's own collection, including 16 just recently acquired.

## Sept. 14 Wash U 150th Anniversary

Washington University Celebrates its 150th Anniversary on September 14. Neighbors are invited to a series of adult and child-centered events between 11:00-4:00pm on campus. At 7pm, the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra will perform al fresco in the Quadrangle. You can bring lawn chairs, picnic basket, etc.

## ELECTION JUDGE RECRUITMENT

The Board of Election Commissioners for the City of St. Louis is on a mission to recruit additional election day judges. As you may know, the number of people willing to work as judges on election day is dwindling throughout the nation. The City Election Board is trying to remedy that situation in St. Louis.

To insure that the February, August and November 2004 elections are fully staffed, Election Board employees are speaking at neighborhood meetings all over the City. If you belong to or know of an organization that would be willing to have someone from the Election Board speak to them on this subject, please contact Barbara Sherrill, Judge Coordinator [R], (314) 622-4327; Gerre Kraemer, Administrative Assistant [D] (314), 622-4449; or Nedra Holst, Administrative Assistant [R], (314) 622-3236. The Board is particularly interested in new venues that would be interested in helping with this judge recruitment effort.



# NEWS OF NEIGHBORS

Illness has touched several of our neighbors this summer. Westminster resident Gwen Shields had a long stretch in the hospital, and her son, Aaron, is also recovering from illness. Neighbor to the west Iva Allen had a broken bone to mend. Parkview neighbor Mary Fleener is recuperating from major surgery. We hope to see her visiting grandchildren on Westminster or busy at Feinberg selling real estate very soon.

Always ready for a major challenge, Lu Green, of the 6100 block of Westminster, has taken on a new job as Director of Major Gifts for the Missionary Oblates at our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, after more than a decade as Development Director/VP of the Lutheran Family and Children's Services. Congratulations to a woman who's done it all, beautifully.

Deepest sympathy to the family of SDCC Board Member Ronnie Halliburton on the loss of Mrs. Freddie Halliburton, aged 91.

The block unit at 58-5900

## Charing Cross Mini-Branch: A Gem of a Neighborhood Library

By Nicole Blummer

Anyone who loves to read can tell you that one of the best assets of St. Louis is its library system, a system that is made even greater by the beauty and variety of its library buildings. Some of these libraries were built to inspire – the lofty spaces of the downtown St. Louis Library are a case in point. Others were made to dazzle – the Schlafly Library on Euclid is a hip new example. Still others were created to be homey and welcoming, nestled in their neighborhoods like books on a shelf. Such is our own Charing Cross Library, one of only two mini-branches in the St. Louis system, a library with an interesting history and much to offer today.

Since 1992, Charing Cross has been serving the community from a small storefront at 576 N. Skinker Boulevard. Some might remember its earlier incarnation as a sub-library (a predecessor to the branch system) in a former grocery at the southeast corner of the present-day Four Corners Park. When that facility burned in 1972, neighborhood activists successfully fought to bring a branch back into the community. Soon the library was reborn as the Kingsbury Kiosk, a tiny (14 feet across), movable round building (it even had round shelves!) in the same location, which was much used and loved by the community. In 1992, the branch was moved to a more permanent location on Skinker and renamed (though the name's origins remain obscure). An expansion in 1997 doubled its size to today's still-svelte proportions.

Pershing is getting quite active. The unit is now represented on the SDCC and has organized trash pick-ups during the summer.

The unit is working with Alderman Krewson to attempt to slow traffic on Pershing and keep kids safe. There is a new stop sign at Laurel and Pershing and a sign to watch out for kids.

Several years ago, Georgi Fox had no grandchildren. Then, her daughter Genny gave birth to Luke. Last year, Genny and her husband had twin girls, Grace and Claire. Georgi made several trips to the Far East to see her growing family. Genny's husband is now based in Singapore. This August a grandchild close to home appeared. Georgi's son, Alex, and his wife, Maria, have a beautiful little girl named Hannah. Mazel tov all around. Alex and Maria lived in Skinker DeBaliviere after their marriage and Georgi has been here since the mid-1960s.

Though Charing Cross is charmingly petite, it offers "just about everything a large branch has," says Librarian Charles Lamkin, from books to videos, music, books on tape, even some magazines that can be checked out. Its windows brim with books offering ideas for seasonal projects from gardening to pet care to cooking, displayed like tempting treats. Just about the only thing that it doesn't offer is internet access – its tiny size just can't accommodate the equipment.

One of the unique features of Charing Cross is that it gets recent bestsellers that don't circulate to other branches, says Librarian Lamkin. This means you can often walk in and find the latest John Grisham on the shelf, no easy feat at other library locations. And if you can't find what you're looking for, it can be obtained from another branch in just a few days time, Lamkin says. In fact, these requests make up a large portion of the library's circulation.

Over 2,000 people visit the library each month, including many college students and University City residents, who have reciprocal borrowing privileges. It's an especially great place for kids, with a reading corner and lots of children's books. Library hours are Tuesday to Friday, 1-6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-noon and 1-6 p.m. To request a book, call 726-2653. Happy reading!

Special thanks to Charles Lamkin, Lois Schoemehl and Calvin Stuart for contributing to this article.

## Kingsbury Hospital to Rebuild on Site

by Lana Stein

Since 1978, Kingsbury Animal Hospital has occupied a site on Skinker, which formerly was a gas station. Over time, Dr. Stephen Brammeier has built up a valuable list of clients of the four-legged variety. Buoyed by the general success of the neighborhood and a strong desire for enhanced working conditions, Brammeier has secured plans and financing to erect a larger, modern facility where he is now.

The new hospital will have 3,800 square feet – a good bit larger than the current 1,650 street clinic. It has been designed by Tom Cohen of Johannes and Cohen Collaborative. What is special is that this facility will be built in front of the current one and restore the building lines of days gone by. Kingsbury Animal Hospital will remain open at its old site during construction. Construction will take approximately 6 months. Parking arrangements with Grace United Methodist Church and Washington University have been made for clients to park on their

lot, just south of the Animal Hospital. When construction is completed, the old, familiar building will be demolished for parking behind the new edifice. The new building will have additional exam rooms and an enlarged surgery and dentistry area. There also will be more room for grooming. House kitten – Spock and Stubbs – are delighted to be getting more room to play and scheduling for client visits and stays should be easier.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO THE GROUNDBREAKING

Dr. Brammeier and the staff of Kingsbury Animal Hospital invite Skinker DeBaliviere neighbors to join them at a groundbreaking celebration on Friday, September 12th from 5:00pm to 6:30pm. You may bring your canine friends. Felines can come too but may not be quite so comfortable. The ceremony will be accompanied by some fun events, contests for the biggest, smallest, best trick, best costume, longest tail, fastest wag and the best look alike between owner and dog.

## New Places to Drink and Eat

By Lana Stein

**1** Frank Grund will be opening Kayak's Coffee and Provisions in early September. Grund managed two Starbucks facilities in the St. Louis area and decided to move out on his own. Kayak's will be in the brand new 276 N. Skinker building and will have a commanding view of Parkview and Washington University as well as the now nascent parkway. Grund will serve fine coffee and also homemade pastries. He brought a sample to the Times party in June: very rich, very chocolaty brownies. His shop will seat about 45 to 50 people and probably will be open every day.

**2** 6144 Delmar will be home to a "nuevo Latino" restaurant hopefully in November. The Marsden brothers who already have Modesto, a "tapas" place on the Hill, will be in

charge of this new dining addition.

Eating "tapas" is rather like ordering lots of appetisers instead of an entree. The new Latino restaurant will have as a neighbor –

**3** Peggy Hau's Chinese Noodle Cafe.

**4** At the city limits, Pat Prasiliap has just completed his expansion of the popular Thai Gai Yang, and

**5** Another long-awaited restaurant will open soon on Eastgate. The proprietor is Steve Yu, long-time owner of the Silk Road on Euclid. Yu promises a new and different Asian experience.

Soon Skinker DeBaliviere residents will not have to go far to drink fine coffee and eat special cuisine.

We're happy to be part of the Skinker-DeBaliviere community  
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The Garden Tour also included kids' activities at the DesPeres Middle School, led by Tina Hoemeyer, shown here with students, clown Sheri Speed Grey, and helper at far right, Emily Frei.

## Times Parties and Fundraises

On June 28, a number of neighbors came together at the backyards of the Vatches and the Greens to show their support for the Times, welcome new neighbors. It was a lovely evening for a garden party, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. A number of Times stalwarts contributed desserts and hor d'oeuvres. Some new neighbors appeared, including new business neighbors Julie, Frank, and Jason from Kayak's Coffee, soon to appear on Skinker. Also, Kate Klimut, our TIMES layout pro, who lives in the Shaw Neighborhood,

became a Skinker-deBalivierite for the evening. Many others of varying residential length provided continuity. The Times tries to have one of these gatherings every year and hopes even more neighbors will join in next time.

The Times is all-volunteer run and relies on advertising and fundraising to cover costs. Following is a list of all those who helped out this summer. Thanks to all our volunteers and contributors, the party raised sufficient funds for three issues – Excellent!

### Contributors to the Times 2003

Brady Baybeck and Jennifer Olmstead  
Roy Bell  
Rick and Joan Bender  
Olivia Bonner  
Anna Busch  
Laura Chaplinski  
Ken Cohen and Margie Brammeier  
Juan and Kiki Chavez  
Joe and Nancy DeBettencourt  
Jim Dyer  
Joe and Linda Edwards  
Gail Fitzpatrick  
Lucille Foster  
David Garin  
Amrit Gill  
Lu and Sam Green  
Mary Lou Green  
Melissa Green  
Gary and Dee Hayes  
Tom and Karleen Hoerr  
Paul and Nancy Hohmann  
Mark and Chanaya Jacobs  
Kayak Coffee (Frank, Julie, Jason)  
Joe and Karen Keaveny  
Lyda Krewson and Mike Owens  
Rich and Venita Lake  
Gwen LaZard  
Ellen Leathers and Jon Dahl  
Virginia Leguey-Feilleux  
Loretta Lloyd  
Bob and Maggie Hart- Mahon

Bob and Trish Martin  
Dan and Jill McGuire  
John and Lauren McGuire  
Joe and Marlene Mestres  
Eric Mumford and Devora Tulcensky  
Msgr. Sal Polizzi  
Hitch and Mary Powell  
Nancy and Rich Rice  
Mary Ann Rudloff  
Art Santen  
Dan Schesch  
David Schmidt  
Peter and Mary Schmit  
Joe Schoemehl  
Julie Schoemehl  
Tim Schoemehl  
Vince and Lois Schoemehl  
King and Dee Schoenfeld  
Mike Schroeder and Karen Branding  
Neal Shapiro, Original Cast Lighting  
Tim and Mary Smith  
Lana Stein  
Rose and George Storey  
William Taylor  
Neville and JoAnn Vatcha  
Arline Webb  
Marj and Brad Weir

The above list contains the names of all attendees at the 6/03 fundraiser, the volunteers and those who sent contributions by mail but did not attend.

## Breakfast Garden Tour

By Andy Cross

This year's Breakfast Garden Tour featured the backyards on the 6000 and 6100 blocks of Kingsbury and the 6000 block of Westminster. Each year, we enjoy a variety of new gardens and established yards. This year we were fortunate to be able to include gardens of the parents of the tour organizers, who set us

in the right direction a few years ago when they created similar neighborhood events. Thank you to all who shared their backyards with us, and to all the other volunteers. Also, thanks to all who bought tickets for the tour. Your participation helps make this event and this neighborhood a great place to live.



Joan and Rick Bender's back yard formerly held Boy Scout events and Mother's Day Art Fair events.



Betty and Bob Newsham in their charming Kingsbury garden.



John and Jane Cross, the author's parents, in their beautiful yard on Kingsbury.

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# A Busy Rags to Riches

Neighborhoodwide yard sales and an open air lunch counter have been annual occurrences in Skinker DeBaliviere for a number of years. This year, on August 23, Tim Schoemehl, president of Rosedale Neighbors, and a sizeable crew of volunteers made the event happen once again. Forty-five people held sales, either in their yards or at one of several joint locations.

Neighbors and strangers stopped at the Westminster-Skinker parking lot to get their brats or hot dogs, chips, and soda. The event raised funds for the Rosedale group and the SDCC and everyone seemed to be having a good time. It was interesting to see cars with out-of-state plates cruising around, no doubt Wash U students trying to furnish an apartment.



## New Fountain for Kingsbury Square

By Tim Schoemehl

Approximately 25 residents and well-wishers attended a ceremony on Sunday June 29 to dedicate a new fountain in Kingsbury Square Park to the honor of retired 26th Ward Alderman and Kingsbury Square resident Irving Clay (right in photo).

Alderman Clay and his wife Evelyn attended the ceremony, as did newly elected 26th Ward Alderman Frank Williamson, Jr. (left) and Joe Kuss (center), of the City's Board of Public Service, which oversaw construction. The fountain has been installed in the center of Kingsbury Square Park and was designed to incor-



porate the Kingsbury Square seal that had been at the center of the park.

Photo by Carol Branchich

## New Concert Series a Success

The final concert of the 2003 concert series was held Sunday, September 7th at Greg Freeman Park at Four Corners. This was the fourth in a series of neighborhood concerts sponsored jointly by the West End Arts Council and Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. The 'Neighborhood Notes' concert series was made possible by a generous grant from the Regional Arts Commission and the support of neighborhood residents and friends.

Featuring local talent primarily drawn from area residents,

the concert series kicked off with a special performance by Jon Thomas and Friends at National Night Out. Despite record-breaking high temperatures, the Jef Lash Trio presented cooling sounds on Sunday, August 17th. A large crowd gathered with cooler temperatures to hear the creative sounds of Languid on August 24th.

The West End Arts Council organized this great addition to the neighborhood's summer scene.

## Grand Opening

(Continued from page 1)

Planned for September 9 is the installation of artist William Cochran's "Kardia" glass art in the round opening shown in the photo here. Cochran's work incorporates responses from participants in a public forum held in April. Soon after the art glass is installed, the bronze doors will also be put in, and the building will be complete.

The Regional Arts Commission is able to make grants to arts entities from a dedicated tax on hotels and restaurants. The Commission is an important funder of the St. Louis Symphony and Opera Theatre of St. Louis but also

disperses money to much smaller entities. Neighborhood groups such as Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council have benefitted from RAC's allocations in staging plays, the Edible Art contest, films, and now concerts at Four Corners. This new building will definitely add to the streetlife of Delmar. It makes the eastern section of the Loop more vibrant and more a part of a greater arts district. Remember: October 11, 10 to 2, for touring the new RAC building.

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, June 9, 2003

Attendance: Vice President Lara Lennon-Doyle, Treasurer, Peggy Droege, Secretary Tim Schoemehl. Directors: Christine Bubbico, Carmen Fowler, Ronie Haliburton, Rev. Mary Harvey, Gwendolyn LaZard, Shirley Polk, Dan Schesch. Guests: Steve Brammier, Bernice Coleman, And Cross (Beautification Committee), P.O. Sam Hill (SLMPD), Larry Isom (NSO), Donetta Kee, Doug Nguyen, Sheri Speed-Gray, Alice Stanley, Lana Stein, JoAnn Vatcha, Arline Webb. Staff: Gary Boehnke (Housing Corporation), Laure Porterfield, (Executive Director).

Absent: Steve Givens, Paul Hohmann, Georgi Fox, Joe Keaveny, Mark LaVelle, Re. Miki Merritt.

The meeting was called to order 7:04 PM by Vice-President Lara Lennon Doyle in the absence of the President. Carmen Fowler was introduced as the new representative to SDCC from the 5700-5900 Blocks of Pershing. Laure Porterfield announced the Executive Committee's recommendation that the July 2003 board meeting be canceled. The Board concurred. Tim Schoemehl requested that the Board defer approval of the minutes from the May 2003 board meeting until the August 2003 board meeting.

#### Treasurer's Report

Peggy Droege presented the Treasurer's report and indicated that revenues and expenditures are in line with the budget. Treasurer's report unanimously approved.

#### Aldermanic Report

Alderwoman Lyda Krewson (28th Ward) presented an update on recent activity in

the neighborhood. The groundbreaking for street enhancement on Delmar was held in early June. The sculpture "Vertical Loop" has recently been completed and installed adjacent to the walkway connecting Delmar to the Pageant and MetroLink parking lots. An installation ice cream social is scheduled for June 12th at the Pageant.

Alderwoman Krewson reported that the City of St. Louis is still planning to rebuild Forest Park Parkway east of DeBaliviere. Construction on the Parkway should take less than one year and should be completed while the Parkway is still closed west of DeBaliviere for MetroLink construction.

Andy Cross reported that the Breakfast Garden Tour was a great success once again. Nice weather brought out a large crowd. Special activities included a youth activity at Des Peres Middle School and a banzai demonstration at Four Corners Park. Many thanks to all volunteers who helped make the event a success.

Dr. Steven Barmier of the Kingsbury Animal Hospital gave a presentation on his plans to demolish his current building and build a new facility on the same site. The \$900,000 project will enlarge the animal hospital from 1650 Sq. Ft. to approximately 4200 Sq. Ft. The new building will be built in front of the existing building, and then the current building will be demolished. Approximately 7 parking spaces will be available behind the building. Dr. Brammier intends to work with Washington University and Grace Methodist Church to secure additional parking at the adjacent lot during construction. No change in operating hours is planned. Dr. Brammier reported that he hopes to break ground this summer and expects construction will take about 9 months. Kingsbury Animal Hospital is also planning a 25th Anniversary celebration next year after the new building opens.

**Security Update**  
Officer Sam Hill of the 7th District gave the security update. There were 7 burglaries in the past month, most were during the day. There were also 3 thefts from motor vehicles and 13 thefts of motor vehicle parts (mostly license tags) reported to police. These numbers are similar to last year at this time. Officer Hill also reported that the 7th District worked with neighbors to have two derelict cars towed from near the intersection of Laurel and Pershing.

Residents reported problems with illegal parking in the alley between 5900 Waterman and McPherson and on Waterman near Skinker. Officer Hill stated that residents should call 911 to report illegal parking and officers will be dispatched to write tickets as staffing permits.

Several residents reported security problems on the 5800 and 5900 block of Pershing, including threats against neighbors and a brick thrown through a neighbor's truck window. Residents are looking for increased police cooperation and visibility on these blocks to help the residents to address problems.

Alderwoman Lyda Krewson reported several recent incidents of aggressive criminal activity just outside the neighborhood. Lyda reported that a rape occurred on June 8th near the bike path in Forest Park, along Skinker. The incident occurred in the early evening. Several purse thefts have also occurred in the early evening in neighborhoods east of Union recently. Police have made several arrests in conjunction with the "purse snatching" incidents. No arrest has been made in the rape case.

#### Delmar Commercial District

JoAnn Vatcha presented an update on the Delmar Commercial District and its activities. JoAnn provided a handout that describes the redevelopment plan for Delmar, the prohibited uses, and how the committee works with business owners who are interested in establishing a business on Delmar to comply with the guidelines of the redevelopment plan. The overall goal is to create a strong commercial district that will serve the needs of neighborhood residents while minimizing any negative impact on adjacent residential uses. JoAnn noted that the Committee usually meets on a weekday at lunch time. The committee is looking for someone who could regularly attend their meetings and also attend Council meetings to report back on the Committee's activities on a regular basis. JoAnn reported that the Committee has recently dealt with several liquor license applications on Delmar. Because City Ordinance allows registered voters and property owners within 300 feet of the proposed liquor license (500 feet for a 3 AM license) to decide whether to support or oppose the license, the Committee cannot always control whether an applicant receives a license. However, in evaluating a possible liquor license the committee looks to minimize the impact on residential areas. Therefore, the Committee has opposed any 3AM licenses on the South side of Delmar, adjacent to residential uses and encourages business owners to direct noise and traffic away from residential areas. Finally, package liquor sales and liquor sales without a restaurant license are prohibited uses in the Delmar redevelopment plan. JoAnn noted that the most recent liquor license application is for a proposed restaurant at 6100 Delmar. The applicant is not seeking a 3 AM license. A hearing on

the possible license is expected in the next few weeks, and the Commercial District Committee plans to meet with the applicant on June 11.

Questions were asked about the prohibited uses in the plan. JoAnn indicated that similar language was used in redevelopment plans throughout the city when the plan was adopted and some of it may be outdated now. A question was also asked about whether any additional 3 AM licenses would be appropriate on Delmar. JoAnn noted that there are currently two 3AM licenses on Delmar, one at the Pageant/Halo Bar and another at the Delmar Lounge. A third license has been approved for the proposed "Pin Up Bowling Alley." JoAnn said that the Committee has struggled with the issue of how many 3 AM licenses would be "too many" and continues to evaluate each proposal on a case by case basis. Further neighborhood participation in these discussions would be welcome.

#### Transportation Committee

Dan Schesch presented the Transportation Committee report. Dan distributed notes from the April 29 neighborhood meeting with Metro and City officials regarding MetroLink construction. Dan noted that the committee is following up on suggestions approved by the Council at the last meeting, and that a meeting is still needed with residents of 6000 and 6100 Pershing to discuss possible traffic changes in those blocks. Several residents noted that the signage for the closure of Forest Park Parkway at Skinker is inadequate and confusing.

#### Executive Director's Report

Laure Porterfield referred board members to her written report on recent activities. She noted the recent invocation of the City's nuisance ordinance regarding property in the 5700 block of Pershing. There have been several recent block meetings and neighborhood meetings, including the 5700 and 5800 blocks of Pershing and 5800 block of DeGiverville. The Rosedale Neighborhood Association also held its annual meeting and officer elections. Tim Schoemehl reported that the Rosedale's representatives to the Council are the same as last year: Chris Bubbico, Lara Lennon Doyle, Paul Hohmann, Dan Schesch and Tim Schoemehl. Arline Webb (Vice-President) will again serve as alternate.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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## FOOD DRIVE PLANNED

Once again, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Social Service Committee members will coordinate a neighborhood food drive to benefit food pantries serving our neighborhood and the immediate vicinity. All food pantries in the area report a steady increase in requests for assistance over the last two years.

Grace Methodist, Grace and Peace Fellowship, New Cote Brillante Church of God and St. Roch Parish all operate food pantries to help those in need and will once again receive the bounty collected, this year on

Saturday, November 8th. Flyers and instructions will be delivered door to door in the neighborhood. As always, drivers and "runners" to collect the food are needed.

If you can find a couple of hours to share with your neighbors on Saturday morning, November 8th, and want to help out, please contact 862-5122. And start saving your canned goods and other non-perishable items to contribute to those less fortunate.

## Grace United Methodist Church Works to Improve Housing

Grace United Methodist Church has spearheaded an effort to assist with home repairs on the 5700 block of McPherson. This is part of their platform to increase the supply of affordable housing in St. Louis as well as that of the Congregations Allied for Community Improvement (CACI).

With the aid of 26 youth and 7 adults from the United Methodist

Church of Malta, Ohio, home repairs were made on McPherson during the last week of July. Grants from the Missouri United Methodist Foundation and St. Louis Mission and Church Extension Society made possible purchases of materials and tools for the renovations. These repairs brought buildings up to city code.



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# National Night Out

Because National Night Out falls on the first Tuesday in August, it is frequently hot and sometimes oppressive on the evening of the event. This year was no exception but that did not stop many neighbors and some dignitaries from assembling at Four Corners Park.

Many new faces and new children were present as well as a solid coterie of old-timers. Katrina Stierholz collected money for food and drink tickets and hot dogs, brats, potato chips, and beer and soda were consumed by attendees.

Famous faces joining Skinker DeBalivierites were Mayor Francis G. Slay, who addressed the crowd, Alderman Lyda Krewson, Circuit Attorney Jennifer Joyce, Chief of Police Joe Mokwa, Fire Chief Sherman George, and Captain Harry Hegger, formerly of the 7th District and now chief of the Homicide Division.

John Thomas and his band provided music in the jazz tradition throughout the evening.

Joe Keaveny spoke to the crowd about the renaming of Four Corners. A committee of neighbors – Shirley Polk, Ruth Johnson, Tim Schoemehl, Katrina Stierholz, and Lana Stein – had met in the spring to find a way to honor our late neighbor and friend, Greg Freeman. Quickly, a consensus was reached:

Our park would be the Greg Freeman Memorial Park at Four Corners. His wife and son thought this was something Greg

would have really appreciated. The name change was introduced in the Board of Aldermen by Ald. Krewson and Ald. Frank Williamson. Enacted by the board, it was signed into law by Mayor Slay. A formal dedication will take place soon.

Then, Lana Stein, co-editor of the Times, presented a gift certificate to Juanita Wood, who has graciously assisted in the distribution of the paper for the past year.

Then, the band played on and neighbors continued to eat, drink



**Laure Porterfield and Juanita Wood, special friends of THE TIMES.**

and socialize on the hot August night. Mayor Slay remarked that the crowd certainly exemplified the diversity of our community and so it did.



## Delmar

(Continued from page 1)

our commercial area become the vibrant and successful retail and dining destination we all know it can be."

When construction is complete, Delmar Boulevard between Skinker and Des Peres will have two driving lanes and a turn lane, plus two parking lanes, providing parking on both sides of the street, and widened sidewalks to replicate the street line west of Skinker.

The new sidewalks will be ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible and will create room for additional pedestrian traffic, sidewalk café space, and outdoor displays. The project also includes additional lighting and landscaping, pedestrian crosswalks, and traffic signals.

Between Hodiamont and

DeBaliviere, the streetscape was designed to provide a continuous vista to the east, with a new landscaped median similar to the medians in the middle of Delmar all the way to Kingshighway. One exception is that the medians through this portion of Delmar are flat, rather than rounded, as they are east of DeBaliviere. This will provide a more user-friendly landing while crossing the street. In addition to the new medians, which have already been installed and planted, concrete sidewalks have been repaired and some have been replaced, curbs have been reset and repaired, accessible ramps at the intersections have been installed. Additional trees in the sidewalk planters will be planted in the fall, although the contractor believes several mature trees will be able to be retained east of the station.

## Alanson Building

(Continued from page 1)

Missouri's Low-Income Housing Tax Credits. Gary Boehnke, Executive Director of SDCHC, said that the housing corporation hopes that rehabilitating the highly visible building will accomplish several objectives, including supporting the historic character of the neighborhood and providing quality housing to ensure continued diversity. The commissioners also hope that the project will spark further revitalization at the Hamilton/Delmar intersection.

Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Housing Corpora-

tion, a Missouri not-for-profit corporation, has served the community since 1988. Owner of the Rosedale Square Apartments, the housing corporation has redeveloped dozens of rental and for-sale housing. The organization is located at 6008 Kingsbury, also home to the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council. Current members of the Board of Directors are: President Richard Wilkes, Steve Cramer, Harriet Hubbard, Jennifer Olmstead, Chris Manzo, Joe Keaveny, George Johannes, Nancy Hohmann, Karleen Hoerr, and ex-officio member Gary Boehnke.

According to Metro Construction Manager Elizabeth Johnson, Metro will maintain communication with business owners, and Gershenson Construction will practice standard quality control procedures throughout the construction this fall. Gershenson Construction will take the necessary precautions to mitigate and expedite the construction along the Delmar Streetscape Project, including protection of excavated surfaces and maintenance of public access to businesses.

Among Metro's plans are new signs stating: "Businesses Open During Construction." Elizabeth Johnson can be contacted at Metro by phone at 982-1400, Ext. 1365, or by e-mail at ejohnson@metroslouis.org.



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# IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Q. Hoerr

Who has the hardest job? OK, I know, you do. Who among us doesn't think that our job is really hard, who among us doesn't think that everyone else shirks a bit? And you're right: YOU do have the hardest job. Wading through my prose is no easy task, I know, then there are all those other things you do during your waking hours. So relax, you're #1.

What is a job, anyway? First, absolutely non-paying jobs can be as hard or harder than those which yield a paycheck. How could anything be harder than being a parent and trying to raise children in this crazy world? Not only that, how could anything be more important? And what about the wonderful volunteers who do all that needs to be done, and do it for free? That said, for the purposes of this discussion, I will focus only on those jobs which result in salary.

Now that "job" has been defined, what about "hard"? Like beauty, it is in the eye of the beholder. Something that is arduous and difficult and onerous for me, might be fun and attractive for you. In this case, for example, it might be tuning up an automo-

bile. You might groove on that, but I would find it pain worse than death. And if I had to change the oil, yikes, my hands would get dirty! So we'll recognize that reasonable people can disagree on the difficulty of most jobs. Still, there are some incredibly challenging jobs that transcend personality and interest; everyone, everywhere, all the time, would agree that these are the hardest jobs around. This information is not made up and represents quite a bit of fact-finding and research (if you doubt me, oh cynic, check this out at [www.hardjobs.com](http://www.hardjobs.com)). In order of least to most hard, here are the five jobs that you hope you'll never have and that you absolutely want your children to avoid (they are an argument for a good education!).

**#5** Being the person who dresses the trained monkeys for the circus routines.

Of course, the operative words here is trained; I mean, how trained can a monkey be, really? Personally, I have quite a bit of experience with chimps and, trust me, they are not cooperative. Getting their arms and legs into the little pants and dresses is a major pain; stockings and high-heels are even worse. The chimps seem, at times, to be triple-jointed. They are a bundle of energy, always moving, undoing what you've done, and are actually quite strong. Oh yeah, they smell pretty bad, too. Worst of all, they have no taste so if you're not careful, you wind up spending a lot of time getting one dressed just in time to be in the opening parade, and then you notice that the colors don't match.

**#4** Being the person who spreads hot asphalt on a summer day. My guess is that spreading hot asphalt might not be too bad in the middle of January in St. Louis. OK, forget the smell, forget the lifting and bending, forget the inherent danger in working with a liquid that is heated to a couple of hundred degrees (and is sticky!). In January, maybe the heat would maybe be comfortable. But in June, July, or August? No way, Jose. Whenever I drive by this activity, people sloshing liquid tar on to already-hot pavement, I shudder and turn up my air-conditioner another notch.

**#3** Being the person who

**Editor's Note: Hard job or not, writing a book that gets translated into Chinese is extraordinary. Congratulations to Tom Hoerr on his latest accomplishment, explaining and promoting the multiple intelligences theory to his fellow educators around the world.**

cleans and maintains the faces on Mt. Rushmore. The photos of George, Abe, Teddy, and Bill on the mountain are always taken from afar and the faces look quite good. In fact, even stone erodes so there is a need for constant maintenance. A crew of three has a full-time job of polishing, cleaning, and repairing. Regardless of the weather (and it can get awfully cold in South Dakota during their winter, August through April), you can see them daily, erecting scaffolding and then lowering a cleaner to the faces where he uses a chisel, occasionally, a jack-hammer, concrete, and gallon tubs of Clearasil to conduct cosmetic surgery. I mean, can you imagine being suspended hundreds of feet in the air while you polish Bill's nose and clean the bird debris out of his nostrils? This takes dermatology to new levels.

**#2** Being the person who tastes the candidate flavors for Baskin-Robbins ice cream. To be fair, this job does have its rewards: chocolate-mocha; peppermint-guava; and apple torte banana, to name a few. But do you realize that for every flavor that makes it to the store, TWENTY-SEVEN died in the tasting lab? Sure, rolling peach Melba on your tongue would be fun, but to get to peach Melba, you had to try hot orange pepperoni, maple custard jalapeno, pepper mace peppermint, mustard bubble gum, raspberries regurgitated, chocolate cotton, strawberry sinus, Paul Revere's Saddle, guns & toeses, lemon lime leprechaun linguini, Snow White Apple Black, eggplant eyeball, vanilla chili, chocolate chili, strawberry chili, sandy sherbert souffle, holy moley & warts, bumptious baklava Bavarian, whiskey butter, jockey jerk, mayonnaise mocha,

chocolate stringbean pewter, peppermint perspiration, mashed potato mash, sequined sassafras salmon, caramel caviar, and monkey butt banana. This job gives new meaning to courage (and to Pepto-Bismo).

And, the worst job of all, **#1**, being President Bush's speech writer. I mean, can you imagine the level of difficulty and pain one must feel writing for a man who views words as speedups and distractions? This President, after all, is the person who has said, "Will the highways on the internet become more few?" "I know how hard it is to put food on your family," "They underestimated me," and, perhaps the ultimate, "Rarely is the question asked: Is our children learning? (No, I am not making these quotes up! They come from Divided We Stand by Roger Simon.) This President has also said that he cannot name a favorite book of his while growing up. (What is more surprising is that he can't remember his favorite color crayon.) Think of the daily pain that a wordsmith must suffer, someone whose passion is using words to create meaning and magic, when they write speeches for W. It would be like being the person who was responsible for Michael Jackson's facial make-up; OK, it might be worse.

I hope that this list helps you feel a bit better about your job, whatever it is. After all, things could be worse. You could be W's speech writer and also responsible for foreign policy. Now that would be the hardest job ever.

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