

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 35 No. 2

Summer 2004

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

SIXTH ANNUAL BREAKFAST GARDEN TOUR SET FOR JUNE 5th Tour Features Private Gardens in Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood

The Sixth Annual Breakfast Garden Tour will be held Saturday, June 5th, from 8:30 a.m. til noon, in the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood. 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. The self-guided walking tour of participating private gardens commences at 9 a.m. This year's tour focuses on gardens in the northwest quadrant of the neighborhood.

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. 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 neighborhood.



Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 on the day of the tour. Children's tickets are \$5.00. Children under ten are admitted free. For further information, and to place an advance ticket order, call 862-5122.

Is Half the Dirt Better than All the Dirt?

Lana Stein

In order to ensure honesty in communication, please understand that I have been very involved in this story. When trucks filled with dirt began running north on Des Peres, I became very concerned about the noise, the uncovered dirt, and the shaking that my house experienced. I initially called the Metro (formerly Bi-State) hotline. My call was returned the same day. I was told basically to grin and bear it because Metro would open the Des Peres cul-de-sac and there would be trucks going up Des Peres till at least the end of October. Although the person on the phone was nice, I didn't believe I or my house could take the constant truck traffic. The next day I called Alderman Krewson. She said she would set up a meeting to discuss this.

The following week on Wed. we met at the Street Dept. In addition to myself, SDCC President Joe Keaveny and Transportation Chair Dan Schesch were there to meet with the Streets Director, 4 people from Metro and one from Tarlton, the firm constructing the part of the MetroLink extension by our neighborhood. We from the neighborhood protested the heavy and dirty truck traffic. We were told that there had been a delay in the relocation of utilities; the contractor had gone ahead with the cul-de-sac near Skinker, which meant that dirt from the tunnel excavations could not be hauled out the Parkway onto Skinker. We questioned this strategy but to no avail. The folks from Metro and Tarlton showed no sympathy with our concerns. Lyda suggested using Washington U's land just

south of the Parkway. They said it would be very expensive and Wash U would not agree.

I left this meeting very disheartened. The next day, as I had no meetings or classes, I was going to a ball game with several friends. While getting ready, I found out Lyda Krewson was on my street watching the trucks. She had



Bus shelter at Waterman and Skinker ironically says MetroLink is putting the noise underground. The MetroLink will be going underground only at Skinker, not at Des Peres.

been following them. Also, miraculously Jaime Allman of Channel 4 appeared and did a story with great visuals about the dirt, the trucks, the routes. Krewson, Msgr. Polizzi, and I all contacted Mayor Slay about the trucks. He had a meeting in his office that afternoon with Lary Salci, head of Metro, Lyda Krewson and oth-

ers. After considering the situation, the Mayor decided to side with Krewson and the neighbors and see that the trucks went south on DesPeres to Lindell and then over to Skinker. Alderman Krewson also asked Chancellor Mark Wrighton of Washington University about the possibility of having the contractor take the trucks out to Skinker over the land owned by the university on the southeast corner, adjacent to the construction site. Chancellor Wrighton said yes and stated the university's desire to work with the neighborhood in finding a solution. Metro, however, stated rather quickly that the "overland" solution would cost nearly \$3 million dollars additional, and that rather too logical solution died on the vine.

Judge David Dowd was approached for a temporary order. The Caitlin track (Lindell) then asked to become part of the case. Judge Dowd, after listening to various lawyers, decided there should be 2 routes available to Metro: Lindell and DesPeres north to Delmar. We were ready to testify as to the condition of Des Peres, how close the dwelling units are to the street, the number of children playing during the summer. Since there is a sink hole on Des Peres now, on the east sidewalk side, between McPherson and Kingsbury, we wondered if the street could handle 100 trucks going and then coming back 6 days a week.

As the situation now stands, a settlement has been signed, and the results will be in evidence very soon. Is it fair? I let the reader judge. (Metro coverage continued on page 4.)

2004 Ivory Perry Park Concerts 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 second season of free concerts on Sunday, June 27, 2004, from 6-8 p.m. July 25th will bring the three-octave range of rhythm and blues vocalist Charles Glenn. You may have caught Glenn singing the national anthem at the Blues or Rams, games. Kim Massie, a remarkable blues and jazz singer, will conclude the series on the August 22nd. In the past year, Massie has twice traveled to Hungary to perform.

Ivory Perry Park is located on Belt Avenue, two blocks north of Delmar. Belt Ave. is the stoplight at Connect Care Hospital between DeBaliviere and Union. Children can enjoy hula hoops and frisbees during the June and August concerts. A sprinkler system will be set up during the July concert, so children may wear their swim suits.

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. In case of rain, concerts are held inside at 733 N. Union, 314-361-8844.

For more information, or to volunteer to help with these concerts, call Carla Mash Duncan at 314-727-2309 or check www.union-avenue.org/perry.html.

IN THE LOOP - A Public Art Celebration!

Innovative and diverse artwork is on its way to the Delmar Loop! From early July until late fall, Skinker to DeBaliviere Blvd. will come alive with new public art projects as Arts in Transit kicks off In the Loop, a public art celebration in conjunction with the Delmar Streetscape project.

Throughout the season, performance artist Heidi Dolamore and her Free Ride art volunteers will be on the streets giving away 2500 free MetroLink one-way ride tickets with buttons suggesting possible MetroLink destinations.

Michele Ryker-Owens and Elizabeth Vega with the Loyola Academy and the CollabARTive of the Peter and Paul community services program will create a

(continued on page 5)
Arts In Transit

Editor's Notebook

With Lana out of town this month, pinch-hitting for the *Editor's Notebook* has fallen to me, and I will use the opportunity to try and recruit volunteers. We need you! Over the past couple of years, the "oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis" put out entirely by volunteers, has evolved to include both Lana and myself as Co-Editors. Lana does much of the research and writing, while I organize, compile the stories from all of you, find photographs (and ask King Schoenfeld and Andy Cross for theirs!) and work with our super layout person, Kate Klimut, and with our long-time printer, Arcade Printing. Together, Lana and I set priorities. After our work is mostly done, we have to rely on others to get the paper to your door. First our very supportive SDCC director Laure Porterfield and her assistant Juanita make sure the bundles are dropped off at the homes of our volunteer distributors on every block. We also must get bundles to the schools and businesses. That job was previously done by Tim Schoemehl, who is now running for state rep, and we are seeking help to make sure that we get those papers on the doorsteps in a timely way.

If you can help, please let us know. Just an hour or two every other month can truly make a contribution. Deliver on your block, or drop off bundles on Delmar or DeBaliviere. Write one little article, make a couple of calls, and learn something new about your neighborhood. As I work in community development, I have been surprised to discover how unusual this newspaper is. Many neighborhoods have newsletters which are mailed to residents, which of course costs much more. By having residents actually walk on their blocks to deliver the *TIMES*, everyone saves and gains in those "connections". It has been such an amazing experience to be a part of this all-volunteer newspaper. We have recently welcomed new contributors Maggie Peters and Norbert Hart, and we'd love to have more! Let us know how you would like to get involved. Finally, as a summertime activity, I'd like to suggest taking photographs of all the activity in our neighborhood. You might have an interesting shot of the MetroLink construction (or dump trucks or cranes), a photo of neighborhood folks at the community garden, St. Roch's, or a party on your block. Or how about the changes on Delmar? Whether digital or just a nice print, we'd love to have your photos for the September issue. The deadline is August 15, so let us hear from you. You can drop off items at the SDCC office at 6008 Kingsbury or reach me at jvatcha@peoplepc.com.

- Jo Ann Vatcha

Calendar

Upcoming Events Calendar

June 2nd - Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation. 6 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury

June 5th - BREAKFAST GARDEN TOUR. 8:30 A.M. UNTIL NOON. Selected gardens in the neighborhood. Start at the McPherson Community Garden. 5900 McPherson. See article in this issue. Ticket info call: 862-5122.

June 11 thru July 31 - Critical Mass for the Visual Arts' 2004 Summer Exhibition: Dystopic Visions. The Regional Arts Commission (RAC) is pleased to present the Critical Mass for the Visual Arts' 2004 Summer Exhibition, Dystopic Visions, featuring the work of six emerging St. Louis artists.

June 14th - SDCC Board Meeting. 7 p.m. - 6008 Kingsbury - all residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

June 16th - Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation. 6 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury

NO JULY BOARD MEETING FOR SDCC

August 3rd - National Night Out. Greg Freeman Park at Four Corners - Fun begins at 6! Bring a lawn chair and listen to the music, visit with friends, etc.

August 9th - SDCC Board Meeting. 6008 Kingsbury, 7 p.m. ALL WELCOME

August 21st - Rags to Riches. Throughout the neighborhood. Registration and information to follow.

Sept. 13th - SDCC Board Meeting. 7 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury

Other Events of Interest:

May 28 - July 2. "Tim Liddy: Recent Works on Paper" at the William Shearburn Gallery, 4735 McPherson.

Now. "The 1904 World's Fair: Looking Back, Looking Forward" at the Missouri Historical Society History Museum in Forest Park.

Now - Aug 8. "Art of the Osage" at the Saint Louis Art Museum. "1904: Art of the Fair" and "The Illustrated Garden" are also on view.

June 5 - Oct. 16. Voter Registration at Vintage Vinyl, 'in the Loop.'

June 18. "Third Friday at Third Degree," Third Degree Glass Factory, 5200 Delmar. Music + Drinks + Fire = An exceptional time at Third Degree Glass Factory. Expect glassblowing and flameworking demonstrations from 6 to 10 p.m. and a few more surprises. This is a free event, so bring all your friends. More information at www.thirddegree@midwesthotglass.com.

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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. 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 Fall issue: August 15, 2004. Please send copy by e-mail to jvatcha@peoplepc.com or by disc to 6008 Kingsbury, St. Louis, MO 63112.

Readers are welcome to send us e-mail or letters commenting on any of our content. Send to jvatcha@peoplepc.com or lstein@umsl.edu.

GRACE CHURCH ADDS CONTEMPORARY SERVICE



Dave Thomas.

'the edge.' Our congregation has been very supportive of this project and we're looking forward to bringing even more people into the life of our growing church and our ministries."

With leadership of Rev. Mary Harvey, associate pastor Mark Harvey, as well as Grace member and musician Dave Thomas, "The Edge of Grace" will incorporate audiovisual technology as well as an eclectic selection of live music. Alterations to the church's fellowship hall have been made to accommodate the service. An opportunity for fellowship with coffee and doughnuts in the church's new "Holy Grounds Café" follows. Childcare is available.

For more information about "The Edge of Grace," please contact the church office at 314-863-1992 or visit the website at www.graceUMC-STL.org.

"The Edge of Grace," a new worship service featuring live praise music was launched May 2 at Grace United Methodist Church, located at the corner of Skinker and Waterman. The added service will be at 9:30 a.m., offering churchgoers an alternative to the church's long-standing and well-attended traditional services held at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

"This is an exciting time for Grace," says Senior Pastor Mary Harvey. "This worship experience, 'The Edge of Grace,' allows us as a congregation to reach out to a new and larger group of people who are more comfortable with music that is contemporary, multicultural and truly on

Political News Close to Home

The August 3, 2004, primary election will feature some races of particular interest to residents of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood. Consistent with the historical policy of the TIMES to feature highlight races which have candidates who are neighborhood residents, in 2004, on the August, 2004, ballot are neighborhood candidates Tim Schoemehl and Nancy Farmer.

U.S. Senate Race:

Formerly State Representative and before that Executive Director of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, current State Treasurer Nancy Farmer is running against veteran Senator Kit Bond for the U.S. Senate. Recent news from the Farmer campaign included results of a poll showing Nancy gaining ground. "Kit Bond is among the most vulnerable Republicans up for re-election." That's the conclusion drawn from a poll of Missouri voters which shows that Missourians may know Kit Bond but they do not support his re-election. Farmer trails Bond 49 percent to 39 percent at the outset of the poll, despite a statewide name recognition that is half of Bond's. To make matters worse for Bond, Farmer leads 47 percent to 46 percent among voters familiar with both candidates. After voters are presented with positive information - using the candidates' own words - on a range of issues, Farmer cruises into a 53 percent to 37 percent lead. "Solid evidence from the poll indicates Bond has a base of support of only 37 percent, placing him in the 'endangered incumbent' zone," said Bob Meadow, founder and president of Decision Research. "This low number suggests voters are tired of Bond, who has been on the statewide ballot in Missouri seven times since 1970."

Locally, Nancy's headquarters are in the Deer Creek Shopping Center at 3232 Laclede Station Road. And she and husband Darrell Hartke have lived on Waterman for many years.

State Representative Race:

Tim Schoemehl is running for the office of State Representative for the 64th District seat being vacated by Bob Hilgemann, due to term limits. Tim resides on the 6100 block of Washington and is a third-generation resident of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood.

He graduated from Trinity University in San Antonio with a degree in history and political science, has been a CORO Fellow, and worked in commercial real estate for the St. Louis Development Corporation. He has been active in Metropolis and on the Board of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council. He is currently in his third

term as President of the Rosedale Neighbors Association. Tim Schoemehl has been endorsed by the 28th Ward Regular Democratic Organization, as well as the 17th Ward Democrats. Schoemehl notes that he has surveyed the district about the priorities of the constituents. He states: "Knowing firsthand that the quality of life in our neighborhoods can be threatened by the problem properties and nuisance crimes, as your State Representative, I will work with residents, local officials, and police to fight crimes that impact our neighborhoods and to crack down on problem properties that foster illegal activity. I will also work to expand opportunities for recreation in our neighborhoods, so that young people have positive alternatives to crime and drugs."

There are three other candidates for State Representative. Rachael Storch has served as Director of Operations for Governor Mel Carnahan's Senate campaign and as Deputy Chief of Staff to Senator Jean Carnahan in Washington, D.C. A graduate of Harvard, Storch is a lawyer who has worked for Legal Services of Eastern Missouri focusing on health care policy and legal issues affecting low income families. For THE TIMES, Storch stated that:

"In the legislature, I will make education a priority issue, and I will fight for adequate resources for our schools, including targeted resources for early childhood education; computer and technology programs; and training for teachers and administrators. I will support legislation to ensure that our schools are safe, including legislation to keep weapons out of schools." Terry Crow and Sreenu Dandamudi did not respond to our request for information to be included in this issue.

Interestingly, three of the candidates are around 30 years old. In a recent issue of the Arch City Chronicles, Dave Drebes said, "The most important development project before the city is not downtown - it is the development of new pools of talent - we find inspiration from these young leaders."

For information on the upcoming election, check out the city's website stlc.in.missouri.org/bdelection or the state's site, sos.mo.gov/candidates. You may register to vote or change your voting address at the St. Louis Board of Election Commissioners, 300 N. Tucker.

Vintage Vinyl, our neighbor on Delmar, is participating in a monthly voter registration drive aimed at the young voter. Be sure and encourage all your friends and neighbors - especially new neighbors - to register to vote before the August 3 primary.

Co-Editors Disclosure Note: Lana Stein is campaign treasurer for Tim Schoemehl. A neighborhood fundraiser has been scheduled at the home of Jo Ann and Neville Vatcha.

Three St. Roch Students Participate in Leadership Program

by Lana Stein

In late March and early April, three students from St. Roch attended the People-to-People Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. They each attended separate sessions because the sponsor preferred they not attend with people they knew. They were nominated by Amy Long who teaches English and History to 7th and 8th graders at St. Roch. She picked students showing potential leadership skills in civics and politics. The children's parents helped with the costs and they were off on an unforgettable adventure. The three are:

- Alice Flores, age 13, 7th grader
- Greg Powell, age 12, 6th grader
- Tyler Atkinson, age 13, 7th grader

Alice lives in Parkview and Greg lives in Skinker DeBaliviere. Tyler lives in the nearby Central West End.

They all attended leadership meetings which they found to be interesting. They also were able to be tourists in a great tourist city. They saw monuments and memorials including the Jefferson Memorial surrounded by cherry blossoms in bloom, the Lincoln

Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial and the new memorial honoring Franklin Delano Roosevelt. They also visited the Capitol and met a senate candidate, 2 pages, and a lobbyist.

Alice Flores noted that they were able to talk to people from different states regarding which issues they feel are important. They could defend their positions more. Tyler Atkinson remarked about the different techniques and skills of being a good leader: reliability, honesty, integrity, loyalty, and trustworthiness. Greg Powell said it was definitely a worthwhile experience. He learned that the president doesn't deal with one problem at a time. There are lots of different conflicts.

People-to-People has sites all over the world, including Europe.

The three would consider a specialization in history and government (maybe). They said there are a lot of options. But, they did enjoy their foray to Washington and the exposures the trip provided.

Rose Flynn Joins Kingsbury Animal Hospital

Kingsbury Animal Hospital is pleased to announce the expansion of Kingsbury Grooming Services at the new facility at 420 North Skinker Boulevard. Hospital operations will run from the new building using a temporary entrance on the Skinker frontage while the construction project is completed as the old building is torn down to provide client parking and a new entrance. Watch out for the grand opening celebrations in the early fall!

The new building will provide additional space for full-service grooming facilities. Joining Vlasta Holder, Kingsbury's resident groomer for the past twelve years, is Rose Flynn. Rose, a former Skinker DeBaliviere resident, has over eight years of grooming experience and enjoys working with all kinds of dogs and cats.

Rose is well known in the neighborhood. During the years when her two children, Meg & Daniel, were in pre-school her volunteer efforts at Grace Methodist pre-school melded into a new career direction, in which she worked as an early childhood educator at Grace Methodist and at University United Methodist pre-school. A long-time parishioner at St. Roch's Catholic Church, Rose then worked at the parochial pre-school for over ten years, as a teacher and then as Director of the program.

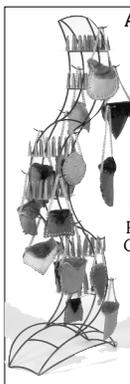
Many neighborhood residents and St. Roch's pre-school alumni will have fond memories of the diverse assortment of classroom pets which they enjoyed with 'Mrs. Rose' at pre-school. Guinea pigs, hamsters, birds, hermit crabs, Mrs. Muffett the tarantula, and Rex the iguana. All were part of her pre-school classroom menagerie. Rose believes very strongly in the importance of animal companions in the lives of

children and adults.

Rose's introduction to the world of pet grooming was purely accidental. She began a part-time position as a bather in the grooming department of the Maplewood Petsmart store. She then trained as a pet stylist, learning to set patterns on all types of dogs. Her enjoyment of the work and the development of her grooming skills over the years led to a very satisfying career association with Petsmart stores first at Maplewood, then as salon manager at Brentwood Promenade, and serving as regional grooming academy instructor for the company.

In her non-working hours, Rose enjoys keeping up with the adventures of her family - daughter Meg, an artist currently working and teaching in Roanoke, VA, and son Daniel, who serves in the US navy and is stationed in Guam. Her own animal companions are Otis, a border collie mix, and Beatrice, a nice little domestic short haired cat. Both are senior citizens and receive all the dotting attention that Rose can lavish! Rose also enjoys doing artwork, and is an avid reader and gardener.

Rose is delighted to have the opportunity of working with Vlasta Holder, Drs. Steve Brammeier and Kim Lynch, and the staff and clients at Kingsbury Grooming Services.



A Selected Work from Dystopic Visions: Critical Mass for the Visual Arts' 2004 Summer Exhibition
The Gallery at the Regional Arts Commission
Amy Harmon
Unnatural Selection, 2004
76 x 28 x 12
Mixed Media,
Courtesy of the Artist

COLONIAL RUG COMPANY
2626 Woodson
(Our New Location)
Complete Floor Service
Remnants Always in Stock
Bill Schiller
726-3281

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

More on Metro

by Jo Ann Vatcha

Recent news stories in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *Riverfront Times*, *West End Word*, TV coverage on Channel 4, news releases from the Mayor, a court order, and more. What's all the noise about?

- Dirt and the dump trucks which bring it through the residential neighborhood
- Future hauling of concrete to fill the tunnel being dug
- Faulty workmanship performed by sidewalk contractor on Delmar
- Lack of responsiveness to damage claims by small businesses on Delmar
- Delays in Delmar Streetscape construction lasting more than two years
- Lack of accountability

Letters and e-mails have been written and leaders at the highest levels have made entreaties, including Congressman Clay, Mayor Slay, Alderman Krewson, and more. Here are a few other voices:

"The sidewalk poured less than 4 months ago is already chipped and uneven – and they are apparently expecting the city and city taxpayers to foot the bill.

"A big part of the problem appears to be Metro's structure. Other than an unresponsive Board, Metro appears accountable to no one. There appears to be no real repercussion to the organization if a job is not done well, not cost-effectively, or creates a negative economic impact on an area.

"There appears to be no direct accountability or incentive to be sensitive to the community needs of the taxpayers footing the bill. St. Louis City officials (such as local alderman and city development personnel), residents of the area, members of groups such as the Delmar Commercial Committee and the Loop East Special Business District, property owners in the area, as well as business owners – have all tried to address (even plead) issues and concerns with Metro for months, but to no avail.

"Metro responses have consistently been defensive and bureaucratic and the root issue is never addressed."

– From Gil Williams,
MacroSun International

"We all want a fair resolution. It would be very disappointing that metro would accept substandard work."

– From David Mastin,
Special Business District:

"Metro also said it is a higher governmental authority than the city (as) an interstate compact between Missouri and Illinois approved by Congress."

– From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, reporter Phil Sutin,
4/28/04

"Whatever caused this dilemma and whoever is responsible for it, it is not fair for Metro to solve its problems solely on the backs of the residents of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood. This is not their fault."

– From Mayor Slay

"In response to your [*Post Dispatch*] editorial 'Stay on Track,' may I humbly submit that MetroLink has never been on track. From the beginnings of discussions with the Skinker-DeBaliviere community, the director and staff have been arrogant, misleading and even have lied. Have you seen the dirt on the streets? Is there not a law that says vehicles hauling loads of dirt must have a covering? Your editorial makes the people of our area the culprits. The MetroLink gang created the problem, and now they want the same people they talked down to and ignored to solve the problem for them."

– From Msr. Sal E. Polizzi,
St. Roch Catholic Church

"Respect is earned, not mandated, and Metro will need a lot of respect when it runs out of money to operate the system it's building and needs a tax increase in a year or so. It won't earn any respect by dismissing legitimate concerns and declaring itself omnipotent and infallible."

Terms of Injunction

The trucks can only operate between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., unless Metro has express, written consent from the City's Streets Director; no trucks shall run on days of severely inclement weather, at the sole discretion of the Streets Director; the trucks shall not operate on Sundays and recognized holidays; while traveling on DesPeres and Lindell, the trucks' speed limit will be twenty-five miles per hour, to be strictly enforced; each violation shall result in a penalty of up to \$ 500 payable to the City of St. Louis; Metro and/or its contractor shall post a flagman at the intersections of DesPeres and Forest Park Parkway and at the intersection of DesPeres and Delmar while the trucks are operating; the loads of dirt must be covered at all times;

at all times the trucks are operating, Metro or its contractor shall operate a backhoe, vacuum truck, and street sweeper to constantly keep the streets clean; Metro shall post a \$ 50,000 bond and provide the City with proof of insurance; From the date of entry of this order until December 1, 2004, the trucks shall operate on each of the aforementioned routes in a proportion no less than forty percent and no greater than sixty percent, of the totality of dirt and material haulings made, and after December 1, 2004, the trucks shall not use the DesPeres-Delmar route without the express written authority of the Streets Director.

...ordered by Circuit Judge
David L. Dowd, May 14, 2004.

– From THE ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH: Metro Omnipotent' by Eric Mink
"These non-debatable edicts are not right (especially for a public agency using public money)."

– From Alderman Lyda Krewson
"Our contractor completely revised the sequence of the construction work to be performed to accommodate multiple building renovations on Delmar and to accommodate the construction of the Regional Arts Commission Building. These issues impacted the project completion, scheduled by October, 2003, by four-five months. The delays were the result of third party issues and Metro being accommodating to local development projects."

– From Larry Salci,
President and CEO, Metro
"Mr. Salci again, for the last time, wants to make Metro's position perfectly clear – the meeting was agreed to as a courtesy to the Mayor's office – this was not a publicity act; it was a courtesy. Metro agrees that these communications have become a total waste of everybody's time."

– From Barb Georgeff,
on behalf of Larry Salci

"The issues are not debatable."
– From Elizabeth Johnson, Metro

"We will be working toward change at Metro, whose current leadership obviously considers itself above other governmental entities and beyond ordinary courtesy. In the past, neighborhood cooperation was solicited and attention was paid to the content of that discussion. After all, we went through the construction of

MetroLink more than a decade ago – without the bitter feelings engendered by the current management. We even entrusted them with the Delmar Streetscape construction contract, believing we would be speeding up the process and gaining a coordinated transit plaza and business environment. We never believed we would end up being the targets of court orders and with dump trucks rolling through our streets with no consideration for residents. We could not have imagined that the CEO of such a major entity would blame delays and failures on the positive activities of neighborhood developers. It's as if they could have gotten the job done if only they'd had a corn field to do it in, but since they had to contend with Joe Edwards and the Regional Arts Commission and people actually living near their worksite, they couldn't cope except with edicts, court actions, and rudeness to everyone concerned."

– From the Delmar Commercial Committee

At the 5/20 meeting of the Delmar Commercial Committee, it was decided that members of the committee would approach both County Executive Dooley and Mayor Slay to request a formal review of Metro's authority by the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council. We believe that it is important to articulate public opinion and put pressure on the agency to perform more cooperatively in the future. Comments and questions may be addressed to: jvatcha@peoplepc.com.

Pedestrian Lighting Delay

By Jo Ann Vatcha

The installation of pedestrian lighting – the last piece in the long awaited streetscape improvements on the 6000 and 6100 blocks of Delmar – will not occur until August, 2004, according to Metro. The specified lamp was to come from a manufacturer which has suddenly gone out of business. According to Carol M. Schmidt, Metro's Division Director, Capital Projects:

"Sternor Lighting was the fixture (the lantern at the top) manufacturer specified for the project. Three days after we received the bids, the manufacturer announced to the industry that it was shutting down its custom fixture production immediately. Since we did not have a purchase order in with the company, we could not get our fixture through them. I immediately started looking for a replacement fixture, with the intent of presenting design alternatives to the group for selection. Working with local lighting fixture representative, we have been able to find another company, ELA, that will make the fixture as designed, and within the same price range as was bid by the contractors. Since ELA will be making a mold from the University City prototype, there will be a mold available for future spares and future purchases by the City and University City. I am relieved that we were able to get the Delmar Loop groups exactly what they want.

"We are currently confirming delivery dates. The revised delivery dates will affect the schedule by three to four weeks, putting installation in August."

Note that Metro could have ordered the fixtures as planned – if the bidding had been sooner. Because the bidding for the pedestrian lighting was overlooked by Metro, this latest delay is the direct result of Metro's having overlooked (or perhaps deliberately postponed) the bidding until AFTER the sidewalks were done. Regular readers may recall that THE TIMES reported on the light fixture selection over two years ago (Feb.-March, 2002), and one has to wonder how preparation of a bid package could have been so seriously delayed.

Metro's track record in the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood is replete with actions and inactions that have caused serious consequences for the neighborhood and for the business community on Delmar. This most recent error in judgment will result in orange safety cones on the new sidewalks throughout the summer.

Members of the Delmar Commercial Committee, working with the Special Business District, will be requesting an immediate meeting with Schmidt to define the quality of the replacement fixture before it is ordered, as well as the timeline.

Mirasol

By Maggie Peters

Mirasol, the new "Nuevo Latino" tapas-style restaurant on Delmar, has opened to gushing reviews in both the *Post-Dispatch* and *Riverfront Times*. Although this article was slated to be another gushing review, my views can be summed up in easily without the need for an article - all the food is very good and some is really, very good. While you can't go wrong with the food itself, you can go wrong with eating tapas-style. This article is devoted to practical tips on how you too can learn to stop worrying and love tapas-style dining.

Guests: Choose wisely. Unlike traditional dining, where atmosphere and table conversation depend on your guests, here your meal depends on them. First, you need the right number. Four is the perfect number for a tapas table. Any fewer and you likely won't get to sample enough dishes, which in itself is regretful, but combined with the increased stress of choosing the right dishes, could ruin your tapas time. Any more guests than four, and you start having to pass the dishes around instead of putting them in the center and reaching with your fork. The danger in passing the dishes is that they invariably become parked between people. There seems to be an unspoken but universally followed tapas rule that the person nearest a parked dish is responsible for either finishing the dish or passing it off onto others. Meaning you could

get stuck finishing somebody's Ecuadorian ceviche, while your scallops sit neglected between two people allergic to shellfish.

The number of people in your party is only as good as the people themselves. So, if you can't get a good foursome, you can mitigate the damage by carefully choosing your tapas-style dining companions. Avoid people with food aversions, dieters, sugar-busters, carb-counters, "I don't eat fish"ers, "I don't eat red meat"ers, people with food allergies, and anybody that needs to know what they are eating before putting it in their mouth. Avoid like the plague anybody that doesn't double-dip their chips and dip. Tapas-style dining largely depends on double-forking, and anybody too conscious of where everybody else's fork has been will leave hungry. Ideally, you'll be at a table of four people that profess to eat anything and are not sticklers for lily-fresh forks.

Also good are food experimenters and food finishers. The finisher is particularly important because there will always be a lesser-liked dish. Anything that is served alongside the empanadas de cangrejo is going to be a lesser-liked dish. Somebody will need to finish the lesser-liked dishes before the table can order another round, and a finisher must step up. Light eaters are also good, so long as they do not fall within one of the above-mentioned categories to avoid. Light eaters leave more for the rest of the table, and can provide a good balance to an over-eager finisher.

Navigating the menu: Start at the bottom. When eating tapas-style, soups and salads are for

suckers. They'll fill you up and leave little room for the tapas sized dishes. They're also anti-social. Nobody else is served a soup spoon, and regardless nobody is going to reach a soup spoon over the table to sample your soup.

In fact, the whole idea of the soup and salad menu at Mirasol takes me back to Gray Bros. Cafeteria in Mooresville, Indiana, where they put the salads, fresh fruit, cottage cheese, and a smattering of other uninspired dishes at the front of the cafeteria line. At the end of the line are the homemade chicken and dumplings, the macaroni and cheese, the yeast rolls, and the fried chicken that everybody has been coming to Gray Bros. Cafeteria for more than sixty years to eat. You can always tell the rookie, because he'll pile his tray with the various side dishes, and by the end of the line wises up to the fact that he has only one stomach, and he'd better not waste it on cottage cheese with a pineapple ring on top. He gives all his ill-thought side dishes to the cashier, who gives it to the runner, whose job is to put back on the line all the hastily-grabbed fruit cocktail, applesauce, and pear halves. Don't fall into the same trap. About the time you realize what a boniato is and how good it is with the fig and tamarind sauce, you'll regret the silly Hearts of Palm salad you first ordered.

So, with these tips, be on your way. Mirasol is just up the street at 6144 Delmar, and is open for dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Very good, by the way, are the scallop ceviche and the

albondigas celestial. Really, very good are the arepas tres tipos and papas rellenas.



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Concept image from the piece **BACKOMWEL** by Katy Scoggin.

Arts In Transit

(continued from page 1)

ten-minute video using stunning imagery combined with Haiku poems. Body English, will be projected on the side of 6146 Delmar Blvd. August 7 and September 19. Check local calendar listings to confirm dates and times.

Farther east, on the façade of 5926 Delmar Blvd., Katy Scoggin will install a large sign sculpture **BACKOMWEL**. Nearly 15-inch

tall letters will endlessly play with poetic and abstract variations of the phrase "Welcome Back."

Glass artist Karen Woodward will create City Effigy, a large-scale portrait consisting of hundreds of glass faces and neon shapes. You'll notice this piece in a window along Delmar Blvd.

For more information about the **IN THE LOOP**, contact Metro's Arts in Transit at aat@metrostlouis.org.

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Operation Brightside Blitz Day 2004



Nicole Blummer and Warren Rosenblum trimmed trees and bushes along Des Peres at the Westminster and Washington pocket parks. Nicole cares for the flowers at the Westminster Park.



Working together to clear this brush and debris along Kingsbury Square were: Claire, Molly and Mary Rader, Carol Branch, Claire Kerz and Marcia Kerz.

Crown Center for Senior Living

The founders and leaders who created, built, and sustained The Delcrest and Crown Center for Senior Living will be honored at a special recognition event on Sunday, June 6th, 2004, 2:00 ~ 4:00 PM, 8350 Delcrest Dr. in University City. The Gladys & Henry Crown Center continues the commitment of these leaders to provide high quality housing and services to older adults and to serve as a resource for seniors in the community. The event is open to the public. For information call: Nikki Goldstein, 314-991-2055.



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East Meets West in the Loop

The first East Meets West Street Festival was held on two weekends in May. Events included several special ceremonies, including a Fire Puja with Tibetan Lama Lobsang, and performances, including Tribal Belly Dances of North Africa, at MacroSun International. The new widened sidewalks accommodated these events beautifully. The newly expanded Loop showed its versa-

tility well, with exhibits at Componere Gallery, Regional Arts Commission, Diversity Gallery, Craft Alliance, and more. Special sales were held at many of the retail shops, and music could be heard on Delmar, from Wabash Station on the east to the Lion's Gates on the West. The festival concluded with the St. Louis Walk of Fame Induction Ceremony near Blueberry Hill.



VINTAGE VINYL WANTS YOU... TO REGISTER TO VOTE!

Vintage Vinyl, the Midwest's largest independent CD & DVD store, in conjunction with America Coming Together (ACT), presents the area's best bands and DJs - all in an effort to register new voters!

Every Saturday from May 1st through October 16th, ACT will be at Vintage Vinyl in the University City Loop, to give anyone interested the opportunity to register to vote. And to further celebrate the ultimate freedom of

voting, Vintage Vinyl will present live performances by the area's best bands and DJs! The live music is free, and begins in the store every Saturday at 4pm!

Voter registration will run from 10am to 6pm every Saturday, while the free live performances start at 4pm. Come down, let your voice be heard; and enjoy the great live music while shopping the Midwest's most unique selection of music, movies, and video games!



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Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board of Directors Meeting February 9, 2004. Minutes

SECURITY REPORT: Captain Jim Moran reported on letter that was sent to business and neighborhood leaders regarding an e-mail list to open lines of communication and keep leaders informed, distributed flyer "Protect Yourself from Auto Theft," mentioned several purse snatchings in the DeBaliviere Place neighborhood as well as several arrests that have been made, car theft has been reduced but still continues to be a problem, recommended using prevention device, crime statistics are down from previous year. Decrease in officers over next few years will need residents to increase their efforts to be the eyes and ears for the police; Officer Tim Kehm is the new public affairs officer and Sam Hill is the problem properties officer.

DES PERES MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING UPDATES: Two groups (Strong Tower and Herbert Hoover) presented proposals for the use of the building.

Strong Tower was represented by George Abbe and Colleen Green. Strong Tower is proposing to use the building to provide day care, support services and training for women in need (homeless, unwed mothers, etc.)

Herbert Hoover Boys Club was represented by Liz Johnson. Herbert Hoover proposed bringing a unit of the youth club to the area, it would serve youth from all areas not just Skinker-DeBaliviere.

Discussion followed. Concerns were expressed about the clientele being served, the traffic that would be generated, and how these uses fit with the neighborhood.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Peggy Droege presented the financial report. The Friends Campaign started this month and as of today, they have raised \$1,300. Motion made and seconded to accept Treasurer's Report; the motion passed.

ALDERMANIC REPORT: Alderwoman Krewson reported that the Delmar Enhancement project would be completed within another month. The Street Department conducted a 3-day traffic study and as a result has adjusted the traffic signal at Skinker and Waterman. Discussion followed regarding the timing of the signal and traffic flow. A concern was raised about the street cleaning signs not having all been changed and tickets being issued.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BEAUTIFICATION: Andy Cross reported that Kappa Sigma Fraternity had initiated a clean-up project and picked up trash in the alley. Several of the neighbors commented favorably. Andy prepared a welcome bouquet to thank RAC for the use of their facility. May 1, 2004 is Blitz Day for our neighborhood. McPherson Community Garden meeting is February 28th from 10-11am at the Council office. There are two workdays in March and two in April. A round of applause was given to Andy in appreciation of his hard work.

TRANSPORTATION: Dan Schesch updated us on the traffic backup at Skinker and Waterman, which he sees as a continuing problem.

HISTORIC DISTRICT REVIEW COMMITTEE: Laura reported that next meeting is Tuesday, 7pm at SDC office. Committee struggles with membership. Currently in process of rewriting historic district standards.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMEMORATION CELEBRATION: Originally scheduled for January 25th, was cancelled due to bad weather / ice storm. Laura called people that morning to let them know of cancellation. The Dr MLK Jr. Celebration has been rescheduled to 3:00 February 22, 2004. Due to scheduling conflicts some of the original participants have indicated that they will not be present.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Laure reported on the status of CDA contract. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Work Program and conditions; motion passed. Motion was made and seconded to approve the authorizing signatures on the CDA contract; motion passed. Signature sheets were distributed for appropriate Board signatures. Laure also distributed certification sheets to Board member at least 50 years of age as part of the CBDO recertification process. Laure reported that the Friends Campaign was underway and donations were coming in. She encouraged Board members to attend the SLACO conference on March 20th at St. Louis Community College - Forest Park campus. The conditional use hearing for 5959 Delmar was the only item on the agenda. Alderman Williams (26th ward) did not support. The use of the warehouse was not an appropriate use under the terms of the redevelopment plan.

SKINKER DEBALIVIERE COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION: Gary Boehnk reported that in the month of February, the Housing Corp. would evaluate progress and set 1 to 5 year objectives.

OTHER BUSINESS: Georgi Fox inquired if SDC could send a donation to Backstoppers for Officer Sloan. A motion was made and seconded for SDC to send a \$100 donation to Backstoppers; the motion passed. A \$100 match would be provided by Washington University for a total of \$200 to Backstoppers.

* Dan Schesch reported that a Charter reform meeting was posted on the Advance St. Louis website for February 24th. This was an error. The new meeting date will be chosen and listed on the website. It will most likely be held at Grace Methodist Church. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

SDCC Board of Directors Meeting of February 9, 2004

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Peggy Droege presented the financial report. SDC ended the year 2003 with 96% of budgeted expenditures and 97% of budgeted revenue. The proposed 2004 budget was presented and approved unanimously.

Security Report. Officer Metz & Sergeant Cross for the police as fire-fighters luncheon. No crime statistics were available due to a change to a new reporting system. The officers reported several recent arrests in connection with robberies in the neighborhood.

There was a question about fines for false alarms from burglar alarms. Burglar alarms should be registered with the police department. This is normally done by the installation company.

Executive Committee. Joe Keavany reported on the election of officers. Liz Johnson was nominated at the last meeting as the only candidate for vice-president. However, she is an alternate representative for New Cote Brilliante Church of God, and the bylaws do not permit alternates to serve as officers. Joe suggested that the bylaws be amended.

As an alternative, Liz could be made the representative for Cote Brilliante, rather than the alternate. Copies of the bylaws were distributed and discussion followed. Mark LaVelle asked whether all of the positions for "at large" board members were currently filled. They were not. Liz Johnson was nominated as an at large board member and approved unanimously. The following slate of candidates for officers was presented and approved unanimously:

President-Joe Keavany; Vice President-Liz Johnson; Treasurer-Peggy Droege; Secretary-Alice Stanley

Beautification Committee. Andy Cross reported that planning for the neighborhood Blitz clean up day will be starting in February. There has been some discussion of a possible special alley clean up project in conjunction with the West End Arts Council.

Transportation. Dan Schesch provided an update on issues related to timing of the light at Skinker and Waterman. The light at Waterman continues to cycle such that all traffic is not able to get through during rush hours.

Dan presented a diagram showing the two-way section of the 6100 block of Pershing at Skinker. There has been concern that some drivers still believe this section is one way west bound and that the confusion could cause accidents. The proposed solution is to paint stripes on the street showing the two-way section, and paint left turn and right turn arrows in the west bound section. The council voted unanimously to endorse this solution.

Washington University has installed parking meters on the lot of the 276 Skinker building. This is meant to ensure that the parking is used by business patrons and not for long term parking. There is some concern that the meters may increase the number of business patrons who park on the street.

There had been questions about how soon the bridge across Forest Park Parkway at Skinker would be installed. Metro reports that this will not occur before mid-April. Utility relocation that must occur before the bridges as installed are not scheduled until mid-April.

Executive Directors Report. Laure Porterfield reported on recent developments on Delmar, including the tensions with Metro over the progress of the Delmar Streetscape improvements. Several new businesses are scheduled to open soon, including the Chinese Noodle Cafe, Spot 9 (shoe store), a Vietnamese restaurant at Rosedale and Delmar, and a Mexican restaurant. The Martin Luther King Commemoration is scheduled for January 25 at New Cote Brilliante Church of God.

Laure reported that she has stepped aside as SDC's representative to the MSD rate commission. We will be seeking a neighborhood resident who would be interested in serving in this position.

The process of being re-certified as a Community Based Development Organization (CBDO) for CDA funding is continuing.

West End Arts Council. Andy Cross reported that the grant application to the Regional Arts Commission is due soon. The Arts Council will focus this year on completing the mosaic on the stage at Four Corners and may include the Neighborhood Notes Concert series again, which was very popular last year.

Other Business. SDC still plans to sponsor an informational meeting for residents to learn more about the proposed charter reform efforts in the City. A possible joint meeting with the Central West End Association is being considered in the spring. The next regular SDC board meeting will be held February 9 at the Regional Arts Commission building on Delmar. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Historic District committee report

by Katie Kurtz

Kudos to **Julie and Tom Einspanier** of 6100 Westminster for restoring their front yard to the original gracious slope intended by the developers of the neighborhood. As initially envisioned, the streets of the neighborhood were lined with a houses set at a uniform depth with lawns sloping to the street. Trees were planted along the curbs in planned intervals. In Parkview, the plan included a row planted midway on the lawns of the houses for a double line of trees processing down the street. The "before" photograph shows how the retaining wall broke the flow of the streetscape and effective-

ly hid the house. The current picture clearly illustrates the original plan. While mowing the hills is probably the reason most homeowners have chosen to build retaining walls, planting a ground cover eliminates the mowing and maintains the streetscape.

An aside: The reason sycamore trees were planted so heavily in this and many early twentieth century neighborhoods was because they converted sulfur dioxide into oxygen. So while we may become irritated at their messiness (and now their dying), they served a positive purpose to a population which burned coal for fuel.



Before



After

News of Neighbors

Welcome to new neighbors on the 5900 block of DeGiverville **Tony Wyche** and **Sara Howard**, who have recently moved to St. Louis' best neighborhood from Washington, D.C. The moving van has just brought **Kely Weber** and **Steve Portock** from Flagstaff, Arizona, to their new home on the 6100 block of Westminster. Sadly, that means saying good-bye to neighbors **Grady and June Vaughn**, who lived here for six years. They were great gardeners and were featured with their lovely pond on a past Garden Tour. The Vaughns have moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan, for an engineering assignment which will last several years.

Amy Gill hits the news again, named as one of the area's "40 under 40". Husband **Amrit** was named to that prestigious list in 2002. Clearly one of St. Louis' power couples, the Gills also received an award from Landmarks Association for their renovation of the Coronado Hotel Building on Lindell.

Landmarks Assn. names its "Eleven Most Enhanced" projects annually. Another winner this year was **Joe Edwards** an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Washington University of his three beautifully renovated buildings in the 6100 block of Delmar. All three of these buildings are occupied by retail shops and restaurants. Congratulations to Joe for his newest award (at least, as we go to press!), an honorary degree from Washington University. By the way, Joe's new project this summer is the creation of more parking for the shops on Delmar. Working with the City of St. Louis and Alderman Lyda Krewson, and in sync with the Delmar Commercial Committee's Parking Study and

Plan, Joe has purchased land on Skinker and on Enright. Construction has already begun. This will add approximately 100 free parking places for the many, many new visitors to the area.

Vivienne Dobbs of the 5700 block of Westminster recently received a Woman of Distinction Award, for her many years of community service. Vivienne also served as a "Stakeholder" for the Advance St. Louis project. Dan Schesch, of the 6000 block of McPherson, was another neighborhood resident involved in finalizing the proposals for revisions to the city charter. THE TIMES will feature the ballot proposals in our fall issue, prior to the November election.

Babies make the news again: **Steve and Nancy Kramer**, of the 6100 block of Westminster, welcomed their fourth child and third girl, Mary Elisabeth, born March 2, 2004. Big sisters are Helen and Carolan and big brother is William. On the 6000 block of Westminster, **Nicole Blummer and Warren Rosenblum** are expecting their first baby later this year. Also expectant are **John and Sole Van Emden**, who live with their daughter Maggie on the 6000 block of Pershing. Last year's catalog of new babies missed a set of twins: Matthew and Madalyn will be one year old on June 23. Proud parents are **Mike Schroeder and Karen Branding**. The family lives on the 6100 block of Kingsbury.

Be sure and do your own welcome wagon to the new neighbors moving into our great neighborhood, and let us know more "news of neighbors" for the fall issue of THE TIMES. Send your news to jvatcha@peoplepc.com. And have a great summer!

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IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

My attention span has never been very, oh what do you think of the wonderful weather we've been having, good. It is hard to keep me occupied and on-task, I can't believe that Bush is as dumb as he sounds, even under the best of circumstances. Say, do you think all of these restaurants on Delmar can make it? I mean, how many eating establishments can one neighborhood have, which reminds me, I wonder if the new baseball stadium will ever recoup the money that was spent on it. In his book, *The Rise of the Culture Class*, Richard Florida talks about how foolish it is for communities to spend money on erecting stadiums. What attracts young and talented people, he maintains, is lots of coffee shops, street-life, and an urban feel. A significant gay and lesbian population also helps a community.

What we call multi-tasking today, you see, is really just a euphemism for not being able to stay on task. That reminds me, do you think Princess Diana's death was an accident?

Some of us will never have the luxury of focusing, winnowing, staying on task, hedge-hogging, and finding closure. That doesn't mean we're not tenacious; we are. It doesn't mean we don't get things done; we do. It does mean, by the way, wouldn't it be great if John McCain ran with Kerry? It does mean that we tend to flit and veer. Here one minute, there the next.

Now where were we?

Well, for those of us who are attention-span challenged (raise your hand if you've been paying attention), the internet is both the best of times and the worst of times. For the past few hours, I've been sitting, trying to write an article. I wonder how old Albert Pujols really is. In the old days, pre-internet, I'd get up periodically and wander around. I'd check for the mail, play with the dogs, light a stogie, look out the window. I mean, he has to be in his late 30's, despite what the Cardinals say. The internet has changed all of that. Playing first-base will help him, though, regardless of his age.

You see, now, sitting here with my laptop, I can write, spinning prose with my fingers being ever-so eloquent to myself. But then when the attention span goes out the window, say after 3-4 minutes, instead of physically getting up and exerting myself by moving around, Heaven forbid, I can surf the net. Yes, that's right. I can stay in my same easy chair, the pooches asleep around me, and simply with a score of keystrokes find myself in another world. This is so easy, it's too tempting. I would have liked to see Pujols stay at third base but once he hurt his arm, I knew that it was over. Getting rid of Martinez was wise. I wonder if any candidate will be brave enough to come out for recognizing Cuba as a country? Mark Cuban is the owner of the Dallas Mavericks NBA team and each year he sets a record in fines for outlandish behavior. How fine is sand, really? I mean, in a million years, will it be finer because of additional friction? Who will win the MVP in a million years, some-

one from the Orion galaxy?

Anyway, there I went again. I worry that my attention span, what little there is of it, puts me at a competitive disadvantage. I mean, it takes me longer to do just about anything because I'm likely to wind up doing just about everything. You, dear reader, I know, are much more focused. If you've read this far, surely, Shirley, you're focused. (And probably a bit bored.)

So, in the interests of trying to regain my competitive position, I want to be contagious. Yep, below you'll see the internet sites that beckon and taunt me. They, not my genetic make-up, I wonder if my Dad was attention-span challenged too, are the problem. I share them with you in the hopes that you, too, will have as much difficulty as I do in staying on task. If an asteroid hit us, how much warning would we have? Enjoy.

<http://www.m-w.com/home.htm> the Merriam-Webster dictionary and thesaurus. I actually use this a lot. It has a really cool oral pronunciation symbol so you can actually HEAR arcane words.

<http://forums.stltoday.com/viewforum.php?f=31> The Post's Dick Weiss leads a discussion on writing.

http://www.space.com/scienceastronomy/asteroid_warning_040322.html a space.com article on asteroids pummeling our small planet. I suggest you read it in your basement, under a table.

<http://www.takara-usa.com/bowlingual.html> a collar that translates dog's barks. Honestly, I am not making this up. Check it out yourself. Everytime I go hear and it barks, my dogs run to the door. This site is so wild, I expect it will be fodder for a future column. Arf!

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/> the front page of the Washington Post.

http://collectibles.listings.ebay.com/Kitchenware-Salt-Pepper-Shakers_W0QQacategoryZ4049Q_QsocmdZListingItemList ebay salt & pepper shakers (of which there were 13,156 - or is that really 26,312?). I specialize in steamship salt & pepper shakers, those in which the smokestacks hold the condiments. Do you have any for sale?

<http://www.kwmu.org> in the morning, I like to listen to Mike Sampson's "St. Louis On the Air" while I write.

<http://www.triumphpc.com/psst/mar04/future-education.shtml> this is an article in Psst!, an on-line magazine, by one of my favorite writers.

www.edge.org a panoply of scientific and historic interview. You can easily get lost here.

www.newyorktimes.com it doesn't get any better than this, and reading it means you don't have to go outside if it's raining to get the paper.

<http://ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/index.htm> a guide to grammar and writing. It ain't badly at all.

http://www.universetoday.com/am/publish/puzzle_mars_spiral_ice_caps.html?2532004 an article about Mars' spiral icecaps.

<http://www.matahuiroad.school.nz/index.htm> this is on a New Zealand Multiple Intelligences School.

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian/issues04/apr04/photos.html> an ad for a Smithsonian photo appointment book. Cool stuff here.

www.albertpujols.com you can read about his age

http://cyberatlas.guggenheim.org/w/cyberatlas/w_intelligent_life/w_dis-intell.html a cool site that I don't fully understand (so what's new?) that links the notion of "distributed intelligence" (using the resources outside one's skin to solve problems) and the Guggenheim Museum. It's wonderfully bizarre.

<http://www.cartoonbank.com/> Need a smile? Check out cartoons from The New Yorker.

<http://www.weather.com/> just what is the weather outside at this nanosecond?

<http://www.quotationspage.com/> the quotations page. Who said what? I spent a lot of time here.

<http://drucker.cgu.edu/DruckerArchives/data/> the archives of Peter Drucker, my favorite management theorist. This lets me know what I should be doing.

Happy surfing, I wonder what it would take to teach a monkey to surf. And I wonder what monkeys think when they watch people watching them at the Zoo.

Were there zoos in ancient China, I wonder? I wonder what I'll find if I go to www.moveon.org?

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Fri. - Sun. Noon-3am

6191 DELMAR, 314-727-5555



St. Roch
Early
Childhood
Center
located in the Central West End

Currently taking registration for the 2004 - 05 school year, St. Roch Early Childhood Center is open to 3, 4, and 5 year olds. Several options available. Linda Hausman at 721-2595.

BITTERSWEET BOTANICALS

6178 Delmar St. Louis, MO 63112
Phone [314] 862-5784
Fax [314] 862-5484

Delivery of flowers and/or plants anywhere in St. Louis City/County.



TIM SCHOEMEHL
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

People and Neighborhoods First!



Neighborhood Fundraiser

June 5, 2004 • 7:30 pm
6115-6117 Westminster
\$15/person