

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 36 No. 1

April-May 2005

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

Parkview Celebrates Centennial with House and Garden Tour May 14 & 15



6200 McPherson.

Historic Parkview, one of St. Louis' premier private neighborhoods, will open ten of its distinctive homes and five private gardens for its Centennial Celebration house tour, on May 14 (9 - 5) & 15 (12 - 5).

This is the first-ever house tour for the Parkview neighborhood, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Parkview is a unique example of a planned, private residential place that has survived intact since its founding in 1905.

Designed by urban planner Julius Pitzman, Parkview encompasses 6 curving streets, 3 landscaped parks and 255 three-story houses. Most of its homes were built between 1906 and 1914. The district has significance in architecture as the buildings reflect eclectic styles that were prevalent in St. Louis at the turn of the century, when electricity was replacing gas lighting and the first garages were being built instead of stables.

Starting point of the tour will be the stone mansion at 6200 McPherson Avenue, just inside Parkview's main gates off Skinker Blvd just north of Washington University. Visitors to this home, which was built by a lumber magnate, will view unique varieties of hardwood millwork and be surrounded by original Tiffany-style stained glass.

Among the ten featured homes are Prairie, Arts and Crafts, Tudor, and Chalet architecture. Fascinating antiques, an orchid conservatory, cloisonné collections, and an ongoing restoration of an early twentieth century Dorris truck are just a few of the curiosities found in tour homes. Some tour homes remain in, or have been restored to their original elegance, while others showcase contemporary rehabs.

The Parkview Garden Club will offer intimate views of at least five private gardens representative of neighborhood efforts to maintain Parkview as an "Urban Oasis." Strolling the mature tree-lined

streets will provide insight into this charming, vibrant community otherwise hidden from public view.

On Saturday, two neighborhood historic churches, St. Roch Catholic Church and Grace United Methodist Church, also will offer tours of their beautifully restored facilities. Their bell chimes and carillon carols can be heard throughout the neighborhood. During or after the tour, step through Parkview's stone walls and iron gates into the Delmar Loop for restaurants, unique shops, and entertainment. The 6200 blocks in Parkview are located in the City of St. Louis, and the remainder are located in University City, making for interesting political and policy realities. Parkview predates the development of the remainder of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood, and the Parkview Agents have participated in the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council since its founding in 1966.

The tour is self-guided and each attendee will receive a tour brochure containing directions, pictures and history of each home. More tour and historical information on pages 4-5.

The tour will benefit the Parkview Trust to maintain and improve the neighborhood's private infrastructure. Tour tickets are available in advance for \$15 or at the door for \$20. Personal checks, money orders, or credit cards are accepted for advance ticket purchase; please do not send cash. Door tickets will be available during tour hours at Grace Methodist Church, on Skinker at Waterman Avenue.

Access to all tour homes and gardens requires use of steps or staircases and therefore may not be accessible for those with physical challenges. For further information go to <http://stlouis.missouri.org/parkview/>, or to order advance tickets by mail call 314-721-0416.

FOREST PARK EXPRESSWAY TO BE PERMANENTLY CLOSED

by Carl Taylor, Special to the Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere

Metro engineers and architects have quietly concluded that the unique combination of dirt, clay, and the presence of underground water at the northern end of Forest Park, make it highly unlikely that the Forest Park Expressway will ever re-built. It turns out that the soil texture, coupled with the churning River Des Peres underneath the surface, is such that the land is now highly susceptible to erosion and movement. In fact, this same soil texture, called 'loam' accounts for the numerous vacant lots along Des Peres Avenue, from the expressway to Kingsbury Avenue. Years ago each of these locations was the site of a multi-family dwelling, but the soil was not strong enough to support the structures and they collapsed. Similarly, engineers say, the trenches built for the MetroLink have caused the river to expand beneath the surface and, as a result, the soil in this area is even more likely to shift and move.

Given these conditions, the Forest Park Expressway would be unsafe and would probably collapse within a few years.

This conclusion isn't definite yet. More tests remain and Metro officials say that they are hopeful that the expressway can be rebuilt. However, we have also learned that Metro has spent over \$20,000 for design drawings to show how the area that was to be the location of the expressway can be landscaped in an attractive manner and used for recreation. One of the Metro consultants went so far as to call the area where the expressway used to be 'a Forest Park annex.' Initial drawings of this area show it heavily landscaped and tree-lined, with four tennis courts (oriented east to west), and a picnic area located where the expressway used to intersect Rosedale Avenue.

The board of the Times of Skinker DeBaliviere is, of course, opposed to a permanent removal of the expressway. While we enjoy tennis as much as the next person, we recognize how the absence of the expressway makes life more inconvenient for those of us who live here. And yet if rebuilding the expressway is unsafe, we don't want that either. Therefore, if the expressway is to be closed, our official position is that everyone living in the neighborhood be given free cab service between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. each day of the work week. We ask that you write your alderperson and congressman, respectively the Honorables Lyda Krewson and Lacy Clay, to support this effort. Did that get your attention? Have you recognized that this is an April Fool's article? Did we getcha? No, there are no plans to permanently close the expressway. At least we don't think that's the case...

(This article was submitted by that intrepid Times reporter Hawkeye Hoerr.)

Operation Brightside Blitz

Alley Clean-up Day - trash pick-up starts at 10:00 a.m. **Saturday, April 2.** Trucks will pick up several times throughout the day. Please put your LARGE trash items out by 10:00 a.m. Car batteries, used motor oil, large appliances, and tires will be recycled. Grass, leaves, twigs go in the "Yard Waste Only" dumpsters. Bundle branches more than two inches in diameter and longer than 3-4 feet and place with bulk items for collection.

Two Skinker DeBaliviere Neighbors Run for School Board

Two of our neighbors have decided to run for the challenging position of a seat on the St. Louis School Board. Ten have entered the race and three will be elected. Our neighbors who have put their hat in the ring are Flint Fowler of 62xx Pershing and Joe Keaveny of 62xx Westminster. Fowler, the father of 3 children, is the director of the Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club and former director of Inroads/St. Louis. He's also volunteered for the Boy Scouts and the American Red Cross. Joe Keaveny, father of 4, is senior portfolio manager with US Bank-Asset Management. He is past president of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, trustee and past president of Parkview Neighbors, Treasurer of the Skinker DeBaliviere Housing Corporation, 28th Ward Democratic Committeeman, and Treasurer of the Democratic Central Committee. Both gentlemen state that they wish to improve the academic performance of the district and work with other board members in harmony.

Editor's Notebook

By Lana Stein

It was the best of times; it was the worst of times. And so it is in our neighborhood. As an accompanying article makes clear, we will pay for our ever rising property values with increased property taxes. It is nice to know that the neighborhood continues to be desirable. It's a long way from 1970 and perhaps not everyone is as enamored of the changes. Hopefully, our diversity can continue amidst our recordsetting housing prices.

Spring is soon coming. That will lift everyone's spirits. What would lift mine even more would be the completion of METRO construction. Being half a block from the action, I truly enjoy the dirt and the noise. It's for a greater good I suppose but I find that hard to believe while sneezing or wakened at 7am. We all use circumlocutious routes to get to the store, the mall, etc. Can my patience endure this another year?

A reminder to everyone: please vote for school board candidates on April 5. The system still needs a lot of work and many people in the neighborhood might be more tempted to stay if there were better schools for their children.

Hopefully, spring will rid me and everyone of our discontents. Nothing does become this neighborhood like blooming trees and flowers and children laughing in the sunshine.

The TIMES of Skinker-DeBaliviere this month celebrates its 35th Anniversary and thanks the many contributors who have sent over \$1,800 since our holiday issue. Donations are always welcome and put to good use by our all-volunteer group - send to Lois Schoemehl, Business Manager, at 6168 Westminster.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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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 Summer issue: May 15, 2005. 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.

Calendar

Upcoming Events Calendar

Saturday, April 2: Operation Brightside Blitz

Monday, April 11, 2005: Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council meeting, 6008 Kingsbury, call 862-5122 for more information

Wednesday, April 6: Skinker-DeBaliviere Housing Corporation meeting, 6008 Kingsbury, 6:00 p.m., call Gary Boenke, 862-5122.

Wednesday, April 20: Skinker-DeBaliviere Housing Corporation meeting, 6008 Kingsbury, 6:00 p.m., call Gary Boenke, 862-5122.

Wednesday, May 4: Skinker-DeBaliviere Housing Corporation meeting, 6008 Kingsbury, 6:00 p.m., call Gary Boenke, 862-5122

Saturday, May 7: Neighborhood Greening, call 862-5122 for more information

Monday, May 9: Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council meeting, 6008 Kingsbury, call 862-5122 for more information

Wednesday, May 18: Skinker-DeBaliviere Housing Corporation meeting, 6008 Kingsbury, 6:00 p.m., call Gary Boenke, 862-5122

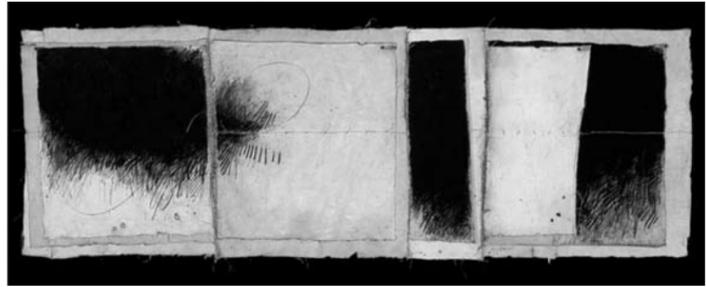
Saturday, June 4, 2005: Breakfast Garden Tour

Other Events of Interest:

Joe's Cafe, 6014 Kingsbury, Thursday night music for neighbors and friends, 8 - 11pm: 4/7 - Tom Hall; 4/14 - Jazz Dave Black & Mitsy; 4/21 - From Sante Fe Joe Wesr and the Sinners; 4/28 - Bottoms Up Blues Gang; 5/5 - Brian Curran; 5/12 - Flying Mules; 5/19 - Bottoms Up Blues Gang; 5/26 - Dave Black + Matt Kimmick

Art & Joe's Experimental Coop Art Gallery, 6014A Kingsbury: Open Thurs, 8 - 11pm and Sat/Sun 1 - 5pm. Exhibits include Christman's Art for the Kitchen as well as works by Keith Spoeneman, Gary Mitchell, Janace Wallace, Andy Millaer, Sam di Lorenzo, Tom Sleet.

Friday, April 8 - May 20: Regional Arts Commission, 6128 Delmar, across from the Pageant, opens a new exhibit, "Sum and Substance," featuring works by artists Mary Sprague and James M.



DD 3, 2004, mixed media by James M. Smith. Courtesy of Crows Ink.

Smith, with a free public reception at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, April 8. Gallery Talk on April 26; regular gallery hours are: Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, Noon-5:00. Call 863-5811 for more information.

Sunday, April 10: St. Louis Marathon once again runs through the Loop: Greet marathon runners at the 19 mile marker along Delmar. For information visit www.stlouismarathon.com or call (314) 727-0800.

Thursday, April 21: FOCUS St. Louis Policy Forum; "A Discussion on Stem Cell Research". Join our panel of experts for a discussion on the issue of stem cell research. Dr. F. Patrick Ross, Washington University Professor of Pathology and Immunology, will explain the science behind somatic cell nuclear transfer. Dr. Ira Kodner, Director of the Center for the Study of Human Values and Ethics, will address the ethical considerations and concerns of some members of our community. Rose Windmiller, Washington University's Director of State Relations and Local Government Affairs, will talk about related proposed legislation before the Missouri Congress this year. 4:30-6:00 p.m., FOCUS office, 1910 Pine Street, Suite 200, Free, RSVP at 622-1250 x101.

Saturday, April 23: "Race, Power & Money: The Power of One" - 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park, \$10 per person; \$8 for MHS members, Reservations required. Tickets available at the Missouri History Museum or by calling (314) 361-9017. A docent-led tour of the Captive Passage exhibition follows each program.

Saturday, May 14 and Sunday, May 15: Parkview 100th Anniversary House and Garden Tour. Tour tickets are available in advance for \$15 or at the door for \$20. Personal checks, money orders, or credit cards are accepted for advance ticket purchase; please do not send cash. Door tickets will be available during tour hours at Grace Methodist Church, on Skinker at Waterman Avenue. Access to all tour homes and gardens requires use of steps or staircases and therefore may not be accessible for those with physical challenges. For further information go to <http://stlouis.missouri.org/parkview/>, or to order advance tickets by mail call 314-721-0416.

Assessor Warns Residents about Rise in Property Assessments

The assessor of the city of St. Louis, Ed Bushmeyer, is warning neighborhood groups in St. Louis about large increases in property assessments, which will be mailed to us in the latter part of April. Property values in the city have risen over 50% in the last couple years. The 3-member State Tax Commission has put considerable pressure on the city to adjust its assessments accordingly. Bushmeyer wants people to be aware of the increases and also to realize that a 20% rise in assessment does not necessarily translate into a 20% tax increase. Because of the limitation on tax hikes caused by the Hancock Amendment, he feels there will be a fairly significant rollback in the tax rate. The bottom line is that we will pay more but not as much as the increase in the assessment.

There are two programs geared to those in certain income

categories that can help to take the sting out of the property tax. The Circuit Breaker program can assist a single person with income up to \$25,000 and a couple with income up to \$27,000. There is a new program called the Homestead Program where people can have up to \$70,000 in income and are eligible if the tax bill goes up over 5%. Recipients get tax credits. The deadline is Sept. 30. You basically apply before you receive your bill in November. The legislature will have to fund this program in their 2006 session for this program to be operable. If you are applying for the Circuit Breaker, you can't apply for the Homestead program.

Otherwise, we will feel the pinch but not the full magnitude. Bushmeyer noted that only 18 cents on the dollar goes to the city; the largest share – 60% goes to the public schools.

Hotel Rwanda Hero to Speak

Have you ever wanted to meet an individual whose courage helped thousands live? Join Paul Rusesabagina, the real-life hero portrayed in the movie Hotel Rwanda, on Saturday, April 23, at the history museum, speaking about "Race, Power & Money: The Power of One."

Mr. Rusesabagina reflects on his life in 1994, in the midst of the genocide in Rwanda. For two months, he held insanity at bay as he watched his country fall into the grips of genocide. As the Hutu manager of a luxury hotel in Rwanda, he sheltered over 1,200 people, including his own Tutsi wife and children, saving their

lives at a time when extremists massacred more than 800,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutu tribes in just 100 days. Learn about how he found the courage within himself to save others and his hopes that this episode will be a wake-up call for the world.

1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park, \$10 per person; \$8 for MHS members, Reservations required. Tickets available at the Missouri History Museum or by calling (314) 361-9017. A docent-led tour of the Captive Passage exhibition follows each program.



The last snow of the winter, the morning of February 23.

News of Neighbors

Get well wishes to **Laurie Porterfield**, Executive Director of Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, who is recuperating from major surgery. We may not see her out with a shovel on Blitz Day but hope she's much better soon – everyone misses her special touch! Thanks to dedicated SDCC receptionist **Juanita**, who's keeping the office humming in Laurie's absence. Check out the SDCC minutes for details of the most recent actions by the council, including re-presiding Dan Schesch and electing several other new officers.

A relevant local follow-up to the recent open houses about planning for our region's new greenway trails will be held on Tuesday, April 12, from 4-8 p.m. at the St. Vincent Park. For more information, call Great Rivers Greenway at 436-7009 or visit www.greatrivers.info.

Party news: On February 23, **Jennifer Olmstead** (61xx Washington) and **Sole Van Emden** (6000 Pershing) sponsored a Skinker DeBaliviere party at **Mirasol Restaurant**. About 75 people attended. Some were neighborhood veterans while many were relatively new to the neighborhood, with tenancies of less than 5 years. It was a very convivial event with attendees enjoying delicious food with a Cuban touch and a variety of beverages. Clearly, Skinker De-Baliviere's reputation for good times and esprit d'corps continues.

Very sad news for long-time neighbors and friends came with the announcement that **Ed Stout** has died. Resident of the 6100 block of McPherson together with wife **Mary Bea** and children **Joe, Marty, Danny, and Bea**, Ed was also a long-time participant in all the neighborhood organizations, serving as an officer of Rosedale Neighbors in his spare time in the 70's. He was also executive director of a much-honored non-profit organization called Aid to Victims of Crime for many years. The TIMES printed a lovely piece by Ed a couple of years ago when he moved away from the neighborhood, at the happy occasion of his marriage to Maggie Menefee. Ed was preceded in death by wife Mary Bea, also active in neighborhood activities and local theater, including a unique 70's phenomena, the Skinker-DeBaliviere Dinner-Theatre! We wish all the Stout family well and hope we continue to see the younger generation at our Rags to Riches and other neighborhood events.

St. Roch's School was recently featured in the **St. Louis Review Newspaper** for its successful fundraising for technology updates. Raising \$125,000 through donations, benefit dinner and golf

tournament, the school has purchased 34 new computers and 5 "smart boards" which are interactive whiteboards with projectors and software. St. Roch has been educating children for more than 90 years and currently has an enrollment of 220 students from pre-school through eighth grade. **Principal Gloria Oppenlander** noted that the technology benefits all kinds of learning, including **Ed Martin's** teaching of classical literature. Martin mentions having his class "visit" the Globe Theatre in London while reading and performing a Shakespearean play and visiting ancient sites in Greece for seventh grade mythology. For more information, call Oppenlander at 721-2595 or e-mail her at glorio@stochschool.org.

The FBI made an arrest of local interest recently. **The Post-Dispatch** reported on March 15 that Paul Boghosian, whom they described as a "Ladue businessman," had been arrested on charges that he offered a half-million dollar bribe to persuade a hedge fund to lend \$ 2.5 million to him to purchase Hawaiian Airlines. The local connection? Boghosian was the long-time tenant of the Wabash Station building on Delmar, running what he termed a mergers and acquisitions business from an office with a beautiful view of the old railroad line, once hosting a tour of the building for the Delmar planning group and Metro. The building is now owned by our neighbor Joe Edwards, who will one day no doubt have exciting development plans to share.

Finally, did you notice the recent obituary about **Evelyn West**? The former headliner/owner of the Stardust Burlesque on DeBaliviere, had moved to Florida long ago. "Evelyn West and her \$50,000 Treasure Chest" was said to be insured by Lloyd's of London. The theatre was still going strong, along with the Apollo Art Theatre, Al Baker's Restaurant, and many others, when the Vatchas moved here in 1965 and reminded me of the largely untold history of that very interesting part of our neighborhood. If anyone has personal memories or photos of the DeBaliviere Strip, e-mail me at jvatcha@peoplepc.com or call me at 726-6974. That story and more could be an interesting addition to an upcoming TIMES.

Looking forward to sharing all your news of neighbors in our next issue, just in time for summer. Be sure and let us know your family news and neighborly activities!



Photo courtesy of the Parkview Agents.

6379 Pershing.

House Tour Preview

Here is a preview of some of the many homes to be featured in Parkviews Centennial Celebration House and Garden Tour on May 14-15th.

1. 6200 McPherson

The massive stone structure which commands the subdivision's main entrance was built in 1910 by Phin Kimball. His wife Annie Kimball, had studied architecture at Washington University and designed the house with the remaining full set of surrounding pictorial stained glass windows complete with a stairwell scene of a boat which sails into the evening setting sun. Mr. Kimball had timber holdings and brought a wide variety of his stock of birdseye maple, mahogany, walnut, and oak to adorn different rooms in the home. Beautiful solid paneling and wood carving details are visible throughout this home.

When originally built and observation deck was perched upon the peak of the roof for Mr. Kimball, and amateur astronomer. Most of the architectural details of the home remain unchanged except for modernization of the kitchen and bathrooms.

2. 6235 Waterman

Built for \$8000 in 1906, this Georgian façade home was designed by architects Stephens and Pearson, who also designed 4 other homes on Waterman (6242, 6254, 6255, and 6331). This home has been continually updated by its current owners to retain its historic charm and to be a comfortable, efficient home for today's world.

As you pass the solarium enclose in the 20's, you will see a new greenhouse that recently replaced the original. The side yard was once the location of the home now standing to the East. When the previous owner excavated for the swimming pool, they found the foundation. This confirmed a story that Mr. Norris bought the home next door and had it moved East in 1923 in order to build a Japanese garden in which he parties on Sunday afternoons that are reputed to have had ragtime piano music.

3. 6379 Pershing

One of the later homes built in the neighborhood (1928) was designed by architect A.H. Norrish. Contemporary in style to many homes built in St. Louis during this era it appears to be a

almost a storybook cottage but still maintains proportions with its three story neighbors.

The home stretches across the front of the lot with a solarium on the southwest side and many window offering bright rooms. This home feels more contemporary inside and has been remodeled by a series of artists who have lived here.

4. 6244 Washington

One of four homes in this block by architect Ernest Klipstein, this house was built in 1908 and was his personal home for 20 years. This lot and the lot to the west were purchased by the father of two sisters. Klipstein designed this Georgian style for himself and a half-timbered arts and crafts façade for his sister-in-law. The homes are 'reflecting' homes with identical floor patterns, though distinctively different exteriors. Klipstein's architectural work might be familiar to St. Louisans because he would later design the Bauernhof at Grant's Farm and other picturesque homes for the Busch family.

You can observe the symmetry characteristic of the Georgian design in the exterior features of the home. Inside you will see the craftsman style interior as it was at the turn of the century, woodwork and built-ins intact. Notice the wavy glass panes in the window and the stained glass inserts, original to the home. The current owners have been painstaking restoring details of the home including replicating the original copper guttering. The small lot size, side entrance, and full three stories are typical of many of the homes on the outside streets of the Parkview neighborhood.



Photo courtesy of the Parkview Agents.

6235 Waterman.

Parkview – The Building of a Landmark Neighborhood

1796: A Spanish land grant of some 2,700 acres is given to Maria Louise Chouteau Papin, whose brother, Auguste Chouteau, was one of the co-founders of St. Louis. This vast parcel ran from the banks of the River Des Peres to Maple Ave on the north to Art Hill on the south, to Union Blvd on the east and to Jackson Ave on the west. Madame Papin used the land as a farm.

1800s: Well into the 1800s, descendants of the extended Chouteau-Papin family owned a significant portion of the property, by then called Kingsbury Farm.

1876: Forest Park is dedicated. Concurrent with Forest Park's dedication the City-County boundary was established just beyond the park's western edge, taking the larger part of Kingsbury Farm into the county.

1895: Robert S. Brookings chose land just south of Kingsbury Farm and west of Forest Park as the new home of Washington University.

1901: The Louisiana Purchase Exposition Committee announced

tame the River Des Peres. The labors took nearly two years to complete, being finally finished in December 1903 at a cost of nearly three quarters of a million dollars.

1903: The directors of Parkview Realty divided their property into three sections: 1) Catlin Track (along Lindell Blvd.), 2) the area now known as the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood, and 3) the 80-acre Parkview subdivision. In order to develop Parkview they established a separate real estate company, Beredith Realty Company, to sell lots in a private place designed by Julius Pitzman.

Pitzman, one of its investors, was the originator of the St. Louis private place, having designed Compton Heights, Westmoreland and Portland Place among others, and his reputation was at its height. Pitzman chose to provide green spaces and curving streets that would be soothing and peaceful to the eye. The flow added privacy and diminished the monotony of the



Photo courtesy of the Parkview Agents.

6244 Washington will be part of the tour.

that the Exposition would be built on the western half of Forest Park and other land to the west, which would be leased from its owners (e.g., Washington University).

1901: Foreseeing development opportunities that would be created by the Fair, the Parkview Realty and Improvement Company was formed with a capital stock of \$5.5 million, an enormous sum for the time. They acquired the land between DeBaliviere, WestGate, Delmar and Forest Park.

1901: The company hired well-regarded railroad builder John Scott to grade the land and

uniform building setbacks as the streets curved gently out of sight. The northwest and southwest corners of Parkview, bypassed by the curving streets, were given over to triangular parks that intensified the green environment envisioned as planners planted closely-spaced street trees. Trees were also planted around the perimeters of the parks to define and enclose them.

1905: Henry Caulfield, attorney for Beredith Realty Company, which was responsible for selling Parkview lots, filed for a trust indenture. He was then a U. S. Representative (and later Governor of Missouri) and was soon to become a Parkview homeowner and trustee until his death in 1960.

The trust indenture defined the rights and responsibilities of the homeowners and trustees alike. It named three Trustees and gave them the power to act on behalf on the Parkview residents. It provided the Trustees with an easement over all the public areas in Parkview including the streets, walks, parks and alleys. The Trustees would handle other needed provisions such

(Continued on page 5)

**Parkview - The
Building of a Landmark
Neighborhood**

Historic Parkview



Parkview generations, c. 1920s. From 1979 Parkview book "Urban Oasis - 75 Years in Parkview a St. Louis Private Place."



Parkview Pershing garden, c. 1920s. It is believed that the buildings in the distance are on the Washington University campus, From 1979 Parkview book "Urban Oasis - 75 Years in Parkview a St. Louis Private Place."

Photos from the Parkview archives, reproduced with permission of the Parkview Agents.

(Continued from page 4)

Parkview - The Building of a Landmark Neighborhood

as security and street lights and were given the authority to collect assessments provided by the Indenture. The annual assessment was mandatory, which acted as a safeguard against non-contributors and further strengthened the organization's permanence.

1906: Lots were to range from \$2,000 to \$5,000 in cost and the minimum cost of construction was to range between \$4,000 and \$7,000. The building setback was to be a uniform 50 feet. Construction materials were to be brick, stone or stucco; years proved brick to be the majority choice by far. With streets, sidewalks, curbs, sewers, water mains and electrical lines all in place, construction began.

1906 June: The first building permits were issued.

1906: November. Construction on twelve houses was begun: Eight houses in a cluster in the 6200 block of Waterman; one house on McPherson; three houses spread out on Washington (one near Skinker and two across from Washington Park).

1907: Eight new houses were started: Two more on Waterman, two on Westminster and four on McPherson, all but one within the limits of the City of St. Louis.

1908: This year and the next, saw a tremendous spurt of activity, with 71 houses underway. Whereas the earlier houses were mostly Colonial Revival or Tudor Revival in style, the majority of new houses had clear Arts and Crafts stylistic influence on both the exterior and interior. In 1908 alone, more than a dozen houses on Washington were built as Parkview versions of the Arts and Crafts house, distinguished by the skillful and beautiful brick and carpentry work of St. Louis craftsmen and, owing to relatively

narrow lots, a taller and more compact form.

1914: About 85% of Parkview's 255 houses had been completed. The wide variety of architectural styles and details added visual diversity to the character of the neighborhood. But Pitzman's brilliant design, requiring uniform setbacks to establish order and introducing grace with the form of the gently curving streets, smoothly accommodated the diversity. As it developed, the subdivision became recognizable as a unique entity within its larger urban context, called by many who know it an urban oasis.

1978: Skinker-DeBaliviere-Catlin Tract-Parkview named a Historic District by Ordinance of the City of St. Louis.

1986: Parkview is named a Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.

1992: Parkview is named a Historic District in University City.

1999: Parkview is deemed a St. Louis County Landmark.

For an expanded history of Parkview and many more photographs, visit Parkview's website at <http://stlouis.missouri.org/parkview/>

This fall Parkview will publish its 100th anniversary commemorative book: Parkview: A St. Louis Urban Oasis 1905-2005. This volume will contain over 200 photographs and a complete history of the neighborhood. More information will be available at the Parkview Centennial House Tour, May 14-15.



Parkview baby carriage c. 1918.



Meet your friends for:

- #1 Hamburgers
- Vegetarian Specials
- Appetizers
- Trout Almondine
- 21 Sandwiches
- Jerk Chicken
- Chili
- Salads
- Soups
- Desserts

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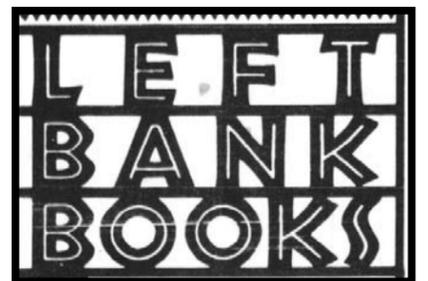
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Business Profile: Central West End Bank

By Norbert Hart

Not many neighborhoods can claim their own bank but we can! Central West End Bank has been serving the neighborhood and surrounding community from the DeBaliviere headquarters since 1979. The bank has been fulfilling the needs of urbanites since inception, with special regard to financing rehab property purchases. One of the bank's major efforts is to assist borrowers in rehab projects from beginning to end, including extensive cost & end result analysis as well as use of a competent disbursing agent to allow for a complete and lien free project.

The bank was founded as a direct outgrowth of the lending and savings needs of urban neighborhoods in 1979. It was the first new thrift chartered in 25 years in the metropolitan area. It remains one of the few financial institutions headquartered in the City. The bank was originally headed by Tom Scatizzi, and then by co-founder and neighborhood resident Kathleen Hamilton. Since 1996, David Stoecker has been Chairman of the Board. Prior to joining Central West End Bank, Mr. Stoecker was President and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank of South County, Gravois Bank and the Gravois Bancorporation, Inc. The current president and chief operating officer is Jeanne Sweet, who joined the bank in

1999. Ms. Sweet has experience in resi-dential, consumer, and commercial lending, human resource administration, and investment portfolio. CWEB expanded to 10 Maryland Plaza in 1999 to better serve its growing customer base, both commercial and personal.

As a community bank, CWEB prides itself on its personal service. Borrowers speak directly to members of the loan department, and loans are not sold to the secondary market. If a customer has a question about their loan, they can be assured of an answer and continued service.

CWEB shows pride in being our community banking resource by sponsoring numerous community endeavors, including the Central West End Association web site and all of CWEB's events, as well as funding the Stella Maris Capital Fund Raising Program, Ivory Park support, and Caring Solutions.

Central West End Bank is located at 415 De Baliviere. Their phone number is 367-8800.

De Baliviere hours are 8:45 am - 5 Monday through Thursday and until 6 on Friday. Saturday hours are 8:30 am - noon. Their website is cwe-bank.com.

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Editor's Note: The following was contributed by one of our neighbors and expresses the feelings experienced by many upon the loss of a family pet.

Heaven's Gate

(A Prayer for Dogs)

With great love, we know you've gone
To prepare a place for all the blest;
But Dear Lord, would you grant
God's children just one small request?

We know you've toiled long and hard,
To prepare for us an exalted place;
But could it not be a little better,
If our dog meets us at Heaven's gate?

"Faithful unto death" is the life
Of virtue that we should lead;
And surely did our dog, Lord,
Stay true to that sacred creed.

He was always there to meet us,
Full of joy and without fail;
On the step at day's dawning,
With happy bark and wagging tail.

And when discouraged, arriving home
With body tired and spirit poor;
He always knew just how to cheer us,
Waiting there, inside the door.

He grew old, he grew old, Lord.
He grew old with infirmity;
But he made no complaints, Lord,
Not a whimper for sympathy.

And when his time had surely come,
Tired and sick, he would not eat;
He was the bravest of the brave;
He faced the end without defeat.

When the last sad rite was required,
You sent an angel to take him home.
He cast his eyes upon his Mistress;
She caressed his head 'til he was gone.

We'll mourn his absence for a while,
We'll hear his bark when no one's there;
But we thank you Lord, for all the joy
That he brought to us while he was here.

You surely put dogs on this old earth
To show we humans how best to live;
Ever faithful, always trusting,
Giving us all they have to give.

You suffered and died, lest we be lost
And yours is a love that will not fail.
At God's right hand, you live and reign,
Hands cruelly marked with Roman nail.

If in the end, our lives are judged
Worthy of that wondrous fate;
Please let our faithful dog, Lord,
Greet us there at Heaven's gate!

— Alan T. Wright

"Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, Believe also in Me. In my Father's house are many Mansions...I go to prepare a place for you."

-John 14

In memory of
Jake

The Wright family's Black Labrador
August, 1992—May 17, 2004

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Minutes SDCC Board Meeting, Jan. 10, 2005

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by Vice-President Liz Johnson. Board members and guests were introduced.

Financial Report: Treasurer Peggy Droege presented the November 2004 and December 2004 financial statements as well as the draft budget for 2005. Peggy noted that efforts have been made to trim expenditures from the 2005 budget, however a small operating deficit remains. To close the gap, the Council must look for fundraising opportunities. Steve Givens stated that Washington University will increase its contribution by \$1,000 for 2005. There was discussion of other possible funding sources. The financial statements and draft budget were approved unanimously.

Security Report: No police representative from the 7th District was available, so Executive Director Laure Porterfield reviewed information about recent criminal activity in the neighborhood. Laure also reported on efforts with police to address a nuisance property in the 6100 block of Washington. Board members and residents discussed several recent crimes in the neighborhood, including car break ins and a house burglary.

Executive Director's Report: Laure Porterfield gave the Executive Director's report. The proposed meeting schedule for 2005 was presented and discussed. Board meetings will continue to be on the second Monday of the month. There was some discussion about whether to cancel one or more meetings during the summer, as has been done in the past. It was agreed that such changes could be made as the year progresses. The February board meeting will be held on Tuesday February 15th instead of Monday February 14th, to avoid possible conflicts due to Valentines Day.

Laure also noted that neighborhood residents Dan Schesch and Alice Stanley have been appointed to the St. Vincent's Greenway advisory committee. A neighborhood planning session is being scheduled at crossroads school.

Gary Boehnke gave the report on the Housing Corporation. Gary referred to the minutes of recent Housing Corporation meeting included in the board packet. One item of note is the Housing Corporation's request that Alderman Lyda Krewson assist in transferring the City-owned vacant lots at the corner of Pershing and Des Peres to the Housing Corporation. Gary stated that the Housing Corporation has no specific plans for the property at this time, but hopes that the transfer to the Housing Corporation would ensure greater long-term neighborhood control. It was noted that these are the lots that had been sought for creation of a neighborhood dog park. Gary said the Housing Corporation would be open to considering that proposal.

Committee/Neighborhood Reports: Ronnie Haliburton and Shirley Polk reported that a fire on Christmas morning completely destroyed a home

at 5840 DeGiverville. The two adjacent houses were also damaged. No one was injured, but the family will not be able to occupy the house again. The family includes an older couple who have been long time neighborhood residents, and their grandchildren, who attend Hamilton School. The family lost everything and will need assistance in getting reestablished. At this time it is unclear what specific assistance is needed. Ronnie will keep the council informed of developments so that neighbors can provide assistance. Laure Porterfield reported that the police and firefighters appreciation luncheon, held December 16, was a great success. Special thanks to Ruth Johnson for organizing the event and to everyone who helped.

Andy Cross reported that the beautification committee will not be seeking a grant from Gateway Greening this year. The grant normally pays for soil and mulch at the Community Gardens, but they still have some left over from last year. The garden should still receive perennials as part of the plant exchange.

Andy also reported that Wintermarkt was a very successful event again this year. The weather was nice, which helped draw a great crowd. There were a lot of vendors, including many neighborhood residents. Special thanks to Laure Porterfield and Stephanie Schiller as well as Ute Levi, Shelly Parker, Katrina Stierholz, Michele Pike, Rachel Boxdorfer, and everyone else who worked to make the day a success.

Liz Johnson reported that the annual Martin Luther King Commemoration is scheduled for this Sunday January 16th at Grace & Peace Church. The theme is Making Peace a Reality in Our Time. Pastor Kurt Lutjens of Grace & Peace and Pastor Miki Merrit of New Cote Brilliance Church of God will be the speakers.

Dan Schesch gave a transportation committee update. It now appears that in early June 2005 Metro will be closing Des Peres at Forest Park Parkway and reopening the Parkway (one lane of traffic in each direction) from Des Peres to DeBaliviere.

Steve Givens gave the Nominating Committee report. Steve reported that the following nominations had been received for officer positions:

- President: Dan Schesch
- Vice President: . . Chris Bubicco
- Liz Johnson
- Treasurer: Peggy Droege
- Secretary: Alice Stanley

No further nominations were received from the floor. Steve distributed ballots and collected them after board members voted. The slate of officers elected was:

- President: Dan Schesch
- Vice President: . . Liz Johnson
- Treasurer: Peggy Droege
- Secretary: Alice Stanley

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Wall by the Tracks

by Lana Stein

In the old days, you would pass a deteriorating but arresting wall along the southern border of the Forest Park Parkway. This wall dated back to the halcyon days of the World's Fair. It appears that METRO agreed to substitute a new wall between the new MetroLink tracks and the alley and backyards of Lindell property owners. This substitute was discussed at advisory group meetings and, apparently, people have differing interpretations of what would occur. Dan Schesch, SDCC president, feels that tracery or design was supposed to appear on both sides of the newly constructed barrier. Others remember that the design would face the tracks and parkway and hence our neighborhood.

Well, as many of you have seen, the wall design faces Lindell backyards and is not where most people would be able to see it. Why did this happen? METRO says Caitlin Track/Lindell insisted on it so that's what they did. Caitlin Track owns the land on which the wall has been placed. It has struck many in Skinker DeBaliviere as prima facie ridiculous. According to Alderman Lyda Krewson, what may be the worst thing is that with its huge cost overruns and its months behind schedule, METRO may well do nothing to rectify what appears to many of us to be a mistake. Or as Frost wrote, "There is something that does not love a wall."



The 7th annual Skinker-DeBaliviere Breakfast Garden Tour is scheduled for Saturday, June 4.



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IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

Many loyal readers have contacted me lately and asked me to lighten up a little. "Geez," said one, "will you give it a break? The election is over." Another tactfully wrote on a postcard, "Get a life, Hawkeye, it's not all gloom and doom." But my favorite was the bumper-sticker someone mailed to me: "Darwin should serve in Iraq." Of course, these people were referring to my series of insightful and prescient articles on the political state of our country. Reporting on our political system is a hard job, but someone has to do it. But there are other hard jobs too.

Loyal readers will remember that over a year ago I wrote about hard jobs. I concluded that two of the most difficult jobs in this country were being the person who puts trained monkeys in their costumes at the circus and being the person who writes speeches for President Bush. Regarding the challenges of the first job, I pointed out that the monkeys were often double- or triple-jointed, smelled bad, and never really wanted to wear the costumes in the first place. As far as the challenges of the second job, well, they're

even more obvious. You know, given these two options, I'd go for the trained monkeys any day. It's a simple choice: "Now there, let's put your little arm into this frilly sleeve..." is much easier than "Now there, let's see if we can pronounce this multi-syllable word..."

And then I wrote the diatribe in which I recommended that we replace the national election with a national lottery. Rather than electing a president of the U.S., we'd simply award the job to the holder of the winning lottery ticket. This is actually a pretty deft argument if I say so myself. (I just did.) First, we could get some real diversity in the White House. The chances would be greatly increased for a president who is a female or person of color. We could get someone who hasn't come up through the political system and who isn't a captive to big business and wealthy donors. That all sounds pretty good. Plus, we couldn't do much worse than is now the case. Think about it.

As part of that recommendation, sage that I am, I observed that the position of vice-president would become much more important. For that position, I was, and still am, taking applications. I've heard from a few but, candidly, fewer than I'd expect. I guess the responsibilities and prospect of dressing trained monkeys were pretty daunting. Oops, I've confused the jobs!

Anyway, I've been asked to lighten up, to write about something more frivolous, so I will.

Recently the Cassini-Huygens spacecraft sent a probe that touched down on the surface of Titan, Saturn's largest moon. Since the spacecraft's launch from Kennedy Space Center on October 15, 1997, there has been lots of anticipation about what this probe might find. Titan is the largest moon of Saturn and is the second largest moon in the solar system (only Ganymede, a moon of Jupiter, is larger) so curious minds want to know. Initial results released to the public suggested possible methane or ethane ground fog on the surface and pebble-sized blocks

of ice. Further, there was much speculation about a coastline of some sort created by an unknown liquid.

But that is only what was released to the public. Inside sources have contacted this intrepid reporter to share what NASA dare not make public. Why the secrecy? Can you imagine the impact when we learn that we are not alone in the solar system? Can you conceive of the chaos that will ensue when we realize that other, more advanced, life forms exist just down the comet way? No wonder NASA is sitting on the story!

Although it's Top Secret, I've learned that three objects were clearly identified by the Cassini-Huygens probe. Even as I write, teams of physicists, astronomers, engineers, and sushi-chefs are hidden away, trying to determine what all of this means. (In fact, demonstrating typical government wisdom, NASA has convened four such teams of four members each, and has sequestered them in a resort area just outside of San Diego. The teams are provided with food and drink daily and have access to the beach and cable television. In an effort to motivate the teams, NASA has told them that they cannot rejoin civilization until they have this quandary solved. Odd, it's been a couple of months and other than requesting specific brands of wine, there's been no word from any of the research teams.)

The first object identified on Titan was a wrapper from a package of Hostess cupcakes. The cupcakes were gone and their ruffled wrapper was left on the surface, not far from the shoreline. It was from a classic Hostess cupcake, the kind with the chocolate lid, creme inside, and squiggly icing pattern on top. Here's the scary part: the date on the wrapper is discernible, and it says that the cupcakes are "best if eaten by May 6, 1312." Almost 700 years ago, life on Titan was sophisticated enough to create Hostess cupcakes. Whoa! Before Columbus came to the New World, these dudes were making Hostess cupcakes. It boggles the mind to think of what they could be capable of doing today.

The second object, a little farther from the camera than the Hostess cupcake package but still close enough to readily see, was a Macanudo cigar butt. It

appears to be no longer than an inch in length, so it was savored quite a bit. We cannot read all of the details of the Macanudo label, so don't know where it was manufactured or how old it is. What's puzzling, though, is that there is a residue of lipstick on the end of the cigar. (That fact accounts for the presence of the sushi-chefs on the research teams.)

As if these two objects weren't enough to cause consternation and concern, the third object, almost out of camera range, is the most distressing. It appears to be a paperback edition of The DaVinci Code. Of course, what's distressing about this is that The DaVinci Code hasn't been published in paperback yet! Yes, dear reader, you get the picture. Someone, something, some whatever on Titan has access to a time-machine. How else could it get a paperback The DaVinci Code? The implications are enormous. A time-machine is like Botox times a million!

The encouraging aspect of this news is that the Titan entity clearly has good taste. After all, The DaVinci Code has sold millions of copies and nothing, nothing, tastes better than a fresh package of Hostess Cupcakes microwaved for 13 seconds at power level 6. And there's no domestic cee-gar finer than a Macanudo. So knowing that the Titan entity has good taste comforts me as does the fact that it respects the embargo we have on goods from Cuba. I mean, if we had found a Cuban cigar there, I'd be very worried. I'm so glad that the Titan resident joins us in fighting communism and keeping Florida's 27 electoral votes safely in the Republican column.

Don't despair at the news that we are not alone. It could be worse. What if the camera has spied a White Castle hamburger container for Heaven's sake? Or a wild tofu garden? Or what if Martha Stewart's magazine, "Living," was found there or, gasp, a copy of The Wisdom of W? Sorry, there is more that I'd like to say in this upbeat and fluffy column, but I must get back to dressing my trained monkey.

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