

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 36 No. 2

Summer 2005

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

New Turf for Breakfast Garden Tour

By Andy Cross

Join us for a delicious breakfast in the award-winning McPherson Community Garden and to kick off the **8th Annual Breakfast Garden Tour** on Saturday, June 4, 8:30 a.m. to Noon.

This year, we will explore gardens in some of the newer developments in our neighborhood, tucked away quietly among the Nina Place homes and also in Kingsbury Square. Part of the mission of this tour is to bring neighbors into parts of the neighborhood they might not otherwise have had a reason or chance to see. Kingsbury Square is a gated community, so many neighbors would not have been likely to have passed through unless they know someone who lives there. The Board of Kingsbury Square will open the gates for us for this special viewing.

The Breakfast Garden Tour has something for everyone, young and old, green thumb or not.



Photo by Andy Cross

Joe Gudiswitz and Ligaya Figueras in their tropical garden on the 6100 block of Washington, featured on last year's Breakfast Garden Tour.

You will be in for a treat when you discover what is on the other side of that garage, just across from the McPherson Community Garden, located on the 5900 block of McPherson, with parking available on Des Peres.

Tickets are only \$10 in advance, \$12 on June 4. Children 10 to 15 years old are \$ 5, and under 10 are free. For questions or to order tickets, call or visit the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office at 6008 Kingsbury, 862-5122. Proceeds of the tour benefit SDCC.

2005 Ivory Perry Park Concert Series

Hometown Legends

4th Sunday of the Summer Months, 6-8 p.m.



Fontella Bass

Grab your lawn chair, blanket, food (no glass, please) and head over to Ivory Perry Park the 4th Sunday of each summer month. Hometown Legend Fontella Bass and The Voices of St. Louis will lead off the series on Sunday, June 26, 2005, from 6-8 p.m. on the Commerce Bank Stage. Fontella Bass, The Lady with Class, will sing R & B, gospel, and jazz, as well as her number one hit, "Rescue Me." July 24, will bring the Dean of St. Louis Guitarists, Bennie Smith. Enjoy his St. Louis-style blues with special guest singer Irma Whiteside. Willie Akins, The Legendary Jazz Master, will conclude the series on August 28, the 4th Sunday in August. Akins' command of the tenor and alto sax will sooth your soul. Special guest Erika Johnson will appear with Akins' quartet.

Ivory Perry Park, formerly Visitation Park, is located at 800 Belt Avenue. Off of Delmar, turn north on Belt Avenue at Connect Care Hospital (Belt Avenue is one stoplight east of DeBaliviere.). Street parking is available with additional parking in the St. Louis Connect Care Community Health Center's lots.

Each concert will feature special events for children and families. At the June 26th concert, Actor Gregory Carr will be portraying another Hometown Legend, grass-roots activist Ivory Perry. You'll be able to interact with Mr. Perry and ask him questions about his life and work. During intermission, Carr will present his own short piece from Perry's life. New this summer: St. Louis Rib will have food for sale at each concert. As usual, Fitz's Root Beer and Ted Drewes will be available. Check the Web site for other activities: www.union-avenue.org/ipp.html.

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 Legends this summer. Special thanks to the Whitaker Foundation and Regional Arts Council for their support. For more information, call Carla Mash Duncan at 314-727-2309 or check our Web site at www.union-avenue.org/ipp.html.

Saturdays at The Market

Each Saturday join us for crafts, gifts, food and beverages, cooking demonstrations, entertainment and MORE! It's EVERY Saturday and it's ONLY at The Market In The Loop! 6655 Delmar Boulevard in The Heart Of The U City Loop.

If you are a vendor or entertainer that would like to participate in Saturdays At The Market, please contact us. Call 324-4912



There is a \$10 per Saturday vendor fee due one week prior to the Saturday that you wish to participate. Please note that Saturday's At The Market is seeking vendors offering family oriented craft, gift and food products.

Saturdays At The Market welcomes family oriented entertainers. From Musicians to Magicians, we'd like to hear from you. There is no compensation, however you will be able to showcase your talents, are welcome to accept tips, and we will help to promote your performance.

The Market in The Loop's shops, restaurants and special vendors already include:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Big V's Burgers | Native M. Flowers |
| Racanelli's Pizza | Route 66 Portraits |
| The Silver Lady | Whimsicals, Wears/Jerie |
| Zuma Beads | Discovery Toys |
| Bob's Seafood | Usborne Books |
| Wong's Wok | The Flower Lady |
| Bubble Tea | JRB Designs/Jon or Jordan |
| Fresh Produce | Marianne Soaps & Jewelry |
| Tango Foods | Fresh Herbs |
| Jodi's Purses | Plants & Potted Roses |
| Squash/Les | Mark/Ben & Jerry Ice Cream |
| Lost Dog Creations | Jugglers |
| Kettle Korn | Folk Dancers |

Join us for the Biggest Party in the Neighborhood Party at Four Corners Park

Kingsbury and DesPeres

Live Music - Jon Thomas and Friends

★ **Food** ★ **Fun** ★ **All Are Welcome** ★

Tuesday, August 2, 2005

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Join your neighbors and celebrate **National Night Out** - America's Night Out Against Crime. Come to our block party with food, fun, and all sorts of activities. Brats, soda and ice cream, face painting and more will be for sale. Adult beverages permitted. **NO GLASS BOTTLES.** Enjoy great music and a good time - raise money for your neighborhood. Lawn chairs welcome!

Turn on your porch light and come up to the Party.

Sponsored by the Neighborhood Stabilization Team, Operation Safestreet, the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, and the residents of Skinker DeBaliviere. With support from the Regional Arts Commission

Editor's Notebook

By JoAnn Vatcha

THE TIMES has again sought an update on the planned development of Rosedale Square from the Skinker-DeBaliviere Housing Corporation, learning that the housing corporation has apparently chosen a developer for Rosedale Square. A partnership of Saaman Corp. and Pete Rothschild has been negotiating with the housing corporation to purchase the 10 Rosedale Square buildings on Washington.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued by the housing corporation in October, 2004, to convert the Rosedale Square Apartments into condominiums or townhouses. The housing corporation has owned the 68 unit complex (located at Rosedale and Washington) since 1988.

Saaman/Rothschild will no doubt wish to share their plan with the Neighborhood once it has been finalized with the housing corporation. Perhaps some of the perceived neighborhood needs, such as more housing designed for 'empty nesters', or possibly handicap-adaptable, will be considered in the final plans. THE TIMES has learned that the new partnership will be seeking historic tax credits for the project.

As reported previously, some residents feel this is a good opportunity to take advantage of the hot real estate market and convert the buildings from rentals to homeownership. Others are opposed to converting the property to condominiums or town homes, feeling that the loss of these rental units will take away from the affordability and diversity of the neighborhood. According to census data, over 300 rental units were lost during the 90s; since then, Washington University has absorbed at least 341 more, reducing the number from 1,519 to approximately 891, over 40.

One controversial issue is the use of sale proceeds from the sale of the building. The request for proposals indicated that the minimum bid should be \$2,500,000. After paying off the mortgages, net sale proceeds would still be considerable. To date, the housing corporation has made no public statement about the use of the excess from the sale of Rosedale Square. THE TIMES continues to request that information on behalf of the neighborhood. As a not-for-profit body, the housing corporation would be expected to use the proceeds of any such sale to further their housing goals on behalf of the neighborhood. However, no specific use for the funds has been announced.

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.

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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, June 4, 2005: Breakfast Garden Tour, McPherson Community Garden, 8:30-12:00 Noon.

Skinker-DeBaliviere Housing Corporation meets at 6:00 p.m. at 6008 Kingsbury. Call Gary Boehnke at 862-5122 for more information. The summer meetings are on the following dates: **June 1, June 15, July 6, July 20, August 3, August 17.**

Monday, June 13, 2005: Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council meeting, 6008 Kingsbury, call 862-5122 for more information.

Friday, June 17, 2005: Rosedale Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting and Election of Officers, 6:30 p.m., New Cote Brillante Church, Skinker at Washington. See article on page 5.

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

Tuesday, August 2, 2005, 6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.: Join your neighbors and celebrate National Night Out - America's Night Out Against Crime. National Nite Out, call 862-5122 for more information.

Monday, August 8, 2005: Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council meeting, 6008 Kingsbury, call 862-5122 for more information.

Other Events of Interest

Thursday, June 2, 2005: Neighborhood Playgroup, come play with your little one (infants, toddlers, preschoolers) at Four Corners Playground, Every Thursday from 9 11 am. In case of rain we'll meet at Kayak's Coffee Shop for a snack.

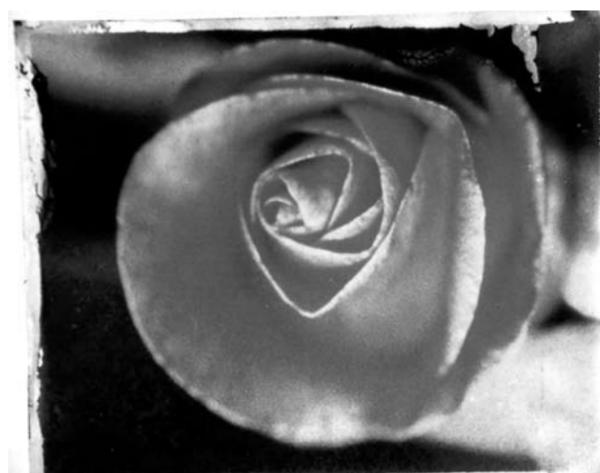
Friday, June 10, 2005: Regional Arts Commission: 'Six Shooters/Six Visions'. Opening Reception: Friday, June 10, 2005, 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Gallery Talk with Artists and Curators: Wednesday, June 15, 2005, 6:30 p.m. reception, 7:00 p.m. talk. Exhibition continues through Sunday Sunday, July 31, 2005. Regular gallery hours are Mon. thru Fri., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat. & Sun., noon to 5 p.m.

Friday, June 17: Third Degree Glass Factory presents "Third Fridays."

Friday, June 17: "Dinners on Delmar" at 609 Restaurant on Eastgate. Reservations a must - call 641-1845 before the deadline of Friday, June 10th.

Sunday, June 19, 2005: Father's Day Corvette Display, Tivoli parking lot, In the Tivoli/ Streetside Records Parking Lot, 12 to 4 p.m. Visit The Loop for a car display and silent auction. Sponsored by The Boone Trail Corvette Club and The Loop Special Business District to benefit Judevine Center for Autism. For information call (636) 441-4880.

Through July 24, 2005: **Turkish Relief 2, by Marianne Pepper, at Regional Arts Commission.** Craft Alliance Gallery, "Animated Earth: The Many Permutations of Clay", Curators: Paul Dresang and Matt Wilt. For information call (314) 725-1177, ext. 322 or log onto www.craftalliance.org.



Camillas, by Kay Wood, at Regional Arts Commission.

News of Neighbors

Knee surgery has kept the intrepid **Lana Stein** on the sidelines for the past few weeks. Visitors to Pershing have included a parade of neighborhood, political, and academic cohorts, including **Evan Jacobs**, who watched heavy-duty construction vehicles with his grandfather **Neville**, escorted by a woman construction worker who apparently understands three-year-old boys to see the 'big hole' there. From her window on Pershing, our recuperating co-Editor has been watching MetroLink construction daily. Lana reports that numerous uncovered dump trucks continue to roar down Des Peres, activity that was supposed to have been completed in December of 2004. We're glad to know Lana is doing so well at the job of healing and will be back in the thick of things soon!

Babies in the Loop: **Matt and Rachel (Bender) Box-dorfer** of the 6000 of McPherson welcomed their third child, Maddalyn Evans on December 3rd. Maddalyn shares that birthday with her big sister Gretchen! The proud brother is Christian and grandparents include **Joan and Rick Bender** of the 6100 block of Kingsbury. Maddalyn's arrival gave the family something special to celebrate at Wintermarkt where Matt handed out many cigars.

More baby news from the 6000 block of McPherson includes word from **Jon and Lynne Tiede**, who welcomed their first child, Colton Russell Tiede on October 23!

Angelica and Paul Michaelson of the 5800 block of Pershing are ready to celebrate their baby Gabriella's first birthday on July 27, 2005. Also on Pershing, **Irina and Aaron Runcle** welcomed baby Alexandra in October, 2004. **Jennifer Olmstead and Brady Baybeck** of the 6100 block of Washington welcomed their second child, Madeline McLin Baybeck, who joined the family, including big sister Sarah,



Baby Madeline.

on 5/5/05. Great to hear of so many young families enjoying life in the neighborhood!

Up, Up and Away: frequent TIMES contributor **Nicole**

Blumner, husband Warren Rosenblum and baby Eve have flown off to Germany for a year-long adventure there. Nicole will be doing some planning internships and learning German, as will their young daughter, who will celebrate her first birthday in July by having the opportunity to learn to talk in two languages. Nicole was given a fine send-off at St. Louis Development Corporation, where her hard work on the North Riverfront Plan was lauded, along with her many other contributions in her three-year stint at SLDC. Congratulations to Warren, who has recently earned the status of tenure at Webster University. While they're in Germany, their house will be home for a family from Pamplona, Spain, coming to spend a year. Hopefully, we'll get a chance to meet the exchange family while they're enjoying their Skinker-DeBaliviere - St. Louis adventure! And Nicole promises an article for the TIMES on their stay in Germany.

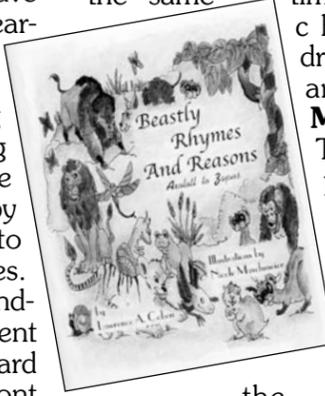
Other departures include Rosedale President and lifelong neighborhood resident **Tim Schoemehl**, who has become a homeowner, unfortunately (for us) in the Bevo Neighborhood of south St. Louis. We wish Tim all the best and hope to see him often around the old homestead. Tim had been a renter in the Rosedale Square Apartments, where redevelopment will apparently begin later this year. Also departing Rosedale Square for greener pastures in south St. Louis is **Lynn Weir**, whose mom and dad, **Marj and Brad**, are enjoying a new kitchen in their longtime home on the 6100 block of Westminster. Also departing the neighborhood are **Chris Simon and Jessica Forsyth** and baby Pablo of the 5900 block of Pershing, who are moving to Colorado. Best wishes to all!

Rachelle L'Ecuyer, of the 6100 block of Washington, has accepted an exciting new job as Director of Community Development for Maplewood. Rachelle has been a mainstay of the Regional Housing and Community Development Alliance. Among her achievements is the now-booming Old North St. Louis housing development.

Sean McWilliams received his PhD in History at the recent ceremonies at Washington University. Sean and wife Karin Hageman live on the 6000 block of McPherson, where baby Meredith has many baby playmates!

Parkview neighbor and retired Washington University neurologist **Larry Coben** has recently published a new and intriguing book of poems called *Beastly Rhymes and Reasons*. It's a "bestiary," a form of writing used since the middle ages.

It's humorous and informative at the same



time and features charming drawings by local artist **Nicole Maschmeier**. The book is pocket-sized and is being sold at Left Bank Books, Bittersweet Botanicals on Delmar, the university's book-store, and other locations. Dr. Coben is currently working on a new book called *Anna's Shtetl*, a true story of childhood in the Ukraine in the early years of the 20th century.

Many neighborhood residents and nearby Central West Enders attended a fundraiser in February at the Washington Terrace home of **Pina and Dr. Morin Hanson**. Meds and Food for Kids, a nonprofit organization, supports the work of St. Louis pediatrician and CWE resident **Dr. Pat Wolff** and other volunteers in

two villages in Haiti. Their work includes an innovative program for treating malnourished Haitian children with the use of 'supercharged' peanut butter. More information is available at www.medsandfoodforkids.org.

Beginning and ending with news of illness, we send our best wishes to **Laure Porterfield**, SDCC Executive Director, who had major surgery and has suffered recurring infections for many weeks. Her dedicated assistant **Juanita Wood** has kept the office humming, working with housing staff director **Gary Boehnke**. We all hope to see Laure back in her Four Corners Office this summer. To everyone, have a great summer and send us your news for the September TIMES, to jvatcha@peoplepc.com or vatchaj@stlouiscity.com. Love to hear from you!



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Huge Crowd for Blitz Day

by Andy Cross



Photo by Andy Cross

Washington University School of Law graduate students did a great job in the 6000 Kingsbury/McPherson alley.

Great weather drew a very large turnout for this year's Operation Brightside Project Blitz cleanup on Saturday, April 4. The Beautification Committee cruised the alleys with tools and trashbags to offer assistance to the hundreds of neighbors who turned out for the cleanup.

A group of students from the Washington University School of Law picked up leaves, trash and debris in several alleys that had been identified as areas needing attention. They also broke up and bundled piles of branches which had been dumped in the park at Pershing and Rosedale. Their assistance in these cleanup efforts were very much appreciated. Some of the alleys they worked

on are now cleaner than they have been in many years.

Nicole Blumner and friends continued their efforts planting, pruning, and sprucing up the park at Westminster and Pershing. Many neighbors joined us at Four Corners Park for lunch, provided by the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council. Thank you to Juanita Wood and her son Robert and to SDCC president Dan Schesch for their help coordinating this event. Thank you to the many block captains and neighbors who did their part plus a little more. Our neighborhood is looking better each year!



Photo by Andy Cross

Jacob and Noah Schneider/L'Ecuyer planted a maple tree at the park at Westminster and DesPeres on Operation Brightside Blitz Day.



Ah, the 'Thai Stinker' cocktail at Thai Café!

Thai Café: Home of The Best Drink in Skinker DeBaliviere

By Maggie Peters

It's not the lemon grass, coconut, or raspberry mojitos. It's not the Prickly Pear Margarita sipped casually while dining al fresco on a Spring evening. It's no caipirinha, and forget any drink over \$5.00. No, the best drink in Skinker DeBaliviere is the one I stumbled upon – the Stink – two years ago, when a friend from out of town, my husband, and I went together to the Thai Café to have dinner with another friend. Each of these two friends considers herself to be a person who instinctively orders the best thing on any menu. They are very competitive about it, and only really enjoy a meal if they are the person at the table with the best food and drink. I encourage this friendly competition, and order last.

I've always ordered the house wine at the Thai Café, because it is \$2.95. Sometimes a mistake is made, and they serve my house wine in a daiquiri glass, which is a lot of wine for \$2.95. My husband always orders Budweiser. For years, we had skipped entirely the cocktail menu, which includes such specialties as the Fog Cutter, the Scorpion, the Zombie, the Mai Tai, the Rum Keg, the Pina Cola, the Chee Chee, and finally the Thai Stinker. Importantly, we had missed the descriptions of these drinks – the Zombie, 'a real dirty stinker of dark rum and light rum;' the Fog Cutter, 'a potent vaseful of rum, gin, brandy, fruit juices;' and the Chee Chee, 'a fantastic drink of vodka served in a ceramic coconut.'

One friend was taken in by the prospect of the ceramic coconut, and immediately ordered the Chee Chee. The other friend read to the bottom of the menu, to 'a magical blend of rum, gin, cherry liquor, fruit juice and on fire,' and ordered the Thai Stinker. Being as it was 'and on fire,' it was sure to beat any drink served in a ceramic coconut.

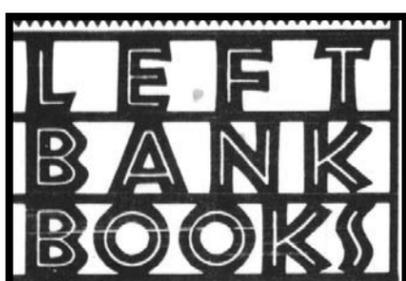
The Chee Chee was served first, and the ceramic coconut did not disappoint. It was kind of quaint and came with a paper umbrella, an orange slice, and a maraschino cherry. The drink itself, I do not remember.

Then the waiter went back to the kitchen to serve the Thai Stinker

separately, using both hands and carrying from underneath. He walked by several other tables gingerly balancing a large ceramic bowl, four inches deep and eleven inches wide, filled to the brim with the 'magical blend.' Hanging over the edges were four three-foot-long straws and two paper umbrellas. All eyes were on our table. The waiter set the bowl in the middle, between the four of us, and handed each a straw. Then he pulled a kitchen torch out from his waistband, poured a shot of alcohol into the interior ring of the bowl, and set it on fire. I believe there were cheers.

The bowl is what you sometimes see used as a chip and dip bowl, maybe at a Super Bowl Party, with the chips served in the outer ring, and the dips served in the inner ring. With the Thai Stinker, the outer ring of the bowl is used for the drink, and the inner ring is used for the fire. The inner ring rises up from the center of the bowl, sitting about an inch higher. Decorating the outside of the bowl are palm trees and half-naked hula dancers. The inner ring is painted red with lava, as if the flaming shot of vodka is actually a volcano spewing lava down into the drink.

At this point, it didn't matter what the Thai Stinker tasted like, because any drink served on fire in a bowl for \$4.95 must be the best drink in any neighborhood. It doesn't have to have green things floating in it, sugar or salt around the rim, and it doesn't have to age. Put it in a bowl, set it on fire, and charge less than \$5.00. That being said, the Thai Stinker is delicious. Nobody has yet to determine the exact recipe for this 'magical blend of rum, gin, cherry liquor, fruit juice and on fire,' and if you ask, the Thai Café will not tell. Even if you ask under the auspices of writing an article for the much heralded Skinker DeBaliviere Times, they won't tell. Again, it doesn't matter, because at \$4.95 you couldn't make it any better at home. Plus, what would you serve it in? The Thai Café is located at 6170 Delmar, across from the Pageant, and is now open seven days a week.



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“Dinners on Delmar” Kicks Off June 17th

by Sara Howard

Residents of the Skinker-DeBaliviere community are well aware that one of the neighborhood’s top selling points is our excellent location, just steps from “The Loop” — one of the St. Louis region’s most vibrant and eclectic districts.

Now, thanks to a new social program, Skinker DeBaliviere denizens will have a ready excuse to take advantage of their close proximity to the many fantastic restaurants and watering holes located along Delmar in the Loop and East Loop neighborhood. “**Dinners on Delmar**,” which will celebrate its inaugural event on Friday, June 17th at the U Lounge at 609, will feature an outing to a different dining or drinking establishment along the Delmar strip every other month.

609, located at 609 Eastgate, just off of Delmar, is one of the Loop’s hippest new restaurants. As a complement to the venue’s sleek, modern design, 609’s menu offers innovative, Asian-inspired dishes, and was voted 2nd Place for Appetizers and 3rd Place for Best Pan-Asian cuisine in the 2004 Sauce Magazine Readers Poll

The hip, eclectic vibe of 609 carries through into the U Lounge, where patrons can sample signature martinis, delectable bar appetizers, and even hookahs – all while enjoying the musical stylings presented by live DJs each night.

The concept for “Dinners on Delmar” was born from the success of an earlier Skinker

DeBaliviere social event held earlier this year at **Mirasol Restaurant**. Organizers of the Mirasol dinner were stunned by the large turnout of Skinker-DeBaliviere residents, and realized that there was clearly a demand for similar outings.

“We are lucky to live within walking distance of so many great restaurants and bars, but sometimes people don’t take advantage of all that our area has to offer,” said Sole Van Emden. “So we figured, what better way to get to know your neighbors — as well as your neighborhood — than to arrange a regularly scheduled dinner party?”

The ticket price for the event at 609’s U Lounge is \$25, and includes a buffet of green curry chicken salad with spring roll wrapper chips, vegetarian sushi, and beef satay with Asian mustard, as well as one drink ticket. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Interested parties should contact Pati Biel at 314-641-1845 before the deadline of Friday, June 10th.

The next Dinners on Delmar event will take place in August at a restaurant to be named. Future locations include **Modai**, a new sushi restaurant and lounge that is part of the explosion of businesses, restaurants, and bars that have opened up shop East of the Loop.

Rosedale Neighborhood Association Needs You

Arline Webb, Vice President of the Rosedale Neighborhood Association, has announced a date and time for the annual meeting and election of officers. On Friday, June 17, 2005, the organization will hold a brief meeting at 6:30 p.m. at New Cote Brillante Church, Skinker at Washington.

Due to the resignation and move of Tim Schoemehl, who was President of the organization for three years, the group needs to elect a new president. Anyone who lives in the area between Skinker and Rosedale, from Washington to Pershing, is eligible to serve as an officer. Nominations will be taken from the floor, and interested parties may wish to contact one

of the current officers prior to the meeting. Call VP Arline Webb at 726-2470, or contact Paul Hohman, SDCC representative, Laura Doyle, Secretary, or Mary Ann Rudloff, Treasurer.

Another agenda item is soliciting ideas for use of funds in the Treasury. Ideas that have been advanced include a bench in the community garden and/or the playground. Other ideas are welcome!

Copies of the Rosedale by-laws and mission statement will be available at the June 17 meeting. Stop by and learn about your neighborhood organization before you head off to the Dinners on Delmar!

Letter to Editor

The wall [next to Forest Park Parkway], demolished relatively recently, did not date back to the days of the 1904 World’s Fair. I believe it was erected in 1909 or 1910. According to the late William G. Turner, the wall was designed by his father who also became the contractor who built it. Possibly an early instance of precast reinforced concrete, the design was inspired, I was told, by structures observed during the designer’s wedding trip in the Carribean!

If MetroLink’s agreement with the Catlin Tract authority and/or the owners of Lindell residents in the subject block from DesPeres to DeBaliviere provided for replacing the wall with a replica, one would think that the two parties and the contractors as well would have a series of photographs pertinent to the disputed issue.

With a substantially different interest and purpose, I would be interested in hearing from anyone the Times may learn of who has photographs of the wall in any stage or state of its existence that might be suitable for an exhibition somewhere sometime.

Sincerely,

Ernest W Stix Jr

447 Westgate Ave St Louis, MO 631304711



Photo by Andy Cross

Marta Schneider was ready to plant marigolds after the annual "Plant Exchange" held May 4 at the Four Corners Park.

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Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting of Directors Meeting, March 14, 2005.

Attendance: President Daniel Schesch; Directors: Steve Givens, Norbert Hart, Paul Hohmann, Liz Johnson, Gwendolyn LaZard, Lara Lennon-Doyle, Shirley Polk, Molly Rater, Alice Stanley; Guests: Lt. Larry Lee, Officer Rick Metz, Gary Boehnke, Harold Brown, Andy Cross, Jack Dickson, Vincent Flewigen, Sean Gannon, Shelly Goebel-Parker, Steve Hoffner, Larry Isom, Avis May

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS - President Schesch opened meeting at 7:08 pm. Board members and guests introduced themselves. **MINUTES**: Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2005 meeting. Motion passed.

FINANCE REPORT: A memo from Peggy Droege requested approval of the January and February financial reports. She had reviewed both reports and found everything to be in order. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

We were also advised that receipt of funding from our institutional members and contributors was running behind and we would soon be sending out reminders. Board members were reminded to sign documents for CDA contract and there was discussion on establishing a fundraising committee.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY NORTH CAMPUS: Steve Hoffner, of Washington University discussed the University's plans for the Angelica Uniform property and the north campus area. Transporting, Housing, ROTC training center, mail services, TOP lawn care, security patrol, ACCESS program have been relocated to the north campus. In the next 3-5 years, approximately 500 employees will be housed at this location. The University plans call for the closure of Rosedale and the widening of Enright. The Radiant property will be demolished; landscaping will be added to create a more campus like environment. Long-term plans call for adding new student housing for graduate students and a recreation center. Two additional properties for the North campus could include the car wash and some City owned property. The University's presence provides a twofold benefit - it will help stabilize the area and provide patrons to support the local businesses.

At this time, Washington University is focusing on improving its current properties in lieu of acquiring new properties, working

with students to build a sense of community and getting involved in neighborhood activities.

Regarding the Delmar property, old Dobbs tire Center, Companion Baking will be moving in by the spring.

Washington University owns 9 properties on Pershing and will be doing new plantings. Additionally, parking improvements behind 4 buildings will be completed this year and by next summer the remaining 5 buildings will be completed.

SECURITY REPORT: Officer Metz provided the update. During February 1 - March 13, the following occurred

- * 2 robberies, 9 autos stolen, 5 burglaries, 9 larcenies, 440 radio dispatched calls; purse snatching incident in the 6200 block of Pershing involving a 65 year old female; attacker had a vehicle waiting at Skinker & Pershing. A habitual car thief with 4 arrests is thought to be responsible for the car thief at DesPeres and Delmar.

- * Major car repairs are taking place in the north alley - 5900 Waterman.

- * Cars are parking at the end of the DesPeres in the circle making it difficult of cars to maneuver.

- * Graffiti on DesPeres & Rosedale - request to let neighbors know what action one can take

- * Residents were reminded to call 9-1-1 to report suspicious activity

Friends Campaign: Council needs to increase friends campaign. Looking for 1 - 2 council members to serve on Committee; will also solicit neighborhood residents. Liz, Andy & Norb will help. A suggested activity included 'A Taste of Skinker DeBaliviere.'

ALDERMANIC REPORT: No report. Alderwoman Krewson was out of town.

Executive Committee Report: Dan provided an update on Laure. She is in the hospital. Juanita keeps in touch with her on a daily basis.

METROLINK WALL - The wall put up is not the same as originally designed and presented. Only the side of the wall facing Catlin tract is designed. Dan received 50 responses (11 + 39) reflecting a 20% response to an email he sent out updating residents about the wall. Residents of Skinker DeBaliviere are concerned and do not find the wall as installed to be responsive to what they were originally presented. Motion made to write letter was seconded and approved with 1 abstention. Discussion followed. Some thoughts were to ask Metro to provide mitigation for what's there, at least make the

wall all the same color; demand Metro install any planting on North side of wall; also would create a sound barrier. Also request Metro to assume responsibility for maintenance.

2 people complained about bill board on condom ad promoting HIV/AIDS prevention awareness campaign. The billboard is not appropriate for neighborhood, especially the kids in the area and its proximity to a day care center

St. Vincent Greenway wants to create a walkway from Forest Park to Cool Valley. Dan and Alice will represent the Skinker-DeBaliviere. First meeting is being scheduled for later this month.

DeBaliviere West Condo Association: will meet every 2nd Tuesday at Council Office from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Property Tax Assessment: Property assessments will be coming out soon and Skinker-DeBaliviere residents will see a significant increase. Homestead Applications were passed out. Dan will invite Assessor to next meeting. Dan will also contact Mary Bartley about joint meeting with CWE Association.

SLACCO CONFERENCE: Andy Cross attended and also was a presenter at workshop on Organization Effectiveness. Approximately 300 - 400 people attended. Andy reported that the conference was good and encouraged residents to attend next year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: No report, Laure is in hospital.

COMMITTEE/NEIGHBORHOOD REPORTS
* Beautification Committee: Andy Cross reported that McPherson Garden's annual meeting is coming up soon. First workday for the garden is this Saturday. Andy thanked Steve for the article. The blitz flyer is going out soon. Blitz is the first Saturday in April. The planting date is Saturday May 7, 2005. Don't forget the Breakfast Garden Tour is Saturday June 4, 2005.

- * Security Committee: Dan reported that it would be nice to see the Neighborhood Watch Program revitalized.

- * Rosedale: Dan reported that officers still need to be elected for Rosedale.

- * Mirasol Social - Dan reported that the event was well attended. It was a fundraising activity for Beautification.

RFP has been issued for Rosedale Square Redevelopment to be sold as condos.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting Minutes, April 11, 2005
Attendance: President Daniel Schesch; Directors: Christine Bubbico (excused), Peggy Droege, Georgi Fox, Ronie Haliburton, Paul Hohmann, Liz Johnson, Joe Keaveny, Gwendolyn LaZard, Molly Rater, Alice Stanley, Arline Webb; Guests: P.O. Rick Metz, Sgt. Dan Frentzel, Andy Cross, John Keaveny, Norb Hart, Barbara Rice, M. Moore.

Welcome & Introductions - President Schesch opened meeting at 7:08 pm. Board members and guests introduced themselves.

Minutes - Motion was made and seconded to approve the minute of the March 14, 2005 meeting with corrections. Motion passed. Corrections - Add Roni Haliburton to list of Board members present.

Correct spelling of last name to Flewellen. Mirasol Social - delete it was a fundraising activity for Beautification.

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corp - delete 'RFP has been issued for Rosedale Square Redevelopment to be sold as condos'. Insert, 'Negotiating with Samuel Rothschild on Rosedale Square Redevelopment'.

Security Report - Officer Rick Metz and Sgt. Dan Frentzel as follows:

- * Parkview - 2 attempted car thieves; car stolen from Shell Service Station

- * Kingsbury Square - 2 burglaries

- * Arrests - Last night (3/13), 2 arrests were made, a man and woman for burglaries

- * Breaking into autos - still a problem

- * Armed Robbery - around 11p.m., Sunday night there was an armed robbery at the Shell Station

- * Officer Bailey - recovering from being run over at Shell Station in connection with accident involving stolen vehicle

- * Police contact - call 231-1212 to report a non-emergency; call 911 or 622-4800 (Citizen Service Bureau to report suspicious activity

- * 6100 Washington - report of house with a lot of activity during the day and night; Sam Hill is working on

Treasurer's Report - Peggy report that she has reviewed the March report and it is in order, expenses are okay. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed. To date, revenue has not been received for the supporting institutions; Peggy will check to see if letters has gone out. Peggy commented that Juanita has done a great job during Laure's absence and thanked her for pitching in to fill the gaps.

Dan advised that we still needed additional conflict of interest forms to be submitted for our CDA contract. Reminded that we needed to increase our Friend's contributions. A fundraising committee is being established. The purpose of committee is to identify ways to increase funding to support operations and to fund new initiatives.

Discussion followed on getting the word out about SDCC. Norbert Hart indicated his interest in doing an article on SDCC. New neighbor packets are given to realtors to give to new homeowners in the SDCC area.

Alderperson's Report - Alderwoman Krewson reported that MO license plate tabs for 2007 will have the license plate number on it.

MetroLink is over budget and behind schedule on the MetroLink extension. Assessments are up 32 -33% citywide; in the central corridor some are up 66-70%. Property is taxed at 19% of market value. Next Thursday, Ed Bushmeyer will be at the 28th ward meeting to discuss the assessment. The Hancock rollback amount has not yet been decided for the actual tax rate. Alderwoman responded to a question concerning commercial trash dealer emptying dumpsters at 2:30 in the morning - there is an ordinance in place and it's illegal to empty dumpsters that time of morning.

Executive Committee Report - Dan reported on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Laure Porterfield - Laure is home from rehab. She is convalescing at home and hopes to return to work by the end of the month pending release from her doctor.

MetroLink FP Parkway Wall - has received no response to letter to Metro regarding the wall. Alderwoman Krewson informed us that per a conversation she had with Cathie Farrell, Metro is looking at and trying to figure out what to do.

St. Vincent Greenway - there will be a public meeting on April 12th. Currently, a path is being proposed through SDCC across DeBaliviere. Dan raised concern that DeBaliviere did not have enough right-of-way; Alderwoman Krewson responded that DeBaliviere did have adequate right-of-way. Dan plans to hold a meeting to gather feedback from the residents about the location of the greenway and also will attempt to work with representatives of Alderman Williams ward regarding the greenway through some of his ward (Lucier Park & Ruth Porter Mall).

Committee/Neighborhood Reports
Beautification - Andy Cross reported on the activities of the Beautification Committee. Planting Day is the Saturday in May 7, 2005. Garden Tour flyer iSave the Date! is ready - June 4th is the date. Andy is adding new gardens from Nina Place town homes, 5900 DeGiverville, Kingsbury Square gardens. The barricade post on Westminster has been repaired. Dan thanked Andy for coordinating the Brightside activities.

Washington University Law School provided a dozen plus students. Activities include the Westminster/DesPeres pocket park and the week before Blitz, will work on Pershing & DesPeres. Andy thanked Dan for the donuts and hotdogs. Juanita's son, Robert, cooked the hotdogs.

Security Meeting - Dan reported that Laure would organize meeting upon her return to work.

Rosedale Neighborhood - Arline reported that the date for the election has not yet been determined.

Executive Director Report
No report this month; Executive Director has not yet returned back to work.

Housing Corporation - Gary referred to written report in packet. To date, developer has not been selected for the Rosedale project.

Other Business
Granite Works - Sheets of granite are being left out and getting stolen. They should not have outside storage. There could be some possible zoning issues; refer to Commercial district committee.

Andy reported on Mirasol - they plan to have 6 parties a year, not a meeting or fundraiser; will have party in a restaurant on Delmar; plans to work for more diversity. Their biggest focus is to establish a neighborhood network, have neighbors get to know each other.

Newsletter from police department was distributed.

Meeting adjourned: 9:00 p.m.

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Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Selected Items for list on Sale Map (merchandise only) _____

Sale Spots (size of a parking space) for rent on a first -come first served basis in the Westminster/Skinker Parking Lot or at Four Corners Park (Kingsbury & DePeres). \$10.00 each by advance reservation only.

Yes I want a Spot on Skinker Yes I want a spot on DesPeres. My \$10 reserves space only.

You will be notified where you are to set up.

Yard signs and maps showing sale participants will be delivered the day before the sale.

No competitive food sales please.

No vendors selling food will be accepted. Food sales and bake sales are to benefit Rosedale Neighbors Association.

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IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

As a public service, your friendly columnist is always looking to offer relevant information to help you fend with life's vicissitudes. In the past this column has offered proactive advice on such matters as national elections, rising gasoline prices, and broken glass in the alleys. While none of us can predict the future accurately, there are two inevitable things with which we must all deal. This month's column is not about taxes. You read it here, first. In Your Ear prepares you for the inevitable.

None of us are immortal. We may fool Mother Nature (and ourselves) with Botox or steroids, by having plastic surgery and working out regularly, through placing sliced limes on our eyelids when we sleep, or by subsisting on a diet of wine, Hostess cupcakes, and Chinese food. Effective as these strategies are, though, they are all mere short-term measures. While they can enable you to look younger (the aforementioned diet has done wonders for me, if I say so myself), your internal clock keeps a-ticking (at least until it stops ticking). Sooner or later we

are all just memories, and as it gets later, being a memory comes sooner.

OK, so it's happened. You've checked out. The ball game's over, and the Fat Lady has sung. You had a good life but it's past-tense. Hopefully you were kind and caring. Hopefully you made a difference in the world, however slight. Hopefully you enjoyed yourself. But that's history; indeed, you're history. Now what?

Scenario #1: You feel like you've awakened from a long nap. You're a bit groggy and find yourself rubbing your eyes. You can vaguely make out muted background music; the Rolling Stones are singing "You can't always get what you want." How's that for an appropriate song? Suddenly it gets very, very bright and you find yourself squinting. Without walking, you realize that you've moving forward. Motion stops and you are face to face with a pearly gate. At least they look like pearls – or are they video monitors? On stage left, there's an avuncular guy, wearing a bathrobe over a tuxedo with pink granny glasses, and a Cardinals baseball cap. He has a flowing gray beard almost to his waist and is smoking a cigar. It hits you: these are THE Pearly Gates, a proper noun. It doesn't seem that he's noticed you yet, and you can make out that he's thumbing through a copy of "Popular Mechanics."

You clear your throat and he looks up, simultaneously putting his magazine on the podium which you hadn't noticed before. Like the gates, it's made of television monitors – or are those pearls? You note that there's a name tag on his bathrobe. "Hello" it says in bright red letters; beneath that someone has written Pete. He smiles and you are a bit comforted. You almost feel as if he is going to ask you for your wish list of Christmas wants. Instead, he greets you by name and asks how you're doing. Odd, you think to yourself, his mouth never opened but he talked to me! You hear, "Moving mouths is inefficient. We don't need to do that here," and you again note

that his lips were still. "No, it's not a dream," he says before you even finish framing the question in your mind.

Anyway, you stand there a bit awed, reflecting on how quickly your life passed you by and wondering what's next. Suddenly a huge book appears on the podium. You gasp because your name is on the cover. It's a pretty thick book and you hope that this means something good. Pete says to you, "Yes, this is you, all 312 pages." You wonder if there are photos.

While Pete thumbs through the book that lists all of your deeds, misdeeds, and mrdeeds, you surreptitiously glance around to see who else is on the cloud. Questions rumble through your mind. "I wonder if I'll see my dad? Is Winston Churchill here? What about Elvis? Can I get Mother Theresa's autograph? I know she's here! Do I get any credit for all the times I thought about doing good things even though I didn't follow through?" Pete clears his throat and the Stones stop singing. It gets very quiet. Very quiet.

"In general," he says, pausing, lips still motionless, "you led a pretty nice life." A sense of relief floods over you. Is it your imagination, or has it just gotten quite windy? His bathrobe is rustling and the cigar smoke is wafting furiously. He takes off his glasses and peers into your eyes, looking a bit stern. The pages in your book begin to flip madly. If you had a pulse, it would be thundering.

"But there are some issues that need to be addressed before," he pauses and takes a drag from his cigar, "before you can pass through here," and he nods to the gates. You wait for what seems like an eternity, then you think, "Wait, this is an eternity!"

The next several minutes – or maybe it's hours or days or weeks, months, or years, you're not really sure – are spent with Pete dredging up events from your past. The specifics aren't important, but the general points apply to all of us: Were you a kind person? Did you pick up trash and throw it away? Did you take the time to listen to others? Did you go out of your way to help others? How is the world better because you passed through?

The good news is that Pete is

a fair grader. He doesn't grade on the abstract or use Mother Theresa as an icon. He simply asks and ascertains if you did what you could and if you stretched to help others. (One tip for your remaining days on terra firma: the little things are the big things!)

After the questioning period, Pete smiles and nods, standing aside to let you pass. You should feel a sense of relief but you don't. By now, glorious as it is, it's not a surprise. You knew that it was coming. You walk forward and all of a sudden are embraced by music, warmth, and emotion. The Stones are still singing but they're louder (but trust me, they're only there through the magic of digital recording), and it feels all warm and comfy, womb-like. All of a sudden faces start appearing. It's your old relatives and friends, the people who departed the real world and whom you thought you'd never see again.

But wait, there's someone you love and you know this person is alive! "What gives?" you wonder, and a voice comes into your head: relax, this is all about you and for you. Suddenly you see John F. Kennedy playing tennis with Ben Franklin. And look, there's Martin Luther King, Jr. talking with Edgar Allen Poe and Eleanor Roosevelt! Babe Ruth is giving batting tips to Cleopatra. She has one mean swing. You're overwhelmed and frozen in place, when all of a sudden you hear, "Want to go for a walk?" and you see that the words were uttered by Abe Lincoln. Yes, he's wearing his hat. You begin to stroll forward and find yourself joined by Marilyn Monroe, Helen Keller, Gandhi, and someone wearing a name tag that says Plato. This is going to be fun, you think to yourself, as you begin to sip wine, eat a Hostess cupcake, and sample the Chinese food.

Next month: Option #2. What's that like???

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