

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 36 No. 4

Winter 2006

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

Wintermarkt Saturday, December 9

Wintermarkt, a local re-imagination of a traditional German festival, returns to Skinker-DeBaliviere on Saturday, December 9. The outdoor arts and crafts fair will be held from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at Greg Freeman Park at Four Corners (the intersection of Kingsbury and Des Peres Boulevard).

Guests will stroll outdoors among

booths set up by participating artists and craftsmen. Potters, glass blowers, photographers, jewelers, and many others will offer their finest wares. Neighborhood bakers will present fine food products from their ovens, both for snacking that day or for gifting further into the holiday season. Roast chestnuts, hot dogs, hot beverages and other goodies will be offered.

Musical entertainment features area choirs, a hand bell group, a capella performers from Washington University and more. Individual craftsmen will demonstrate their skills. Horse-drawn carriage rides can be purchased through the neighborhood. Come and share a creative afternoon of merriment and anticipation in the finest European

tradition.

The festivities continue no matter what the weather; if it's really cold, wear your boots and mittens and sample some spiced cider or gluhwein.

Organized by members of the West End Arts Council, the event is funded in part by grants from the Regional Arts Commission, Parker's Table wine and food shop, Kingsbury Animal Hospital, Saint Louis Gast Haus restaurant, and Washington University. Funds raised help underwrite programming for the community throughout the year. So don't miss out - get in the holiday mood. If you have questions, the website is <http://stlouis.missouri.org/skinkerdebaliviere>. You can also email wintermarkt@gmail.com



A great new addition to the Wintermarkt event is a "Wintermarkt Ball," which will be held at Bill Christman's studio, 6014 Kingsbury, adjacent to the SDCC office, Friday evening December 8. For more information, contact SDCC at 862-5122.

Loop Holiday Walk

By Debbie Murphy

The Loop is hosting our Annual Holiday Walk on December 2. VisitTheLoop.com is the web site to see all the details closer to the event date.

Some of the perennially popular activities are pictures with Santa at The Market in The Loop, pictures with Frosty the Snowman in live window display at Blueberry Hill, and the wonderful holiday lights across Delmar, window decorations, special sales, free gifts at many stores/restaurants. Food will be collected for Operation Food Search at multiple locations. The annual event is held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Most activities are free; photos with Santa available for donations of canned food items for Operation Food Search.

EVENT PHONE NUMBER: 3147278000. WEB SITE: www.VisitTheLoop.com

Holiday Open House To Thank Police, Firefighters

On Friday, December 15th, the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council will host a Holiday Open House at the Council Offices for the police and firefighters who serve our neighborhood. This 12th Annual Open House will be held from 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

We continue to need your help. Please consider contributing a dish or a dessert for the luncheon buffet. You are also urged to drop by the Council offices to meet some of the men and women who protect our neighborhood, and if you can, drop off your holiday treat for this festive occasion (food drop-off begins at 8:00 a.m.).

We are once again recruiting

volunteers from the neighborhood to serve as hosts and hostesses throughout the day, and would like to coordinate the items being contributed for the buffet.

Please call the Council office at 862-5122 to sign up as a host/hostess and/ or to let us know what you might bring. As always, thank you for your support. And best wishes for a joyous holiday season.

**Holiday Treats!
Lunch! Libations!
SDCC funded in part by
CDA and HUD**

Environmental Art Show at Regional Arts Commission

by Peggy Hermes

The work of several neighborhood artists is featured in eARTHworks: art for an endangered planet at The Gallery at the Regional Arts Commission (helmed by neighbor Jill McGuire) on Delmar. A 'recycled' painting by Barry Leibman and a repousse titled 'Walkin' the Walk' by Gene Hoefel are among the environmentally sensitive

of Kingsbury and whose parents still reside there, provided the cover image for the postcard announcement for the show. Her photo, 'Hiawatha,' will be among the work available for purchase at The Gallery.

A Gala Auction and Art Party with food donated by some of St. Louis' finest eating establishments and music by Silk Pajamas (with

former neighbor Michael Lowenstein on the sax) will be held at 7:00 on Saturday, November 18 at RAC. Jean Ponzi, host of Earthworms on KDHX, will serve as auctioneer. Party tickets are available for \$25 by calling 727-0600. In the meantime, you can visit the gallery or cruise through images of the art and information about the artists online at art.moenvirom.org.



'Hiawatha', by photographer Hilary Hitchcock.

pieces showing from October 20 through December 3rd. Additional Skinker-DeBaliviere contributors include Tim Smith, Andy Cross, Bill Christman, and Thom Sleet. Longtime former Parkview resident Sue Rothschild has crafted a wall quilt, 'Fall Leaves' expressly for the exhibit. And Pat Kohn has donated a work from the estate of the celebrated Bill Kohn. Photographer Hilary Hitchcock, who grew up on the 6100 block

All proceeds from the sale of art benefit the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, working, since 1969, to strengthen environmental protections, hold government and corporations accountable, defend the environment in court, and mobilize citizens into action. The Coalition works within three program areas: water quality, air quality/climate change, and open space.

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

As I indicated in our last issue, I have gotten very tired of racially targeted campaign literature and telephone calls. This is likely not the most effective strategy in an integrated neighborhood. I hope that our citybased campaigns begin to recognize this.

American political campaigns have been divisive from our earliest days. Federalists thought of Thomas Jefferson as the antiChrist and subsequent campaigns through the years have touched on race, ethnicity, and personal life without necessarily full regard for the truth.

I have certainly been pained to listen to the negative ads in Missouri's Senate contest. Some have been very shrill and very nasty. What is interesting to find is how far from the truth they often are as well. If you are a sitting senator, you have taken dozens of votes on various versions of bills. So you can be accused of voting x times against something even if you voted for the final version of the bill. Incumbent Jim Talent hit Claire McCaskill hard on nursing home regulation. The nurses' association rebutted the allegations. Which is true? What is misleading is the use of so-called quotes from newspapers in Missouri. The ad may say that the candidate is known for untruths and cite a paper. Yet, the paper may have actually said that opponents of the candidate said he is known for untruths. My colleague, Terry Jones, made this clear recently on a Channel 2 newscast. The best thing for any voter to do would be to ignore all negative ads. But, they work because people do not have a lot of information about any candidate and the negative ads tap emotions.

The worst possible ad I've heard of to date is one being used against Harold Ford in his quest for Tennessee's senate seat. It plays on old the old fears of miscegenation in this once Confederate state. It doesn't bother some white commentators. Incredible.

(Continued on next column)

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 Feb. - March issue: January 15, 2007.
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

Wednesday, November 1 and Wednesday, November 15. Wednesday, December 6 and Wednesday, December 20 at 6:00 p.m. Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation Meeting

November 6 and December 4, 2006. Security Committee Meeting first Monday of each Month at 6:30 p.m. at Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Office at 6008 Kingsbury.

Monday, November 13, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. Monday, December 11, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting

Saturday, November 18, 7:00. Gala Auction and Art Party at the Regional Arts Commission on Delmar to benefit the Missouri Coalition for the Environment. \$25 Tickets available by calling 727-0600.

Tuesday, November 28. Focus St. Louis Community Concerns Forum: Fuel for Thought When Gas is \$3 a Gallon. Perspectives on alternative energy sources for powering automobiles... the pros and cons. This free event, offered in partnership with Metropolis St. Louis and League of Women Voters St. Louis, will be held from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. at the Schlafly Branch Library, 225 N Euclid. Park for \$1 an hour in the adjacent garage. RSVP to Debra White at 3146221250 x101 or debraw@focusstl.org.

Friday, December 8, 2006. WinterMarkt Ball at Bill Christman 6014 Kingsbury at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each.

Saturday, December 9, 2006. WinterMarkt at Four Corner Park from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Friday, December 15, 2006. Holiday Open House Police Luncheon at Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Office at 6008 Kingsbury, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

THE TIMES NEEDS YOU

Inside this issue you'll find a fund-raising envelope for our own special cause, **THE TIMES OF SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE**. This all-volunteer newspaper has been published continuously for over 36 years -- it's the "oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis."

Did you know that all our writing and all our distribution of nearly 3,000 newspapers is done by volunteers? Our shoestring budget is managed well by Business Manager Lois Schoemehl, but advertising doesn't quite cover our expenses for layout and printing. If you agree that communication among neighborhood residents is crucial to having a successful place to live and raise our families, please put a little something in the envelope for your own neighborhood newspaper this holiday season. And, if you'd like to volunteer, we'll be happy to have your writing, your photos, help with delivery or decision-making. Happy Holidays!

(Continued from previous column)

I wish that I could wave a magic wand and get rid of the politics of dread and fear. We saw a little of it before the August primary. Now it's everywhere. The British do it better. They limit their parliamentary campaigns to six weeks and show no ads for three days prior to election day. We should look for a more sensible way to do things here.

- FROM OUR READERS -

A longtime resident on 61xx Westminster wrote us complaining about dumpster decorum. She noted that people weren't breaking down boxes before throwing them in a dumpster, seriously diminishing space available to all neighbors. Nobody seemed to be picking up litter in the alley.

This note resonated with me. Trash disposal can be a problem when not everyone cooperates. But, it is even worse when outsiders use our alleys as their dumping ground. Recently, someone working on a rehab job packed our dumpsters with plaster, wood, and all kinds of other materials. I was afraid the sanitation crew would be unable to empty them but, luckily, that fear was warrantless. We also got a bunch of furniture dumped in the alley the day after bulk pickup! We lived with that for a month. I had read that sanitation was going to place cameras in locations where dumping is frequent. Please, please come to my block!

So, trash decorum is always needed and let's get those feckless outsiders who dump in our dumpsters and in our alleys! This newspaper will be happy to publicize anyone who successfully catches a dumper!

News of Neighbors

By Jo Ann Vatcha

The holidays are inching closer, and I hope everyone is enjoying the prelude, including our glorious-as-usual neighborhood Halloween celebration. Thanks to **Art Santen** for his wonderful organizing and to our judges and photographer, **King Schoenfeld**, who braves the St. Roch gymnasium every year to capture a photo of the winners.

Our hearty congratulations to the parents-to-be on the 5900 block of DeGiverville, which is experiencing a baby boom. Three resident couples, **Sara Howard**

and **Tony Wyche, April and Rob Fulstone, and Maggie and Matt Peters**, are expecting babies in the spring. And if you're counting, that's not three babies, but four. The Fulstones are expecting twins. That gives us 4 more Halloweeners next year!

6100 Kingsbury residents **Roy Bell and Pat McLafferty** are happy to announce the marriage of one of their two lovely daughters. **Maureen** was married at St. Roch's to **Paul Werner**. Maureen works as an academic advisor at Southern Illinois University

Edwardsville, while Paul works at DeSales Community Housing Corporation, which, like our own Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, has been working to preserve a historic neighborhood for more than 30 years. Maureen and Paul are dedicated city dwellers, and like Pat and Roy, are renovating a house for themselves. This is in the McKinley Hts. Neighborhood. Dad was hard at work replumbing their new abode to be ready when they returned from their honeymoon!

Margaret Hermes, Author

Margaret Hermes, of the 6100 block of Kingsbury, boasts a string of recent fiction publications. Her story "Transubstantiation" was selected for the anthology *20 Over 40*, just published by the University Press of Mississippi, in which twenty seasoned authors explore the perils and satisfactions of midlife. The collection was inspired by *20 Under 30* published



in 1986 to wide acclaim, and a handful of those wunderkind, now unabashedly middle-aged, reappear in this new publication. Margaret, or Peggy as she's known in the 'hood,' finds herself in good company among such eminent literary lights as Antonya Nelson, Frederick Barthelme, Robin Hemley, and Gish Jen.

She's also pleased by the appearance in October of her story "Two Marias" in *New Millennium Writings 2006-07* and points out that this particular story was written to celebrate her classmates at Catholic schools from kindergarten through university. "The title character is a composite of the spirited girls I knew who have grown, appropriately, into uppity women."

Currently, she is a quarterfinalist in The St. Louis Short Story Competition, a national contest sponsored by a group of unnamed St. Louis authors offering the largest prize, \$5,000, of any short story contest in the country. The winner-take-all finalist will be announced in December.

Peggy is spending a good deal of her time on other pursuits. She is a steering committee member of Citizens to Protect Forest Park and is working to amend the St. Louis City Charter by an initiative petition whose purpose is to prevent development on city parkland without voter approval. She is also hard at work on eARTHworks, the gallery show and sale of fine art at RAC by 59 regional artists to benefit the Missouri Coalition for the Environment.

Redesigning the Wall

During the community input phase of the MetroLink extension, when it became clear that the Caitlin Tract wall had to be leveled for the construction of the new Metro tracks along the Forest Park Parkway, neighbors asked that a new wall be built exactly like the old one. Metro agreed, but, instead of oval openings, planned the new wall to be more solid with recessed oval niches of the same size and shape. When the new sections of walls were fabricated and installed, the niches faced the Caitlin Tract. This left the blank side of the wall facing the remainder of the neighborhood and all the traffic passing by. It also left the neighbors on both sides of the wall upset and left Metro with a problem.

As Metro and neighborhood residents began to look for possible solutions, Andy Cross approached SDCC president Dan Schesch with a possible idea. Andy also spoke to neighbor Jill McGuire, director of Regional Arts Commission, and with Alderman Lyda Krewson. All liked the idea and told Andy to pursue it. Lyda convinced Metro to meet with Andy, and they liked his proposal, but OSHA safety regulations would not allow a scaffold on this kind of construction site.

The tracks and high-power high-tension electrical lines, among other issues, meant the wall could only be addressed with a boom truck, a vehicle with a telescoping basket, to be situated on the opposite side of the wall. This allowed installers to reach around from solid ground and be suspended over the worksite.

David Allen, director of Metro Arts in Transit, introduced Andy to Tai Tessonner and Carl Harris of Artistic Concrete, a team which designs forms, color and mold concrete with an artistic flair. Many ideas were formed and reshaped in this collaborative effort. Tai and Carl spent weeks addressing the complicated engineering challenges and creating and fabricating a design which could be permanently installed onto the concrete with the special concerns which this construction site presented. Arts in Transit and Artistic Concrete wanted to use Andy's artistic designs because they wanted to give the neighborhood something special designed by one of its own residents. Andy wanted to see this project as a gesture of cooperation between Metro and SD to help soothe the growing pains of construction, and to give his neighbors something unique they could own, unlike anything else along the Metro lines.

By the time Andy presented the final design at a SDDC council meeting, it was completely different from his original idea, which was a painted design. Tai and Carl found and solved many difficult challenges, and Metro's David Allen made sure the installation would actually happen and be a high caliber installation of solid materials.

The result is quarter inch aluminum panels, with profile images cut by a water-jet (similar to a laser-cut), sandblasted, and installed one inch away from the surface of the wall.

The images are three trees, tree trellises, and about five sets of branches and vines. These silhouettes were made to be paired up, reversed, and spaced together or apart to create a variety of scenes. The leaves on the trees are different enough to look like different kinds of trees, but



similar enough to be mixed with the various tree trunks and branches.

An important part of the design is the spacing of the trees and trellises. When traffic rolling by at 40 mph, viewers will see groupings or islands of trees. When traffic is slow, viewers can enjoy the details of the images. The trellises are designed to reflect the Arts and Crafts/Mission style influences found on many of the houses and buildings in the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood.

The artwork is meant to be subtle and peaceful. The soft colors of the sandblasted aluminum is intentionally close to the color of the wall. The look is similar to bas-relief. The outlines of the silhouettes are visible due to the 1 inch gap between the wall and the suspended aluminum, so the artwork reads well with daytime lighting, as well as streetlight illumination. The aluminum will last indefinitely. Andy hopes the neighbors of Skinker-DeBaliviere enjoy the artwork more than the 2,800 oval niches that could have been there.



Alanson Building Under Construction

By Gary Boehnke

Project financing for the Alanson Building closed on July 31, 2006 and construction started the next week. The Alanson is a historic three story building at 5888 Delmar at Hamilton (formerly Fred's Liquor). There are eight residential units and four commercial units; totaling 15,000 sq. ft.

Alanson Building LP is the developer, which is a partnership of National City Bank CDC, 7171 Delmar LLC (development arm of St. Louis Design Alliance) and Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation. S.D.C.H.C. acquired the property October of 2004 and has been working with CPDC (Community Program Development Corporation) as project consultants to put together the financing package; consisting of tax exempt bonds, historic Federal and State tax credits and Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits.

Jennifer Olmstead, SDCHC Board and Project Team member, said, "The Housing Corp brought the building, which was a problem property, to encourage the redevelopment of the 5900 & 5800 Blocks of Delmar. A lot has changed on the 5800 Block and at the intersection of Hamilton and Delmar since we acquired the building. I believe this is in part due to the Housing Corp taking the first step and saying they would do a rehab of the Alanson building".

Total project cost is \$3,227,000.



Financing consists of tax credit equity from National City Bank CDC, construction and permanent loans from Enterprise Bank, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation, and from City of St. Louis Affordable Housing Commission.

R. G. Ross Construction is the General Contractor and has been with the redevelopment team from the beginning. They finished the two story building at the other end of block earlier this spring, belonging to John Mathews, at Laurel and Delmar.

Jeff Mugg of 7171 Delmar LLC said, "Dave (Mastin) and I are very pleased to be a part of the development team.† We were excited to be able to bring the lender to the project and add what we could from our experience.

"We are confident that the redevelopment of the Alanson will be of real benefit to the community

and to those of us working to make the Loop East an exciting place to be."

7171 Delmar LLC was the developer and is the owner of the building at 5860-72 Delmar. St. Louis Design Alliance was the architect on John Mathews building at 5850 Delmar. Jeff and Dave are very much a part of the community with their architectural office in the

renovated A&P grocery store, at 6014 Delmar and various other projects that they have on and to the north of Delmar.

Charrette Community Management will be managing the residential units. Call 371-0033 for details on the large two-bedroom, two-bath, affordable units, with historic features, wood floors, ceramic tile in baths and laundry areas. Rents will be \$700 and \$680 for income-qualified tenants. Commercial space will be managed by SDCHC and range in the \$16 to \$18 per square foot. For information on commercial leases, contact Gary Boehnke at 862-5122. The building will be ready for occupancy June of 2007.



Bridges Across Racial Polarization

By Dan Schesch

Bridges Across Racial Polarization was designed to facilitate interracial communication and understanding, and create opportunities for friendships. Bridges was created in 1993 by the late Greg Freeman and myself. It has been sponsored since 1994 by Focus St. Louis. If you are interested in participating in a Bridges group, please fill out the form on the Bridges/Focus web site, or call Focus and ask them to mail one to you (contact info at bottom). Focus will assign people to the new Bridges groups which are formed. Your participation (or not), will not be shared with the SDCC. There are two options: some may want to be in a group made up of SkinkerDeBaliviere residents,

others in a group with people anywhere in the St. Louis area. Please express that preference to Focus when you apply.

Greg Freeman, the late Post-Dispatch columnist, and his family were longtime neighborhood residents, and he was a SDCC member and vice president. Because Bridges is especially relevant for our highly diverse neighborhood, after I became SDCC president in 2000, we'd discussed bringing it to your attention. But other things intervened, and Greg died, far too young, in 2002.

We observed that even in SkinkerDeBaliviere, where most residents made a conscious decision to live in a diverse neighborhood, some residents' social circles are racially diverse, and others' homogenous. But Bridges is NOT being suggested as something we think you "ought to" do. Bridges is voluntary; intended for people who independently decide they'd like to have more diversity in their social circles. Since it is sometimes hard to reach out to people if you don't know they will be receptive,

Bridges connects those, who by signing up, have indicated their interest in adding to the diversity of

their networks and/or friendships.

Groups of 1014 people, balanced among black and white participants (some are Hispanic and Asian American) get together for about 3 hours in their homes every couple of months for potluck dinners. Groups spend: part of the time socializing, talking about themselves, their families, careers, etc., and in listening to others, usually discover the many things we have in common, and part of the time talking about something they decided to read or share together which touches on race relations, an article, book, movie, play, etc.. The crucial component is to talk about these shared experiences, not abstractly or about 'other people' involved in current events, but in terms of how these things relate to our own experiences and feelings.

Since 1993, about 700 people in the St. Louis area have participated in Bridges groups, and over 300 are currently in 29 groups, including a few from SkinkerDeBaliviere who heard about it via Focus. Some groups go on for many years, including two original pilot groups from 1993 (we've become friends). Others do not last past the initial year's commitment made when

signing up, though many of those participants ask to be assigned to another Bridges group. Note: Bridges is not the only way, there are other approaches to interracial conversation, such as those of the NCCJ.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or write me, and/or Reggie Williams, the director of the Bridges project at Focus.

If this leads some in SkinkerDeBaliviere to decide to try Bridges, it will fulfill a dream of Greg and myself for our community. If you do try Bridges, at some point in the future I would appreciate your feedback.

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Kohn Exhibit in November and December

by Lana Stein

I am certainly one of many neighbors who remembers Bill Kohn fondly. He was a premiere artist in our midst and part of the enclave that gives our neighborhood such a special feel.



experience, using theatrical lighting and projections of photographs, digitally modified images and video, produced and developed by photographer Dale Dufer.

He has been gone two years now but has left a strong personal and professional legacy.

The **Bruno David Gallery** at 3721 Washington will be exhibiting some of Kohn's work from November 17 to December 18. The opening, **Grand Eloquence**, on November 17 will be a multimedia

Those who remember Kohn's studies of the Grand Canyon, Paris bridges, Macchu Piccu, or India will certainly enjoy this retrospective. A work of Kohn's is also to be found amidst the exhibition of local artwork now at the Regional Arts Commission, which includes oeuvre of Andy Cross and Bill Christman.



Another Important Ally for Delmar: Gary Filmore

By Lana Stein

Delmar business owners and Commercial Committee members know Gary Filmore. His ready smile and shining pate grace many meetings about the continuing redevelopment of our significant arterial. Filmore is a Commercial District Manager. He assumed this position in April of 2000. Throughout his more than six year tenure, he has worked with the 26th and 28th wards and thus Delmar from city limits to DeBaliviere and beyond.



When Filmore first assumed the position, he got many calls from people asking him to make property owners sell to them. A number of owners in this then emerging area wanted to hold out for maximum profit. He has seen a nice transition in which people have come together to make things work. In

both the 26th and 28th wards, he works with the commercial facade program. This program provides some matching funds to enhance the appearance of commercial buildings. He helps businesses

with the sign ordinance. He is, in effect, the liaison between city hall and neighborhood business.

Currently, Filmore is also working with the 22nd and 4th wards as well. He would like to see some neighborhood organizing in the 22nd similar to what we have done with Delmar. He would like to see a vision willing to work to implement that vision. Just as we did, he would like to see standards established and supported.

Filmore mentioned that Alderman Frank Williamson (D26) will hold a meeting for the Delmar business owners in the 26th ward on November 9 at 6:00 pm at Marion's Ribs.

Gary is married to the former Thomasine Tomlin, who also worked at St. Louis Development Corporation. They live in the Bevo Neighborhood, where Gary has served as chair of Bevo Day, among his many other activities.

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Photo by King Schoenfeld

Winners at the annual Halloween Party at St. Roch's were (from left), Mary Rader as Wednesday Addams, Cora Truscott as the Good witch, Charles and Elia Barker, Kangaroos, Francesca Griffero, Ben Shaver and Sarah Jane Cross as Dragon. One additional winner was Emily Johnson as a small witch (not shown). Thanks to all who helped make this annual party a success.

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Able Moves to Delmar

By Norbert Hart

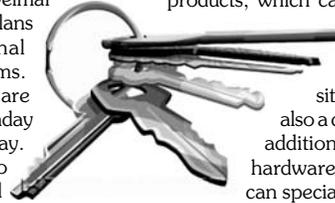
A-Able Lock & Hardware 5916 Delmar 367-3500

Jerry & Dawn Hunt have moved a neighborhood staple and brought back the hardware end of the operation. Able is now on Delmar with growing plans for additional hardware items. Store hours are 7:30 - 5, Monday through Saturday.

In addition to the traditional lock services, which include re-key services

for home and auto, and keys, the hardware end offers services as screen repair, glass cutting, and door installation and sales among others.

Able is a distributor for the 'Hardware House' line of products, which can be viewed from the Hardware House web site. They are



also a distributor for additional common hardware lines, and can special order many products not in stock.

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Casual Worship in Chapel, 8:30 a.m.
Contemporary Praise Celebration, 9:30
Classes for all ages, 9:30
Classic Worship in Sanctuary, 11:00
Childcare available, 8:15-12:15
Youth Group, 4:00 p.m.

2 short blocks north of Skinker Metro Station
Parking lot 1/2 block north of church

(314) 863-1992 www.graceumc-stl.org



SDCC BOARD MEETING SEPT. 11, 2006 ATTENDANCE:

Board Members Present: Cheryl Adelstein, Georgi Fox, Ronie Hallburton, Rev. Mary Harvey, Paul Hohmann, Gwendolyn La Zard, Liz Johnson, Daniel Koff, Bob Mahon, Kate Nash, Shirley Polk, Dan Schesch, Katrina Stierholz, Arline Webb
Staff Present: Darcell Bralock-SDCC, Gary Boehnke-SDCHC
Alderspersion: Lyda Krewson
Neighborhood Stabilization Officer: Chris Howard

Police Department: Sgt. John Russo- SLPD
Other Guest/Visitors: Norb Hart, Brenda Davis, Lisa Fraser, Aurora Steinle, Irving Clay, Richard Blum, Michael Taylor, Chuck Carpenter, Andrew Cross
Board Members Absent:

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
Meeting called to order by President Schesch at 7:05 pm

President Schesch welcomed all in attendance

Attendees introduced themselves and the areas they were representing
PULASKI BANK PRESENTATION

Chuck Carpenter, Senior Vice President, with Pulaski Bank gave a brief history of the bank, and reaffirmed their commitment to the neighborhood. Michael Taylor- AVP- Bank Manager explained the merger between Central West End Bank and Pulaski, and passed out packets explaining the services offered by Pulaski. Richard Blum- Vice President/Senior Loan Officer explained residential, commercial and retail loan services. After the presentation, there was a brief question and answer session.

MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve minutes with corrections from June 12, 2006. The motion passed. The correction was to change the date of the minutes on pages 2 thru 5 from May 8, 2006 to June 12, 2006.

FINANCIAL REPORT- Bob Mahon Reported

Improvements will be made on format of financial spreadsheet in the near future. Discussion about a major annual fundraiser was proposed.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Financial Report. The motion passed.

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Volunteer Registration Card

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Work/Cell _____ Other _____

E-Mail _____

I am interested in working with the following committees:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Security |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic District Review |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Night Out | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Police/Firefighter Appreciation Luncheon | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Service Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance Committee | |

Other interests I have and/or skills I can share:

Question or Comments?

Please return completed questionnaire to SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury 63112 or call 862-5122.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Hello to the residents and friends of the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood:

First let me say, I am really excited to be a part of your community!

Thank you for the courtesy and interest you have showed to me and the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. It has been wonderful for me to meet with you at your homes, businesses and the SDCC office and hear your thoughts about our community.

I want to thank you for your generous support and tell you about some of the developments in the neighborhood.

We are in the process of revitalizing SDCC Committees. Committee chairs have been actively communicating with me regarding ways to enhance their efforts to better serve the neighborhood.

The SDCC is progressively more visible in the area and actively working with DeBaliviere Place Association, the Commercial District, 7th District Police Department and developers.

We welcome our new neighbor Pulaski Bank who has been partnering with the SDCC office



on several community projects.

Thank you to the neighborhood churches and schools for coming together and helping develop the summer concert, and planning future events as Youth Unite Productions for youth in our neighborhood ages 11-18 years old.

Washington University has been increasingly helpful to the SDCC office with student volunteers and interns to help automate and reorganize the office. Special thanks to Steve Hoffner and Cheryl Adelstein for their time, expertise and support.

Elections are coming up and we will soon have new Executive Committee members and a few new

board members. We thank past and current SDCC board members for their continuous dedication and support of the community and SDCC office.

To those of you who have volunteered your time to cook and serve food during events, renovating the SDCC office, cashier, work through the evening and weekend hours and share your energy and creative ideas, THANK YOU! It is people like you who truly make the Skinker DeBaliviere Community a better place to live.

The holiday days are upon us and I wish everyone a safe, peaceful and prosperous new year.

Please remember to call my office with your concerns, questions and ideas.

Best regards,

Darcell Braylock, Executive Director, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council

(314) 862-5122 Office

(314) 862-5133 Fax

Email: dbraylocksdcc@sbcglobal.net

Office Email: skinkerd@stlouis.missouri.org

I love Skinker DeBaliviere! I was raised in this neighborhood and now my husband and I are raising our children here, too! Call for all your real estate needs. Friendly, reliable service.

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ALDERMANIC REPORT

Alderman Krewson reported that a list of operating items for Metro will be out in the next several weeks.

Some of the concerns were read:

Des Peres Avenue street block

Shape of Forest park Parkway as a whole

Triangular lot east of Pershing

ADA accessible ramps configuration

Pedestrian crossing at Lindell & Des Peres

and De Baliviere & Forest Park Parkway

There was a discussion about the traffic light at Skinker & Waterman. The Yellow Cab site is down. Delmar Blvd. is being paved in all of the 28th ward and portions of the 26th ward. Questions were answered.

SECURITY UPDATE- Sgt. John Russo Reported

Crime statistics for the last month were given

Sixteen (16) auto thefts in the last Thirty (30) days

Two (2) hold-ups and Eleven (11) burglaries

The legality of panhandling was discussed. Questions were answered

NSO REPORT- Chris Howard

NSO Chris Howard reported that anti theft clubs for automotive vehicles are available.

Tree clean up from the July windstorm was discussed. The parking problem in the 6000 block of Pershing was discussed.

RESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE

Executive Director Braylock reported that the Residential Committee has requested that residents of the area notify the council office if there are vacant houses on their block. She will get more information on this request.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Andy Cross reported about the problem with keeping growth alive in the McPherson Avenue Community Garden.

Executive Director Braylock was commended for her coordination of National Night Out.

The pesticide drop to combat the West Nile Virus will take place again in September. Ideas are requested for fundraiser campaign.

HOUSING CORP- Gary Boehnke

The main announcement is the finance packaging for the Alanson building. Construction started in August. The remainder of the report is in the Project Report included with the minute's package.

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES REPORT

Shirley Polk reported on the success of the annual neighborhood picnic.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

Vice President Liz Johnson announced that the first Teen Fair will be held at Grace Methodist on September 23, 2006 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

WEST END ARTS COUNCIL

No Report. Cheryl Adelstein expressed

Washington University's appreciation for the participation of the Arts Council youth in the Metro Link Grand Opening Day Ceremony

GREENWAYS COMMITTEE

No Report

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The committee is inactive. President Dan Schesch reported that accounting interns from Washington University and Harris-Stowe University are assisting with updating the accounting procedures.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The committee is being reactivated. Issues will be address regarding Metro concerns.

COMMERCIAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Executive Director Braylock reported that the Lifestyles Café has been purchased and the owner has applied for a license/permit to stay open until 3:00 am.

ROSDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Katrina Stierholz reported that the association voted on two (2) new representatives to the SDCC board, will replace the two new RNA officers Lara Lennon-Doyle and Jeff Nathan. The new Representatives are: Kate Nash - At Large and Dan Koff - Waterman/ Pershing.

Rags to Riches had a good day. The profit was about \$1,000.00, which will be split between the Rosedale Association and SDCC. Gratitude was expressed to the volunteers. Ideas are being solicited for future improvements.

Money for playground maintenance has been moved from Heartland Bank to Pulaski Bank. A motion was made, seconded and approved to make the transfer official.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Personnel Policy is being addressed

Maggie Hart-Mahon is working on changes to By-Laws, and will bring recommendation to the Executive Committee.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Organizing Security meeting scheduled for September 13, 2006 at the Regional Arts Center.

Organizing Des Peres Dog Park neighborhood scheduled for September 19, 2006 at SDCC.

Working on improving office.

Interns from Harris- Stowe University working on automating financial program.

Six (6) students from Washington University will be trying to identify the needs of the community.

They will conduct surveys, personal interviews etc.

OTHER BUSINESS

Former Alderman Irving Clay spoke on the IOUR PARK IS NOT FOR SALE! campaign drive. A petition is being circulated in support of this campaign.

Alderman Williamson has been approached

with reference to building town houses at Lucier Park.

Off street parking in the 6100 block of Pershing was discussed.

The Skinker DeBaliviere web site ownership was brought up, however President Schesch

said the topic needs more discussion with the technical committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned to an Executive Committee meeting at 9:00 pm

Welcome to McPherson Place!

Yes, beautiful new construction is available in the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood!

The 5700 block of McPherson is home to a new community with a mixture of quality new and renovated homes, blending historical and contemporary. Starting at \$339,900.

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IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

I'm a sports fan, and I'm worried. Have you noticed how the stands are rarely filled at any major league stadium unless it's a playoff game? Have you been to a Rams game and been deafened by the music that they feel they need to play to keep fans occupied? Have you seen the Cardinals new scoreboard that offers games and features to keep your attention?

Yes, dear reader, it's true. The American passion for sports is dwindling. Oh, it's true that attendance is higher, but that's just because there are more people living in our country (not even counting the illegal aliens!). If you look at attendance as a percentage of population, it's pretty clear. Professional sports are in the decline.

During the depression, many gained solace from the exploits of Joe Dempsey and Babe Ruth. Stan the Man inspired us during WW II, and we all followed the exploits and courage of Muhammad Ali during the Viet Nam era. That's changed, though. Who are today's heroes? We know too much about today's

athletes, and what we know isn't usually very flattering. As Paul Simon sang, "Where have you gone, Michael Jordan?" The result? Today you can buy a ticket for any game at far less than face value just by wandering down a half-hour before it's supposed to begin. Clubs use incentives to get people to attend; the game is no longer enough. (This isn't true for cult sports like the Chicago Cubs or women's roller derby, but that's a column for another time.)

This demise shouldn't be surprising when you consider the other changes that have taken place in the past score of years. Remember, 20 years ago, no one had e-mail, cable television was in its infancy, the Sony Walkman was high tech, cell phones were only used by inmates, laptop computers were just on Star-Trek, and a Blackberry was a tiny fruit. What this means is that there are more and more and more toys to occupy our time. Further, why even go to a ball game? It's probably on the tube where the picture is closer and clearer, the replays are infinite, and the beer is much, much cheaper.

Should this worry us? In a word: Of course. Sports are America's glue and sporting events keep the glue sticky and firm. There's something to be said about

giving a high-five to a stranger. Thousands cheering Albert Pujols, Kurt Warner, or Brett Hull brings a community together. It surely brings it together more than does a political convention, the opening of a Wal-Mart, or a new Tom Cruise movie.

But you can relax, dear reader! Protecting the welfare of the community, Hawkeye offers three recommendations for each major sport that are guaranteed to fill the seats. Sure, some rules have to change, but why should sport be different than any other sector of society? From women voting, to gay and lesbian unions being recognized (which will only gain momentum), to wearing seatbelts and smoking diminishing, laws and mores evolve and change. Oh yeah, don't forget the designated hitter.

The solutions are apparent. Changing the rules is easy when you remember that in every sport, it's offense that is exciting. Sportswriters love to cover 2-1 and 1-0 games, but they put everyone else to sleep. How else can you explain the consistent unpopularity of soccer? Purist that I am, it pains me to make these recommendations. However, the community good is what I seek!

Football

On punt returns, the defending team can only have seven players on the field versus the eleven of the offense. Think of the implications of this one! Punts being returned for a touchdown would be almost common. Scores would easily go into the 50's and virtually no one would punt.

One defensive player has to play without a helmet on every third down. The offense would know who it is, and the question is whether they call a play to take advantage of it. Invariably this would be a crowd favorite: more blood!

Narrow the goal posts. Why should a foot be so important in football anyway?

Baseball

Move the mound farther back from the present 60 feet and 6 inches, to, say, 80 feet. Games would be more like batting practice. The 13 run pool would be obsolete, to be replaced by the 30 run rule. Fans would have to wear batting helmets in the outfield seats.

Once the mound is moved, teams will score way more runs and games will take

way too long. So let's also reduce the number of innings to seven. And we'll put a 50 run rule in effect: If one team is ahead by 50 runs, the game is called.

Use the freeze. Each defensive player - not counting the pitcher and catcher and first baseman - has a red bulb on top of his hat. As each pitch is delivered, a random number cruncher identifies one of the remaining six players, and when this happens the light flashes and a buzz goes off in the player's ear. This means that he cannot take more than one step to field a ball that has been hit. Think about the excitement that would be caused by this one! On most hits it wouldn't matter, but every once in a while the player would be frozen while the ball rolled right past him and the batter zipped around the bases. The crowd would roar as nearby players would have to run over to get the ball.

Hockey

Take away the goalies' masks. What wimps!

Make the ice uneven. I don't suggest big mounds, but creating small speed bumps that make skating far more "interesting."

Have two pucks in play simultaneously. One team might be in possession of both pucks, attacking the same goal, or each team might be attacking the other goal at the same time.

Basketball

Remove the backboard and place the rim ten feet closer to midcourt. Players could shoot at the rim-less basket from 360 degrees. With no backboard, the rebounds would go in every direction. This would negate the impact of height and result in more small-players (six foot!) playing and a faster game.

Add a four point shot. Yep, place a four point line five feet beyond the three point line.

Add a one point shot. Within five feet, baskets only count for one point. I mean, how hard is it to dunk?

OK, ESPN regulars, what do you think? Get over tradition; Mickey Mantle is long gone and so is Mia Hamm. I guarantee that these rule changes will fill the seats. Sure, there will be some complaints but people will always complain. I mean, some people didn't like Snakes On A Plane. Go figure!

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