

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 36 No. 5

Feb. - March 2007

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

The Big Read

Washington University, in partnership with the cities of St. Louis, Clayton and University City, three library districts, three school districts, arts and literacy organizations and KTVI-Fox 2 St. Louis, is producing a multi-disciplinary program called *The Big Read* in February 2007.

Modeled on successful "city read" programs, The Big Read is a national effort designed to encourage literary reading by helping communities come together to read and discuss a single book. The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment of the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest. In St. Louis, we will be reading Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*.

According to David Lawton, professor and chair of the Department of English in Arts & Sciences at Washington University, "Fahrenheit 451 is a fine novel in its own right, and it also raises many important questions about the power of books and reading."

Programs will focus on censorship will examine the role of the book, the printed word and literacy as essential ingredients in the development of citizens who are engaged in their communities and in the pursuit of learning."

Lectures, readings, art exhibitions, theater productions, book discussion

groups and film festivals are occurring on the Washington University campus and in a variety of locations throughout St. Louis. A full calendar of events can be viewed online at bigread.wustl.edu and is also available from the Skinker DeBaliviere Council office.

Many unique events have been planned, including a fondue lunch and book discussion at The Melting Pot on Feb. 8 and 22 at noon, a book discussion and museum tour at the Kemper Art Museum on Feb. 11 and 18 at 2:00 p.m., staged readings from *Fahrenheit 451* at the Kemper Museum on Feb. 16 at 6:30 p.m. and a film festival featuring banned-booked titles at the University City Library. The film adaptation of *Fahrenheit 451* will be featured on Friday, February 2 at 7 p.m. in the University City Library auditorium.

The University City Library is also hosting lectures on the Future of the Book, featuring Washington University Professor Steven Zwicker (Feb. 7 at 7:00 p.m.) and on



Privacy and Technology featuring Washington University instructors Denise Lieberman and Scott Granneman.

In addition, there are family programs hosted by COCA and the Missouri History Museum as well as a Fire and Ice Skating and bookmaking event at the Steinberg Ice Skating Rink on Feb. 25 from 4 - 7 p.m.

You can find a copy

of *Fahrenheit 451*, as well as a reader's guide, at the Charing Cross Branch of the St. Louis Public Library, at the University City Library or for purchase at the Washington University Campus bookstore, Barnes and Noble (Ladue Crossing and Washington University Medical School), Left Bank Books and Subterranean Books.

For more information on The Big Read, call 314-935-4407 or view the website at bigread.wustl.edu.

Once again, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Brings You Operation Brightside BLITZ DAY Saturday, March 31, 2007

Help cleanup your neighborhood!

The Beautification Committee of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council needs YOU to join your neighbors for this big clean-up day.

After making the neighborhood shine, join us from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. for free hot-dogs & soda Greg Freeman Park at Four Corner Park (Kingsbury & DesPeres).

And then next month: **Neighborhood Greening - Saturday, May 5, 2007** Greg Freeman Park at Four Corners and all around the neighborhood. Available FREE at your Four Corner Park on Saturday, May 5, 2007

- woodchip mulch (for garden beds and trees, etc.)
- grass seed packets for small bare spot in lawns
- sign up to water flowers at Greg Freeman Park at Four Corners
- hot dogs and soda from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.
- Block Captains flower orders to be picked up

Question? Call Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council at 862-5122. SDCC is funded in part by a grant from CDA and HUD.

7th District Police Community Partnership Luncheon February 22



Left to Right: Host Joe Edwards at the 2006 7th District Police Luncheon with Police Officer Matt Greco, shown here with his mother and Chief Joe Mokwa.

Officer Greco was injured in the line of duty and has not been able to return to work. The 7th District Police Community Partnership will hold its second annual Officer of the Month and Officer of the Year Luncheon on Thursday, February 22, at noon, at the Pageant, 6161 Delmar. Tickets are \$15 and include a hot buffet lunch. A table for 10 may be purchased for \$150. For tickets, Contact PO Tim Kehm @ (314) 444-0047 or tlkehm@slmpd.org, or contact Mark Jaffee, who notes that this event is nearly sold out, so act soon to participate.

Love in the Loop

By Debbie Murphy

Celebrate love in The Loop. Enjoy a romantic dinner for two. Shop together for that unique gift. Participating Loop restaurants are offering Valentine's Day specials. Couples with reservations will receive a red rose with their meal. The Tivoli Theatre is offering discounted tickets for Valentine's Day shows to couples dining in the Loop.

Restaurants participating in Love in The Loop include: Blueberry Hill, 727-4444; Chinese Noodle Cafe, 725-9889; Cicero's, 862-0009; Riddle's Penultimate Cafe, 725-6985; and St. Louis Pizza Haus, 862-4287.

The following shops are offering a 10% discount on select merchandise to Valentine's Day

customers: Bloom's in The Loop, 725-8080; Candy Bouquet, 863-2263; Componere Gallery, 721-1181; Diversity Gallery, 721-3361; Intaglia Home Collection, 726-5440; Subterranean Books, 862-6100.

Blueberry Hill, Blooms in The Loop, Candy Bouquet, Componere Gallery, Diversity Gallery, and The Market in The Loop are participating in the Love in the Loop Window Decorating Contest.

Love, eat, shop and love some more in the Loop for Valentine's Day. For more information, or to request a free Loop brochure listing more than 120 specialty shops, eclectic restaurants, galleries and more, call 314 727-8000.

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.

Sometimes it seems as if there are 2 neighborhoods in the area bounded by Skinker and DeBaliviere. The reasons are historic but perhaps no longer relevant. In the 1960s, even before the SDCC came into being, there was a Rosedale Neighbors west of Des Peres and a Washington Heights organization east of Des Peres. In the early 1980s, Washington Heights withdrew from the SDCC in a dispute over the redevelopment of Nina Place. Rosedale continued to function. Atlarge members were later added to the council to give Washington Heights some representation. In 1991, Kingsbury Square, Nina Place, and 585900 De Giverville became members. Rosedale picked representatives from 2 block areas and elected its own president. These officers became SDCC members.

Since 2001, Nina Place has not sent a representative. Large sections of Washington Heights are not represented. Rosedale sponsors activities. Why not the SDCC? The SDCC is undertaking work on its bylaws. Perhaps this is the time to establish the same representation formula for the whole neighborhood. Let's get everyone involved and also make sure that there are viable block units everywhere to increase security and conduit information.

The neighborhood has been changing everywhere. Old timers have left. Young couples with kids have arrived. We are still very diverse. Let's recognize our communality by having one neighborhood that everyone is a part of. I may feel this more strongly because I've always lived in Washington Heights. But, I have seen the 2 neighborhoods dichotomy in action. What do you think? Write us at the Times or call the SDCC, 862-5122.

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 April-May issue: March 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

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Monthly meetings – 2nd Monday of the month. 2007: February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14 SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury (Kingsbury @ Des Peres), 7:00pm.

Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation (SDCHC) – 2007: Wednesday - February 7, February 21, March 7, March 21, SDCHC Meetings, 6:00 p.m., at the SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury.

"LOVE IN THE LOOP" – Saturday, February 14, 2007. Participating restaurants and retail shops offer specials for your special someone. For more information, see the article in this issue, or call 727-8000.

"St. Roch Event" – March 4-8. St. Roch Parish Mission and Stewardship Program presented by the Redemptorist, Father Ricky Potts. The theme is "Blessings."

"BLITZ DAY" – 26th Annual Operation Brightside Project Blitz Saturday, March 31, 2007. Joins us and help clean up your neighborhood! For more information, call SDCC, 862-5122.

"Planting Day" – 11th Annual. Saturday, May 5, 2007 – Wood Chips and Plants for public areas from Operation Brightside available.

"BREAKFAST GARDEN TOUR" – 9th Annual Saturday, June 2, 2007 for more information call SDCC, 862-5122.

CONTRIBUTIONS REACH RECORD LEVEL

2006 year-end contributions to your neighborhood newspaper hit an all-time high of nearly \$1,900. The co-editors, business manager, and all our writing and photography 'staff' are very grateful that you continue to value our efforts. We promise not only to continue our popular columns, but to add new features and make as sure as we can that all issues of interest are covered in our pages. In the 80's, there was lots of election coverage, and we published the draft of the Historic District Ordinance for all to read and react to; in the 90's, the draft Delmar Link Redevelopment Plan was incorporated into our pages, for the maximum input from neighborhood residents and business owners alike. In our next issue, we will continue that tradition with the draft of proposed changes to the by-laws of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council.

In April, we will be starting our 37th year of continuous publication. Look for an exciting announcement in that issue about reading the TIMES on the internet. But for this issue, we hope you'll enjoy remembering our great neighborhood's winter activities and thinking about spring and the opportunities for gardening coming very soon. And don't forget to have your monthly fix of laughter with our own Tom Hoerr's "In Your Ear."

If you have not contributed and wish to do so, please send your check to the Times at 6168 Westminster 63112. The TIMES OF SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE is a 501(c)3 organization, and contributions are tax deductible.

Contributors 2006

- | | |
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News of Neighbors

By Jo Ann Vatcha

After months of planning, of hesitation, of getting rid of a half century of accumulated possessions, **George and Rose Storey** have left their 57xx Waterman manse for a condo in Brentwood. They have been active in the neighborhood for years. Most recently, George served as a member of the Skinker DeBaliviere Housing Corp. Rose had long been active at St. Roch. And, they were pillars of the 28th Ward Regular Democratic Club. George served as committeeman in the 1980s and Rose was committeewoman in the 1990s. They will be missed.

New babies: The 5700 DeGiverville block welcomes two new arrivals. **Oliver Gregory Cook** was born to **Gregory and Casey Cook** on September 24, at 10 lb., 4 oz. **Elijah and Paris Clark** have welcomed **Sarah Clark**, born on August 20 and weighing in at 8 lb., 9 oz. Congratulations to **Jon & Lynn Tiede** of the 6000 block of McPherson on their beautiful new addition, **Jenna Ruth**. Jenna tipped the scales at 9 lbs 3 oz on January 9th. Proud big brother is **Colton Tiede!**

Scouting For Food – the St. Roch Cub Scout Pack (grades 1, 2, & 3) were out in full force for two Saturdays in November as part of the Scouting for Food Drive. The Cub Scouts covered all of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood and appreciate all the neighbors who participated by donating food. It was quite an experience for the

boys and they are looking forward to doing it again next year. Thanks to the following boys (and their families) for all their hard work: **Mitchell & Truman Stephens, David Harris, Christopher Gates, Noah Schneider, Ian & Owen Shaughnessy, Alan Wilson, William Kramer, Christian Boxdorfer, Luke Hart, Elia Barker, Max Friesen, Neil Daniels III, Anton Gudiswitz, Spencer Harvey, Donovan Hill, and Nolan Lodholz, Gavin McEvoy, Charlie McGroarty.**

Groundbreaking News! The **Jaffe Group** is breaking ground on four more new houses on the 5700 block of McPherson. This phase of construction is at the Laurel end of the street, so it will be much more noticeable as you drive through the neighborhood. One of the four is already under contract! If you have not seen the progress on this block, please take time to visit, it is an incredible rebirth of another block in our neighborhood. The display home is open every Sunday from 1:00 to 3:00. (For more information, call Coldwell Banker Gundaker at 862-7500)

From our 61xx Washington neighbor **Rachelle L'Ecuyer:** "Thank you to all of the friends and neighbors who helped me while I recovered from surgery. The prayers, flowers, cards, phone calls, and especially the chocolate, helped my speedy recovery. I

would especially like to thank the Friesens for all they did and helping get the kids to and from school. Not only do I feel better healthwise, this experience gave me some real insight to what a wonderful group of people I have as neighbors. Thank you, thank you, thank you!"

Get-well wishes to our favorite columnist, Tom Hoerr, who has been recuperating from post-traumatic basketball action. Hope you're back in action soon, Tom!

Condolences: We sadly lost several neighbors this winter. **Sarah Whitehead**, a resident of the 5900 block of Pershing for over 40 years and an employee of the City of St. Louis for nearly that long, passed away recently.

From Parkview, long-time resident **John Fitzgerald**, a man with a quick wit and big heart, is mourned by family and friends. And on the 6100 block of Westminster, lifetime resident **Laris Shields**, a young woman barely 40, succumbed to Lupus, as had her sister **Joy** just a couple of years ago. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Election Past, Election Present and Kudos to Us

by Lana Stein

Despite the very shrill, negative advertising, people went to the Polls in November and appeared to vote for change. The turnout in St. Louis City for a nonpresidential election was impressive but what was most impressive is that our 28th Ward had the highest rate of participation in the city – 74+ percent of those registered to vote! Although the issues may not be as hot, hopefully high turnout will manifest itself again in March.

March 6 is a municipal primary. Even-numbered wards will choose aldermen and the city electorate chooses a president of the Board of Aldermen.

In the 28th ward, incumbent Lyda Krewson has no opposition. In the 26th, incumbent Frank Williamson is opposed by Lee Willis. For our neighborhood, that area east of Des Peres and north from the north side of Waterman is part of the 26th; the rest is in the 28th.

Citywide, aldermanic president Jim Shrewsbury is opposed for reelection by Lewis Reed, the alderman from the 6th ward. The President of the Board of Aldermen presides at aldermanic meetings and votes on all bills that come before the board. The president also appoints all board committees and decides to which committee a bill is assigned.

The aldermanic president is also one of three members of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. This board, E & A, holds budgetary and contractual power for the city. The mayor and comptroller are also part of E & A. Shrewsbury has been president since his predecessor, Francis Slay, was elected mayor. At an appearance at the January meeting of the 28th Ward Regular Democratic Club, Shrewsbury mentioned several bills he sponsored to protect children and said that he had racially balanced all aldermanic committees. Reed also spoke at the meeting and pointed to the development he helped bring about in the 6th ward. He said it was important to redevelop areas where land is owned by LRA for homes and businesses.

The 28th Ward Democrats were set to vote on February 1 on their endorsement of a candidate for President of the Board of Alderman. If you would like to participate in the next election cycle, contact Ald. Lyda Krewson.



Greenways and the Catlin Tract

By Joe Gudiswitz

The Skinker-DeBaliviere Greenways committee held a meeting in November, 2006, to discuss developments concerning Greenways development through our areas, particularly those of the St. Vincent's Greenway and the Centennial Greenway crossing our neighborhood via Des Peres. The committee and others present were: Joe Gudiswitz, Cochairperson, Skinker-DeBaliviere Greenways Committee, Paul Hohmann, Member, Skinker-DeBaliviere Greenways Committee, Dan Schesch, SDCC President, Steve Lorbert, Resident, Catlin Tract, Germaine Lorbert, Resident, Catlin Tract, Sean Gannon, Trustee and Resident, Catlin Tract, and Norb Hart, SDCC Transportation Committee Chairperson.

Particularly of concern for this meeting is the discussion of the Des Peres portion of the Greenway, between, Forest Park Parkway and Lindell Blvd. This portion has been abandoned for through-vehicle traffic and would serve as a final link to Forest Park for the Centennial Greenway (the Greenway proposed to connect Forest Park to Creve Coeur Lake).

Steve Lorbert who resides in Catlin Tract, the neighborhood adjacent to Des Peres, commented that he wished to investigate what the Green Trails within St. Louis could possibly look like. Steve and Germaine bicycled through the completed River Des Peres Trail and they were very impressed. A similar Greenway path would be a welcome addition to Catlin Tract and a property which is adjacent to theirs.

Catlin tract would desire the Greenway Linear

Park as an amenity to the Subdivision, particularly if the amount of pavement in the area could be reduced (probably only an 18'-wide alley service strip, and the 12' pedestrian path with some separation would be necessary) and their needs and desires could be addressed.

Norb Hart, having returned from a Washington University Neighborhood meeting, stated that Washington University was committed – in both intention and an undetermined amount of funding for the trail – to realizing the trail for the loop that would adjoin their Main Campus via Mehlville, Ackert Parkway, Vernon through to the planned North Campus Facility, southeast to the Delmar MetroLink Station and south along Des Peres Avenue to Forest Park Parkway.

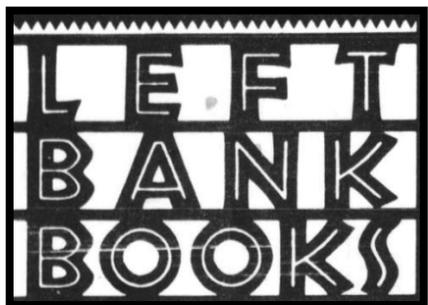
Of primary concern for the residents of Catlin Tract was the continuous maintenance of the facility and the desire to have a well-designed facility. Great dismay was expressed in regard to the current pedestrian bridge at the Metro Link tract and Forest Park Blvd in regard to wheelchair accessibility and sight lines at Forest Park Parkway. Dan Schesch re-iterated the emphasis Great Rivers placed upon maintenance agreements and Joe Gudiswitz commented that trails were to accommodate wheelchair accessibility. It was hoped that the new project discussed between Forest Park and North Campus could remedy some of these problems. The possibility of a continuation of the pedestrian bridge across Forest Park Parkway was also discussed.

Winter in the Neighborhood

Ice storm photos by Andy Cross



Evan Jacobs with Frosty at Blueberry Hill at the Loop Holiday Walk.



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Ice sculpture at the Regional Arts Commission at the 2nd Annual Loop Ice Carnival, photo by Joe Edwards.



Human Dog Sled Race at Regional Arts Commission at the 2nd annual Loop Ice Carnival. Photo by Joe Edwards

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A Grand Wintermarkt

By Andy Cross Photos by Rachel Boxdorfer

Just one week after the crushing ice storm of i06, the sun came out and provided fantastic weather for our Wintermarkt. Usually the West End Arts Council holds this event on the first Saturday of December, this year the date was moved to the second Saturday, December 9th. A fortunate choice, as the great weather drew a record-sized crowd, and the vendors had record sales as well.

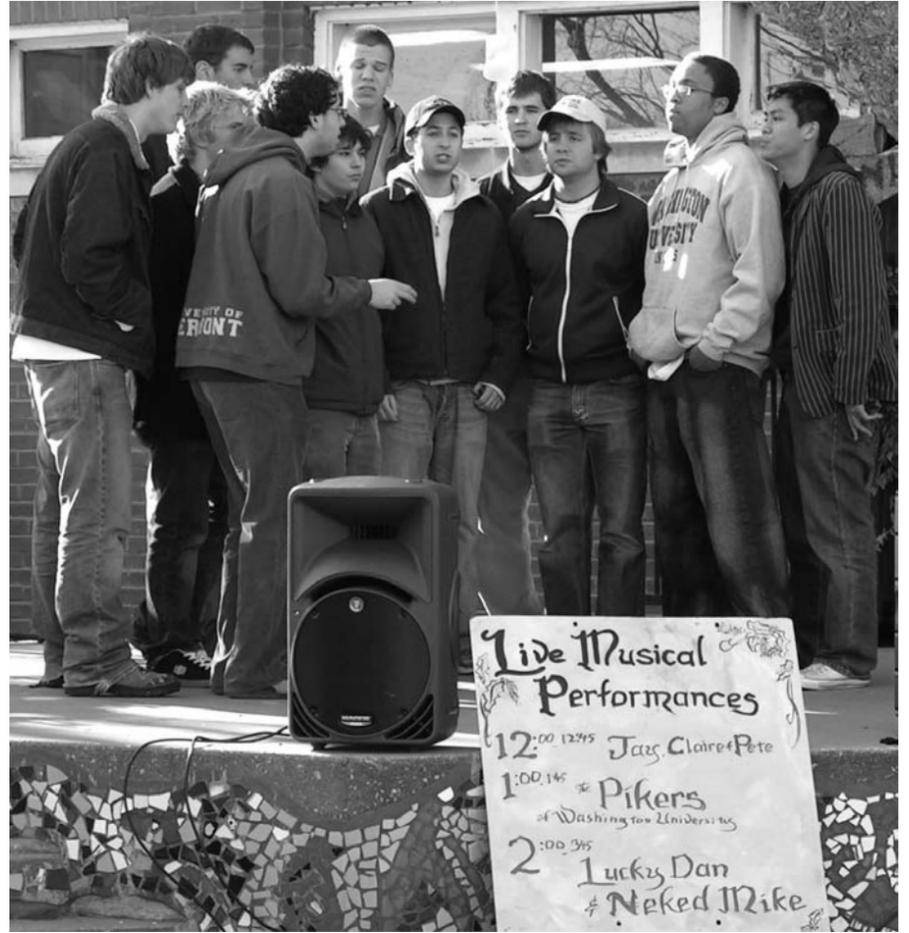
This year the West End Arts Council created a "Spirit of Wintermarkt Award" to recognize an outstanding vendor or booth. The certificate was awarded to the Wimmer-Brown family of the 6100 block of Washington. The Wimmer-Browns sold handcrafted rag dolls, candy decorations, hand-dipped candles, wreaths, and cotton handicrafts. They also brought a coal-fired forge and worked with our blacksmith forging iron. This year's craftsperson, blacksmith Mark Wilson of Dittmer, MO., has been Technical Director the of the Repertory Theater, the Opera Theater of St. Louis, and now teaches theater crafts at St. Louis University and other venues. Mark learned to forge from his father, and enjoys keeping old-world crafts alive. Many festival attendees watched the two blacksmiths at

work, and Mark let children work the bellows to fire the coals in the forge, then pick up the red-hot metal with tongs, and then mold, chase, and form the metal into hooks.

Musical performers this year included Jay, Claire, and Pete of the 6000 block of Westminster, who played a variety of songs accompanied by guitars and bass. An annual favorite, the Pikers of Washington University performed their special blend of a cappella songs with choreography. These first two groups benefited from the sound system provided for the first time this year by neighbor Michael Holohan. Local St. Louis performers Lucky Dan and Naked Mike impressed the crowd with their collection of guitars and stringed instruments, delivering a mix of folk, blues, Christmas Carols, and even a few of their signature Beatles favorites.

New to Wintermarkt this year was a kick-off even held at Joe's Café in Bill Christman's Studio at 6114 Kingsbury. Held on the evening before Wintermarkt, this event was created as a fundraiser for the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council.

The West End Arts council raises funds from the Wintermarkt through the sale of German-style foods and beverages



Pikers of Washington U.

sold in their food booth, along with baked goods donated by neighbors and businesses. Proceeds from the Wintermarkt are used by the W.E.A.C. to fund this and other events in the neighborhood, including the music for National Night Out Party each August. W.E.A.C. sponsored the i06 Youth Band performance this past fall, and is planning a film series later this winter. W.E.A.C. is a committee of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council and receives support from the Regional Arts Commission.

The members of the W.E.A.C. include Katrina Stierholz, Shelly Gooble-Parker, Andy Cross, Rachel Boxdorfer, and Michelle Pike.

Thanks to all our volunteers who donated baked goods, worked in the food booth, helped with set-up, and in many other areas. Your help, and the collection of vendors, musicians, and festival attendees made this the best Wintermarkt ever.



Marjie Cohen says this is the 7th year that she has exhibited/sold at the Wintermarkt, she thinks. "A good day, good crowd, wonderful weather," she said.

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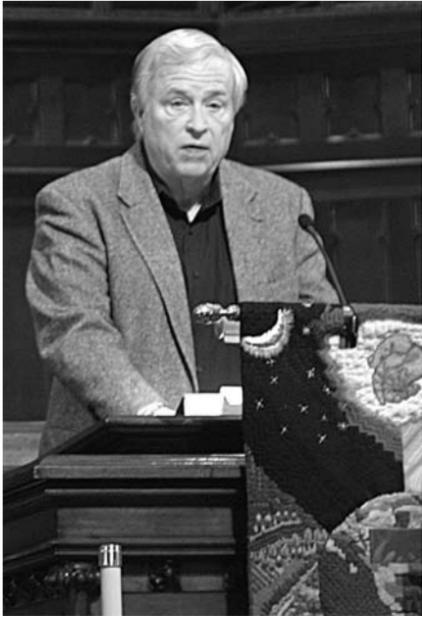
St. Roch girls Tierra, Gaby and Gretchen enjoyed the Wintermarkt.

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MLK Commemoration

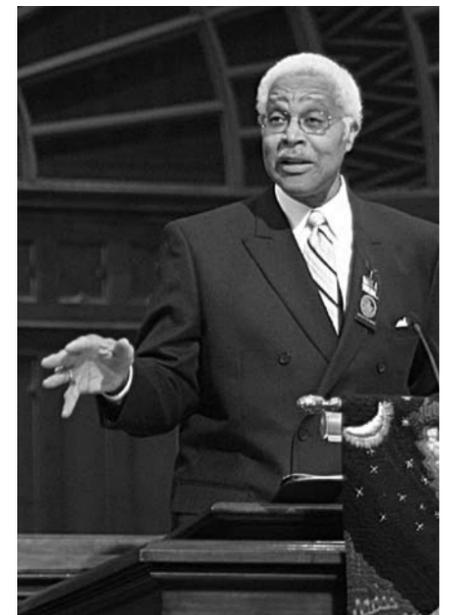
Photos of MLK Day by King Schoenfeld

SDCC's Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Program was held on January 14, 2007. The keynote speaker for this year's program was John A. Wright, a renowned scholar and author associated with Fontbonne University. Part of the program included John Roach, a former alderman and longtime neighborhood resident, who gave a brief history of the neighborhood.

The SDCC MLK commemoration committee for this year was chaired by Liz Johnson and included Ronie Haliburton, Ruth Johnson, Dan Koff, Gwen LaZard, Shirley Polk, Rev. Mary Harvey, Pastor Kurt Lutjens, Pastor Miki Merritt, Kate Nash, and Alice Stanley, assisted by SDCC Executive Director Darcell Braylock.



New Cote Brillante Choir.



John A. Wright speaks at the Commemoration Program.



We shall overcome.

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University Neighbors Can Offer a Home Plate

For some students, heading off to college and being completely on their own for the first time can be a daunting process. Thanks to

the Home Plate program, some University students are enjoying a little bit of home away from home.

Home Plate, started by Risa Zwerling Wrighton, wife of Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton, aims to enhance students' experiences by connecting them with host families from the University community and surrounding neighborhoods for home-cooked meals and outings around St. Louis.

"Many students greatly enjoy their experience at the University," Zwerling Wrighton said. "But I think this program has the potential to help them love it here. It makes a big difference in softening the adjustment process for freshmen."

Amarantha Quintana-Morales experienced her first Home Plate dinner during her freshman year and had a great time.

"The family I ate with was very nice and they made me feel comfortable in their home,"

she said. "It was great that they were an architect and a historian because those are two things I am interested in, and we had a lot to talk about."

According to Zwerling Wrighton, "For fall semester we recruited an additional 85 families for the program and quickly matched them with students. We are looking for more families who might be willing to host a dinner on February 11 or 18th."

Cheryl Adelstein, the University director of Community Relations said, "This a great way to engage in the life of the University and also help students learn about and gain respect for the neighborhoods that surround the University."

You can learn more about this program and register to participate by calling 935-8350, e-mailing Risa Zwerling Wrighton at zwerling@wustl.edu and online at <http://homeplate.wustl.edu>.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I have had people ask, "Is the SDCC still open?" "Does it still serve a purpose?" Well, only "YOU," the residents of Skinker DeBaliviere can decide that. Here is some food for thought. Think of the neighborhoods that don't have neighborhood associations, property management firms, boards, or trustees – how well do those neighborhoods fare? Just for a moment imagine your community without the SDCC...

The fact is this neighborhood has come a long way in 2007. Great thanks and many accolades to those of you who are working hard with the SDCC; participating in events, community activities and volunteering – but, we can't keep recycling you – and we don't want to burn anyone out. The Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood has made great success and continues to move forward, but we are not yet at the place where we can rest on our laurels. We may never be there.

But at least the neighborhood association gives the area a conduit which should act as the beacon to help bridge gaps in age, diversity and economics. The SDCC can provide accurate, complete and efficient forms of communication: emails, flyers and advertising events.

The SDCC can and should provide the community with competent, capable staff. The staff should be capable of initiating change and the vision to be proactive to the needs of the neighborhood. Crime does not decrease or stop because of the police alone, it's because people/residents decide they have had enough. The SDCC works and meet regularly with the police to help residents take proactive steps to crime prevention; it works to develop community building events that help build diversity, inclusion and provide social gatherings for all neighborhood residents.

The SDCC provides goals and strategic planning for committees that are neighborhood focused and because of the SDCC working on behalf of the entire community – not just a chosen few – the SDCC eliminates the premise of us and them, racial boundaries, people east of Des Peres and people west of Des Peres. The SDCC is a community voice. That's why the board should be representative of the area. The SDCC exist so that it



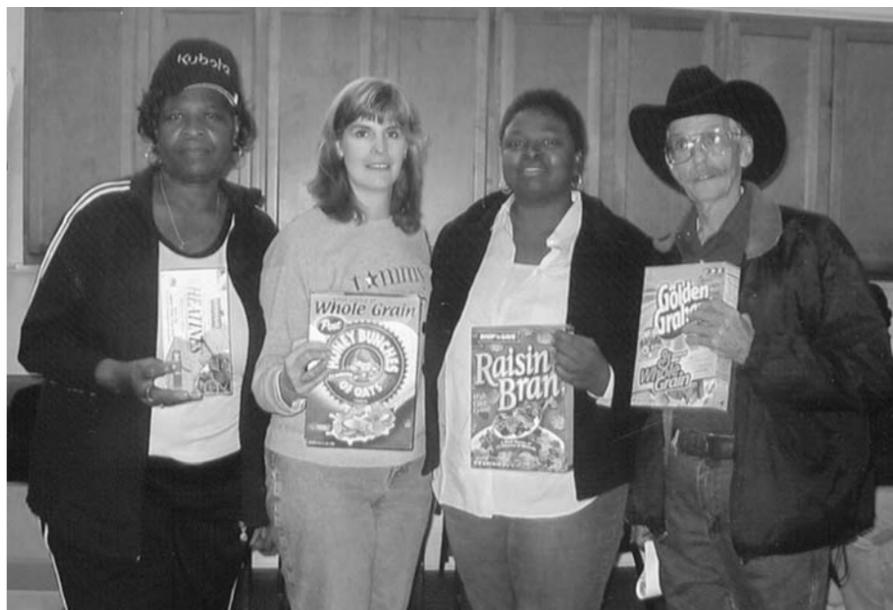
can orchestrate events and happenings so that residents don't feel victimized or as if they are being take advantage of. The SDCC works on housing issues, with developers, and helps to market

and sell the area. The SDCC meets and collaborates with the commercial district and its ongoing developments. The SDCC works with the Alderman to provide the Skinker DeBaliviere area with the possibility of real stability not just an illusion thereof.

Great neighborhoods don't just happen they are created and maintained by people who get involved. The SDCC serves as the foundation, the base for your neighborhood. So, instead of asking me, "Is the SDCC still open?" or, "Does the SDCC still serve a purpose?" Ask yourself, "What can you do for your neighborhood association?" "Darcell, what can I do to help maintain the safety and growth of our neighborhood?" Or ask, "When can I volunteer at the SDCC?"

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On November 4, 2006, the Social Services Committee of the SDCC held the annual food drive to shore up the pantries of our neighbor churches, Grace Methodist, St. Roch Catholic, New Cote Brillante Church, and Grace and Peace Fellowship. Chairperson Shirley Polk of 57xx DeGiverville said, "The food drive has been rewarding and most important, makes a difference in our community. Thanks to our neighbors." From left to right, Shirley Polk, Linda Cross, Darcell Braylock, and Bruce Smith.

St. Roch Parish Mission

St. Roch Catholic Church will offer a Parish Mission which will run from Sunday, March 4, through Thursday, March 8. All sessions begin at 7:00 pm. and last for about 1 -1/2 hours followed by a short reception in the Church Hall. The Mission theme is "Blessing" and will be presented by Father Ricky Potts, a Redemptorist from Memphis, TN. Each of the five nights will have a different topic related to Blessing. On Sunday the topic is "Why Are You Weeping?;" on Monday, "I Am Blessed;" on Tuesday, "Anointed and Appointed;" on Wednesday, "Claim Your Blessing;" and on Thursday (the final night) the topic is "Be A Blessing."

Light refreshments will be served following each session. School age children are encouraged to attend with their parent(s). Free child care will be available to younger children on-site and transportation to and from the Church can be arranged if someone is unable to drive. Both childcare and transportation will require advance registration. Please visit <http://www.strochparish.com> or call 721-2595 for more information.

Everyone is invited to attend. St. Roch Church is located at 6052 Waterman and there is ample parking in the lot behind the Church.

NEW ON DELMAR

By Norbert Hart

Imported Designs Suite 5856-A 5850 Delmar St. Louis, Missouri, 63112 Phone: 361-8222

Imported Designs is a new home accessory store now open in the eastern section of the Delmar Loop. The company prides itself on being a unique home and commercial design center that specializes in eclectic accessories. The range of furnishings strives to be within budgets of all clients. Co-owner states that the store's philosophy is that the home is a reflection of the soul of its owners. To that end they seek to use color, lighting and other aspects to have an immediate impact in each room on the energy and productivity of those within.

Using in-home consultation services, Imported Designs focuses on the goal of the client for their particular spaces, leaving typical displays at the store. They believe this approach is more helpful to architects, developers, and other designers.

The showroom is open and features artwork from local and regional artists. Current hours are Tuesday- Friday, 11- 6, and Saturdays from 10- 6.

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IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

Is there no justice? I'm no spring chicken, as longtime readers of this column know. Indeed, I first began writing it when Jimmy Carter was president. Since that time, there have been many injustices in the world. By and large I'm them, but this latest one takes the cake. I didn't even know there was a cake, and now it's gone!

I remember the oil crises. How unjust and offensive were they? I mean, why can't we have as much oil as we want? We built the pipelines, so it should be ours to squander as we wish. Just because it's under someone else's soil doesn't make it their property. I've worked hard, and if I want to drive a big car, that's my right. That is the American Dream!

This baloney about global warming is a bit of an injustice too. I don't know what all the Chicken Littles are talking about. I had to wear a coat the other day; how warm was that? Oh sure, some left-wing leaning scientists like to talk about the ice cap melting, but what do they know? Ice melts in my freezer; it's no big deal. These are probably the same guys who defrocked poor Pluto. Arf. I think it's all a conspiracy to get me to use less gasoline, even though it's my natural right as a citizen of the U.S. of A. to use as much as I want. Think about

it: Davy Crockett didn't give his life at the Alamo for me to worry about fuel consumption.

Another injustice was George Bush being elected president. "Which Bush?" you ask. That's simple: all of them. I understand that the people get to decide and I recognize that there is something to be said for everyone having the right to vote. That sounds good on paper, but how do you reconcile that with the present administration? Or his dad? A couple of years ago, I wrote that we'd be better off choosing presidents at random from the phone book rather than electing someone like W. People laughed at that idea, especially Condy Rice, but I was and am serious. How much worse could it be? It's a bit like if you give infinite monkeys typewriters, sooner or later one of them will write a Shakespearean play. That makes sense, and I know right now that I'd rather have that monkey as president than W. The monkey's public speaking and decision-making sure wouldn't be any worse. And then there was #41, Bush 1. He seemed like a nice enough guy, but it was clear that his elevator didn't go to the top floor. And we elected him too! How smart are we?

What about the injustice of the St. Louis Football Cardinals moving to Phoenix? What - you didn't even know that the Big Red used to play here? They came in the 60's, and gave us 30 years of mediocre football before they

scampered out of town. They really tested one's patience. You'd think that they couldn't do any worse, and then they'd surprise you. It was almost as if they were intentionally bad because such ineptitude couldn't happen by chance. You know, in hindsight, I wonder if the Bush family had some relationship with the Big Red? The resemblance is a bit uncanny.

Another injustice, far more personal, is the unfairness of getting old. As I noted earlier, I've been writing this column a long time. When I began, I had hair and it was dark. Alas, poor spot, my hairline and my memory are long gone. In fact, I had a really clever line about age and gas, but I've forgotten it. It'll probably pop up later.

And where's the justice with all this City redevelopment? Talk about inconvenient. I used to be able to zip to work in a flash by driving down the 8-lane wide Delmar Avenue. Everyone else joined me, so much so that I expected to see a checkered flag on Skinker, announcing the start of the race. Ba-room! Then some wise guy got the idea that it would be good to have restaurants and retail on Delmar instead of boarded-up buildings. I'm all for restaurants - my home doesn't have a stove, just a microwave - but why did they have to narrow the street? Now it's only two lanes each way until the 6100 block, and then it narrows to one. I can only drive 1520 miles above the speed limit now.

How fair is that?

The same wiseacre, 1,200 of them in fact, is probably the person who decided to repair Forest Park. I didn't even know it was broke! It's just land, after all, trees and stuff. It used to be you could drive through it very quickly. There wasn't much traffic and no reason to slow down to look at the weeds.

But no, it had to be fixed, too. Now it's beautiful which makes it harder to speed through. Plus, there are lots of people there now, further congesting the roads. First they take away Delmar, and now the park is attractive. What a pain. You see, people keep talking about progress but it doesn't seem like progress to me. Give me the good old days again, and my hair, too, while you're at it.

But what really rails and roils me now is by far the worst bit of news to date. It pales the gas situation and everything else. Alas, it's due to my upset and consternation that I write this article about injustices rather than something more timely like the Miss America Beauty Pageant now

requiring contestants to read and write, or the rumor that Oprah is secretly engaged to Don Rumsfeld. Are you ready, dear reader? Have you heard: Mark McGuire didn't get elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame. I know, I'm shocked too. Is nothing sacred? This is the injustice of all injustices.

For years, McGuire was a larger-than-life protagonist. He was almost a comic book character, too big for real life it seemed. Well, guess what? He was too big for real life. Yep, nothing can be proven, but it seems pretty clear that Mark is an example of "better living through chemicals." He didn't admit anything but he wouldn't talk about it either. "I'm not here to talk about the past," was all he'd say when asked about his use of steroids. Isn't that a convenient dodge? (If not a convenient dodge, is it at least a convenient Chrysler?)

We should all have such options. I remember years ago when I put a piece of chewed bubble gum into the fish tank at my Uncle Glen's house. Glen was a bit of a fool and prone to overreaction, though I didn't know that at the time.

All I knew was that I was caught and destined for a lifetime in hell. It didn't really matter on which of Dante's levels I was going to spend eternity, I just knew it wouldn't be fun. When he grilled me, oh, how I wish I'd been able to say "I'm not here to talk about the past." My Uncle Glen, though, was a bit sharper than our members of congress (no surprise there, unfortunately) so he pushed until I 'fessed up. Thank goodness he didn't ask if the chewing gum had steroids in it. I did notice that the fish got a whole lot bigger very quickly.

But things get worse. I just heard the news which featured a summary of Bush's press conference. I know I can get things confused in my old age, but this doesn't make any sense at all. Why would Bush be sending Mark McGwire to Iraq? Wasn't not getting into the Hall of Fame punishment enough? I know, I know, Bush is our president and some of you voted for him, so I'm sure things will turn out fine. For all we know, maybe McGwire will find the Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Alright, I'm up to here in injustices, so I just need something pure and fair. I'm going to stop writing and turn off the news. I need to relax, so maybe I'll get O.J.'s newest book, If I Had Done It. He has always seemed like such a nice man.

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