

# The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 37 No. 1

April - May 2007

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

## TIMES GOES INTO CYBERSPACE

By Jo Ann Vatcha

Starting with this issue, at the beginning of our 37th year of publication, THE TIMES OF SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE will be available online, as well as in print. You will continue to receive your free copy of the TIMES at your door and at your favorite neighborhood business, but you can also look at it on the newly redesigned Skinker-DeBaliviere website. An important feature of the new site is our TIMES archives.

Volunteers from the neighborhood, who write, photograph, distribute and create for this publication are also working on scanning and saving all the previous issues of the TIMES and its predecessor, THE PAPER, so that we will have a complete historical archive.

We're starting this month with

all the published TIMES from the years 2006, 2005, 2004 and 2003. Soon, we'll add the updated neighborhood history, which was published for the 'millennium' in 2000-2001-2002. Look for a greatly expanded archive in the near future. If you can help with locating missing issues and scanning them, contact me at 726-6974 or by email at [jvatcha@peoplepc.com](mailto:jvatcha@peoplepc.com).

<http://stlouis.missouri.org/skinkerdebaliviere/>

## Marathon closes some streets



Mayor Francis G. Slay was joined by Cindy Brinkley, president AT&T Missouri, Governor Matt Blunt, County Executive Charlie Dooley, J. Kim Tucci, honorary chair and Nancy Liebermann, president, and Clayton Mayor Ben Uchitelle, to celebrate the 2007 Spirit of St. Louis Marathon and Family Fitness Weekend.

Spirit of St. Louis Marathon will be held on Sunday, April 15, 2007. During the following times, some streets will be closed to traffic.

Delmar eastbound from DeBaliviere to Skinker, 8:15-12:30 DeBaliviere southbound Delmar to Lindell, 8:20-12:45 FP Parkway, eastbound, DeBaliviere to Kingshighway, 7:15-1:15 and Skinker-to DeBaliviere, 8:15-12:45.

## Rosedale Potluck May 23

Rosedale Neighborhood Association is a neighborhood organization that has been in existence since the early 60's. A founding member of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, the RNA has always participated in the governance of Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council and in the activities of the neighborhood.

### Where is Rosedale, anyway?

The boundaries are the alley north of Washington, Des Peres, north edge of Forest Park Parkway, and Skinker - basically, the 6000 and 6100 blocks of Washington, Westminster, Kingsbury, McPherson, Waterman, and Pershing.

**What does Rosedale Neighborhood Association do?** The Rosedale Neighborhood Association:

- Runs Rags to Riches (food sales, publicity, etc.)
- Provides the Halloween Party and helpers (crossing guards)
- Selects Board Members for Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council (monthly meetings of the larger neighborhood organization). You must be President of Rosedale or a neighborhood representative (President, Washington/Westminster Rep, Kingsbury/McPherson Rep, Waterman/Pershing Rep, or an At-Large Rep).

Skinker DeBaliviere is the organization that works to improve the whole neighborhood, and Rosedale has always been an active participant on the Council.

**So, should I wait for someone to contact me?** The Rosedale Neighborhood Association has been in existence for over 40 years. It has always benefited from neighbors stepping up to the plate and helping out. Please don't wait to be asked - volunteer your services.

**When and where can I volunteer?** The Annual Rosedale Neighborhood Association meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 23, 2007, at the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office at 6008 Kingsbury Ave. We will have a potluck starting at 6 pm, and a short business meeting at 7 pm. We are looking for new board members and new representatives. We also would like volunteers for our annual Rags to Riches and Halloween event (crossing guards, food sales, etc.). You'll also get a chance to meet Darcell Braylock, the new Executive Director of Skinker DeBaliviere, and say hello to your neighbors!

**Great! How do I get involved?** Attend the Potluck and Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 23, at 6 pm or contact: Katrina Stierholz 863-0965 or [stierholz@gmail.com](mailto:stierholz@gmail.com) or Darcell Braylock 862-5122 or [dbraylocksdcc@sbglobal.net](mailto:dbraylocksdcc@sbglobal.net)

## Expansion of People's Health Center

The People's Health Center at 5701 Delmar has unveiled a new 10,000 square foot addition to their facility. The expansion will house additional clinical exam rooms, an extended laboratory, expanded enabling services and a new multipurpose room. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was scheduled



important part of the neighborhoods both north and south of Delmar. Three additional satellite offices are located in Maplewood at 7200 Manchester Rd., in north St. Louis county at 11642 West Florissant Rd. and at 5331 Enright Avenue in the city. PHC also provides services to several school districts, community sites and mobile van destinations. PHC's service area is comprised of 106,029 Medicaid recipients with 50,193 individuals without insurance to pay for health care, regardless of condition.

for Friday, March 23, 2007. The expansion is on the site of a long-lingering liquor store, now replaced by the new addition.

People's Health Center has been part of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood for over 30 years, starting as a free "People's Clinic" staffed by volunteer doctors, nurses, and assistants from the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood and located at 6008 Kingsbury, where the SDCC office is located presently. Its successful transition to a major center has been an

2007 also marks the 25th anniversary of Betty Jean Kerr serving as the C.E.O. Under her leadership and that of the 15-member Board of Directors, the People's Health Center has been awarded a second full 3-year accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).



## Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

### Remembering Kindness

From an early age, I always was in awe of famous people. Given my vocation, you will not be surprised that that included those in public affairs as well as stars of the silver and TV screens. I felt some of that awe the first time I met Tom Eagleton. He appeared to be very gracious. When I began working on my book about St. Louis Politics, he agreed to be interviewed. He supplied the names of at least five other people whom he felt would be helpful to me.

In time, there were chapters. The senator graciously agreed to read the manuscript and provided very helpful and interesting comment. He also wrote a blurb for the book cover and may have played a role in my receiving the EagletonWaters award for best book on Missouri politics in 2004 from the Missouri History Association.

I will certainly never forget his generosity or his kindness. What is especially important is that he was kind and generous to many people whom he did not know well. He also helped our former neighbor, Catherine Forslund, make contacts so that she could proceed on her history dissertation.

Somehow, my acquaintance with Tom Eagleton mirrors what I find special about St. Louis. Most people are open and helpful. I am sure that people will remember Eagleton for 1972 or his positions on issues such as the Vietnam war. I'll remember the considerable help and recognition he gave a political scientist from Detroit.

## The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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### Guidelines for Submitting Copy

The Times welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of the Times has always depended in large part on submissions from non-staff area residents. Calendar listings should be phoned in to the editor at 721-7532, or mailed to 5953 Pershing Ave., 63112.

The writer is responsible for the accuracy of the data, including times, dates, location, and particularly the spelling of names. The editor retains the right to omit or alter any material.

**Deadline for Summer issue: May 15, 2007. Please send copy by e-mail to [jvatcha@peoplepc.com](mailto: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](mailto:jvatcha@peoplepc.com) or [lstein@umsl.edu](mailto:lstein@umsl.edu).

## Calendar

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

**Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation (SDCHC)** – Year 2007 Wednesday - April 4 and 18, May 2 and 16 SDCHC Meetings, 6:00 p.m., at the SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury.

Regional Arts Commission, **Soles for Senegal Art Show and Shoe Drive**, April 12, 2007, 6128 Delmar, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Art and Jewelry for sale. Cost: A pair of Tennis Shoes and \$ 5 donation. For more information, call 558-4734.

**Spirit of St. Louis Marathon Sunday, April 15, 2007** street closures apply: Delmar eastbound from DeBaliviere to Skinker, 8:15-12:30; DeBaliviere southbound Delmar to Lindell, 8:20-12:45; FP Parkway, eastbound, DeBaliviere to Kingshighway, 7:15-1:15 and Skinker-DeBaliviere, 8:15-12:45.

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

**West End Arts Council meeting**, Thursday, May 17, at 7:00 p.m., SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury. For more information, call Michelle Pike, 368-1646.

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

### Friends of Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council

Andy and Linda Cross, co-chairs, invite you to contribute to the 2007 SDCC Friends of Skinker DeBaliviere Campaign. At the \$ 100 + level, you receive invitations to special Friends events, plus a free Skinker-DeBaliviere T-Shirt, with a beautiful new logo designed by Andy Cross, highlighting the themes of "Progress, Diversity, Preservation."

You may also contribute at a \$50 family level, \$30 individual level, or \$20 Seniors and Students level. Additional adult T-shirts are available at \$15 each, children's sizes at \$12 each.



The Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council was founded in 1966 by a then-unique cooperative group of residents and institutions, including St. Roch Catholic Church, Grace Methodist Church, Delmar Baptist Church, Washington University, and Rosedale Neighborhood Assn., Washington Heights Neighborhood Assn., and Parkview. Over the years, almost all of these have continued to play major roles, and additional participants now include Nina Place, Kingsbury Square, and New Cote Brilliance Church.

This past year big changes took place inside the offices at 6008 Kingsbury, including a brand-new executive director, Darcell Braylock, who has hit the ground running with many ideas and a desire to learn from the neighborhood and its residents. The office renovation has changed our cluttered old gray location into a bright, efficient, and versatile working area, thanks to the help of many neighbors and businesses who donated their time and resources. Stop by and see our new digs and meet our new powerhouse Executive Director. You can help continue and expand the activities of SDCC by contributing to its future.

## Expose Yourself to Art

By Michelle Pike

Are you interested in arts in the neighborhood? The West End Arts Council invites you to join us as we look ahead to the future. Meet with us Thursday, May 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Office, 6008 Kingsbury.

The West End Arts Council raises funds from the Wintermarkt through the sale of German-style foods and beverages sold in their food booth, along with baked goods donated by neighbors and businesses. This year the West End Arts Council created a "Spirit of Wintermarkt Award" to recognize an outstanding vendor or booth. 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 '06 Youth Band performance this past fall and is currently 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.

How would you like to be involved? Call SDCC at 862-5122 or Michelle Pike at 368-1646.

# News of Neighbors

By Jo Ann Vatcha

Get well wishes to neighbor, business person, and arts booster **Cecelia Nadal**, of the 6100 block of Westminster, who has been recuperating from recent surgery. All our best to a busy lady who's also mom to an equally energetic and passionate daughter, State Representative Maria Chappelle-Nadal, from University City.

At the 22nd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Breakfast held on January 15,

a youthful resident of 5700 DeGiverville, **Chela Colvin**, received first place in the Essay Contest. This award was accompanied by a scholarship check for \$2,500. Chela is a senior at Clayton High School. Her winning essay was entitled "A Dream Fulfilled: Coexistence in America." Congratulations to Chela and best wishes.

Congratulations to **Jeff Pike**, who was recently named the Jane

Reuter-Hitzeman and Herbert F. Hitzeman, Jr. Professor and Dean at the College and Graduate School of Art at Washington University. In addition to his long title and professional duties at Washington University, he is active in the neighborhood, along with wife **Michelle**, who heads up the West End Arts Council and is currently recruiting new members.



Michelle and Jeff Pike

## Found Memories

By Rachelle L'Ecuier

I recently found some old boxes of school work stored for at least 25 years at my mother's house. Among the papers is the following interview with a now famous St. Louisian. As a freshman in high school, I signed on for an urban studies course. One of the classes required us to bring one of our elected officials to school with us. My elected official was the young and dashing 28th Ward Alderman. He was wearing a brown, three-piece suit when picked me up in a red and white Dodge Dart, his name: Vince Schoemehl.

I had a list of 23 questions, I must not have asked all of them because they were not recorded in my final paper. One unasked question stands out, "Does the Board of Aldermen have anything to do with the stores being open on Sunday?" This was back in the day of Sunday blue laws, which Illinois did not have. One of the biggest competitors to St. Louis Downtown was the big brand new shopping mall just 15 minutes to the east of the Arch: St. Clair Square! How things changes and then again, how some things never change!

Here is the interview, the original was written in cursive writing from my 14 year old hand on three ring notebook paper, by the way, I got an "A":

Rachelle L'Ecuier  
November 1, 1979  
Urban Studies Interview  
Person Interviewed: Vince Schoemehl, Alderman, 28th Ward

### Interview:

Question: What do you do as an Alderman?

Answer: Most of an alderman's time is spent helping the people in the ward.

80% of an alderman's time is spent on service requests from people such as problems with



Rachelle currently serves as Director of Community Development in Maplewood.

BiState.

Question: How is your time at City Hall spent?

Answer: Time at City Hall is spent by working on the board committees. Having Board meetings at City Hall every Friday; Work on resolutions, city problems.

Question: What committees are you on?

Answer: Ways and Means committees, handles money.

Question: Can you explain the CDA block grant?

Answer: The CDA block Grants are federal funds to assist City housing.

Question: How

does the Board of Aldermen decide on how the money from the CDA block



grants should be used?

Answer: They try to leverage the use of the money. Not just use the money in run down areas but by law some of the CDA grants must be used in low income areas.

Question: Why is there a water rate increase?

Answer: There is a water rates increase because money capital improvements have to be made. Some of the water systems have been in use since 1834. Many lines must be replaced so there is an increase in rates; also, the cost of chemicals for the water.

Question: How long have you been an alderman?

Answer: 4 years, just reelected.

Question: Do you plan on running for mayor?

Answer: yes.

Question: Do you think Conway is doing a good job as mayor?

Answer: Thinks Conway is doing the best job 'he' can.

Question: What are some of your criticisms of Conway?

Answer: 1) Can't really lead, not made to be a leader; 2) Always fighting with Board of Aldermen; 3) Poor planning of riverfront; 4) Poor planning of CDA grants.

Question: Do you think there are too many aldermen in the City for the amount of people in the city?

Answer: No, because even though St. Louis population is half of what it used to be there is still a need for all of the aldermen because there are many things for aldermen to do.

Question: What do you think about what is being done about Homer G Phillips hospital?

Answer: Thinks Homer G. should remain opened. Homer G. is in better condition than City Hospital #1. But thinks that one of the city hospitals need to remain open; there is not enough money for two city hospitals.

### End of interview.

We know what has happened to Vince Schoemehl since 1979, he went on to be mayor and now resides at the helm of Grand Center. As for me, I have worked in community development for the last 20 years, and now I have to wonder, did Mr. Schoemehl influence me in anyway?

Rachelle L'Ecuier  
28th Ward (still!)

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now my husband and I are  
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# When the Spirit Says Move

By Mimi Renard Roach

Backlash to the spirit of the 60's when assemblages for human liberty were percolating in corners and crevices of the Skinker DeBaleviere area. Somewhere on the cusp of civil rights, a flock of children under the wings of Betty and Rob Renard found themselves staggering in awe through vacant rooms of their grand new habitat in Parkview Place. The voices of seven, (soon to be eight), children echoed through wide open spaces of the manor on McPherson and over the years their voices and uncommon stories were heard in the halls of St. Roch and throughout the neighborhood. I know these tales well because I was the middle child in this unconventional flock, clamoring to find my place in a world on the brink of transformation.



The year is 2007, and I've come full circle. The values for human rights instilled in me during my formative years in the pulsating neighborhood of Skinker DeBaleviere have carried me to a place where I have been asked to take uncommon risks. Allow me to share with you some twists and turns that have led me in the direction of writing, illustrating, publishing and creating projects with Senecorps to raise awareness and support the underserved in Senegal, West Africa.

In the summer of 2004 I had the opportunity to volunteer with Senecorps, a non for profit organization dedicated to building bridges through service learning expeditions to Senegal, West Africa. I was immersed in a culture in which people wake up to the reality of extreme poverty, day in and day out. Living in the manner of the Senegalese, I learned to bathe myself and wash my clothes from a bucket of cold water and dropped 12 pounds in a month eating fish, chicken onions and rice with no snacks in between. But these were only passing moments of discomfort for me because I knew that in a short time I'd be able to hop on a plane and return to the excess comfort of the USA.

When I returned it took a long time to work through the culture shock which I have only been able to resolve by working on projects to support the Senegalese. While I've received a lot of encouragement and support, there have been a few friends who have reminded me that there is much to be done in our own back yards. So it is! I'm a teacher and in my classrooms I have found many ways to connect my students with West African culture. The kids here are eager to learn and eager to reach out in service to the children of Africa who are not so unlike themselves. The stories and traditions I share with my students are true and the music

I have taught them is authentic and rich. In turn, when I visit Africa, I teach the children about our own culture and share our heritage through story and song. I can only say that the world is small and our neighbors are so eager and gracious for the gifts we offer. In Senegal, a single pencil and piece of paper are considered treasures. I've had the good fortune of serving as a teacher in the United States for twenty years. Today, I'm ready to focus my energy differently while utilizing all that I've learned as an educator over the years.

I've spent the past three summers volunteering abroad with Senecorps, building and renovating schools, planting gardens, providing supplies for hospitals and clinics and helping artisans by selling their work at fair trade prices. Most recently, our organization has established Senecorps Synergy Youth Corps. (Register a Middle School or High School group for a 10-15 day service-learning trip

children at Daara Malika boarding school. For the past three summers we've worked with teachers and children at this school on renovation projects, bringing closure to our work through the Senecorps Junior Olympics. Fundraising, grant-writing, establishing internships



and developing programs such as Senecorps Synergy Youth Corps and Senecorps Summer Corps for adults have become a major focus in my life.

During my time away, I have been awakened to the beauty of West African tradition and I want to continue sharing these treasures. Inspired by the ability of the Senegalese to celebrate life with dignity and generosity in the midst of immense suffering, I have written, illustrated and published my first children's book, *Come Bless the Baby*, (A Song of Love and Celebration in West African Tradition). This combination book and musical CD is based on the Ngente, a Senegalese Baby Naming Ceremony and can be purchased at independent and major bookstores or through Big River Distribution.\*



I'm 53 years young and am not interested in keeping up with the Jones's. It's taken me a life-time to realize that being the boisterous middle child who marches to the beat of a different drummer is not such a bad thing. I'm moving toward my passion before settling forever into a rocking chair. I don't have a clue about when such a day might come, but if and when it does, I'm sure I'll be good and ready. When the Spirit says move, you've got to move!

Please support our work and join us for a lively evening of African music art and cuisine. This fundraiser for Senecorps will be held on April 12 from 7:00 to 9:30 P.M. at the Regional Arts Commission on Delmar. The suggested donation is \$10.00 and we're asking for contributions of new or lightly used tennis shoes. Handcrafted African jewelry, carvings, clothing and children's original paintings will be for sale. I may even muster up the courage to hoist my guitar and share a few treasures of African music that I've learned. A signed copy of *Come Bless the Baby* will also be available at this event. Senecorps is a non for profit 501-c3approved organization. All contributions are tax deductible. To learn more about Senecorps visit [www.senecorps.org](http://www.senecorps.org).

\*For information about *Come Bless the Baby* visit [www.bigriverdistribution.com](http://www.bigriverdistribution.com) & [www.aaduna.com](http://www.aaduna.com).

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# Breakfast Garden Tour is June 2

By Andy Cross

Remember to mark your calendar for the 9th annual Breakfast Garden Tour on Saturday, June 2, from 8:30 to Noon. You don't have to have any knowledge of plants to enjoy this event. It is a fundraiser for the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council and a great way to meet your neighbors. Only \$10 buys you a delicious breakfast in the lush McPherson Community Garden, followed by a leisurely tour featuring a variety of approaches to many kinds of back yards.

This tour offers something for everyone, with a few surprises along the way. Watch for the flyer in May. Tickets are only \$10 in advance, \$12 day of tour, children 10-15 years \$5, and children under 10 FREE. For more information, call the SDCC office at 862-5122.



# Dr. Pam Clary joins Dr. Steve

Dr. Steve Brammeier, DVM is proud to welcome Dr. Pam Clary, DVM to the staff of Kingsbury Animal Hospital. She is a rural Missouri native, mostly, who spent some formative years in Oklahoma getting educated in Health Sciences, English Literature and finally Veterinary Medicine. She is a 1992 graduate of Oklahoma State Veterinary School. Before moving to St. Louis in 2001, Dr. Clary owned a mixed animal practice.

Since moving to St. Louis she has gained experience in Emergency and Critical Care Medicine and also worked locum tenens in the bi-state area. Her interests include surgery, wound treatment/healing.

Outside of work she enjoys the seclusion of hiking the Ozark Mountains and kayaking its rivers. She is a yogi and a bicyclist.

Along with Dr. Kim Lynch, DVM, CVA, the Kingsbury Animal Hospital veterinarians have over 50 years of combined experience. The inclusion of a third doctor to our staff allows us to also offer appointments with a veterinarian every weekend.

Kingsbury Animal Hospital was established in 1978 when Dr. Brammeier turned an abandoned Shell service station into his companion animal practice. Since then the doctors and staff of Kingsbury have provided veterinary and grooming services to the pets of the city of St. Louis and surrounding communities.

With the help of architect Tom Cohen, Dr. Brammeier realized his professional dream of practicing in a purpose built, state of the art facility, when a new building was completed in 2004. The new facility was designed for efficiency in delivering veterinary medical services, but also creating a pleasant space for both the patients and their owners.

We offer a unique, sensitive approach to pet health care. We take the time to listen carefully to our clients, and then make sure we are not moving too fast with the pets to avoid frightening them, or pushing them beyond their limits. We mostly work on the floor. When we do use an exam table, it is covered in a synthetic sheep skin mat. The flooring in the building is a sheet rubber for better footing, especially for our geriatric patients.



Dr. Pam Clary

Dr. Lynch is a Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist and Dr. Brammeier has completed three intensive courses in Applied Clinical Behavior with the North American Post Graduate Institute. Our medical approach combines both traditional "western" medicine with the "eastern" practices of acupuncture and some herbal therapies.

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# Summer Programs

By Norbert Hart

Last year I was at a sibling's house & noticed a flyer from their municipal park & recreation department outlining their programs. Living in the "big city" we get no such spoon feeding, which is too bad given our location. I, for one, believed there was more to Forest Park than I was aware of. With apologies to accuracy, we present some of the offerings provided in our next door facility.

The zoo's programs are numerous (768-5408). We can start by

listing their summer camp - Camp KangaZoo, which has programs for kids in grades 1-6 & a teen program for those entering grades 7-9. This program is broken into weekly periods. They also have a wide range of individual classes for kids in grades K-10. Finally, there are additional programs for newborns & older.

The Science Center (289-4400) offers 1/2 day and full day camps with before & after care.

At the Dwight Davis Tennis

Center (361-0177), classes are available for children 5-8 & 9-18. There is also a prep camp for girls entering high school.

The History Museum has their regular weekend programs but nothing that bespeaks of summer camp or special classes.

The golf course (367-1337), which touts a youth learning center, does not have details on summer programs but expects to have once a week lessons for children 5 and older.

In addition to these structured programs there is boating at the Boat House and fishing at Jefferson Lake.

Our article would not be complete without honorable mention of the City Recreation Division's summer camps for children aged 4-12. They take place at the following locations, among others: Buder, 2900 Hickory; Cherokee, 3200 S. Jefferson; Marquette, 4025 Minnesota (also utilizing Wilmore Park for ages 7-12 & Lindenwood Park for ages 4-6); Parkside, 3126 Alfred; & Amherst Park, Hodiadmont & Julian.

Finally, the City offers 3 outdoor pools: Chambers Park near downtown, Fairgrounds Park; & Marquette Parks.

## Des Peres Summer Programs

A partial listing; call for more info.

**YOUNG REMBRANDT'S SUMMER DRAWING CAMP**  
The Lodge Des Peres, 1050 Des Peres Road 63131, is offering a drawing camp this summer! Young Rembrandt's teaches children how to draw using an innovative step-by-step drawing method. These classes impact the way children learn about art and the world around them. Young Rembrandt's philosophy is one of teaching children the technical skills of drawing, empowering them to express their imagination, while improving their motor skills, patience levels, focus and ability to stay on task. The kids just know it is FUN! For more information or to register call 314-835-6150. Minimum 5/Maximum 25  
Days: Monday - Friday  
#4815 Ages 3 - 5, 8:45 - 9:30 a.m.  
#4816 Ages 6 - 12, 10 - 11:30 a.m.  
#4817 Ages 6 - 12, 12:30 - 2 p.m.  
Session: July 9 - 13  
Inst.: Young Rembrandt Staff  
Loc.: The Lodge, Activity Room  
Cost: Ages 3 - 5, \$30/Member; \$32/Resident; \$35/Non-Resident  
Ages 6 - 12, \$58/Member; \$60/Resident; \$67/Non-Resident

**THE HOBBY QUEST: AVIATION CLUB**  
The Lodge Des Peres, 1050 Des Peres Road 63131, is offering a Hobby Quest summer camp. Come fly with us! Build several model airplanes from scratch! Each camper will learn to read model plans, work with metric rulers, make necessary calculations and distinguish between different hobby tools. This high-flying course takes you outside to see your planes in motion. In addition, you'll learn about the history, aerodynamics, physics and properties of flight. You'll even build and conduct weather and other aviation experiments. Please visit our website at [www.TheHobbyQuest.com](http://www.TheHobbyQuest.com) for more detailed information. For more information or to register call 314-835-6150. Ages K - 6th grades.  
Day: Monday thru Friday  
Time: 8:30 am - 11:30 am  
Session: #4832 June 4-8  
Inst.: The Hobby Quest Staff  
Loc.: The Lodge, Activity Room  
Cost: \$145/Member, \$153/Resident, \$167/Non-resident

**MAD SCIENCE FULL DAY CAMP - 3,2,1 BLAST-OFF**  
The Lodge Des Peres, 1050 Des Peres Road 63131, is offering a Mad Science Full Day Camp this summer. This action packed week will focus solely on rockets and the physics of rocket flight. After learning the model rocket safety code, campers will build ten different types of rockets and participate in the launching of 6 different rockets during the week-long program. Children will be divided into three groups; altitude trackers, launch preparation and launchers for all rocket launches and will get the opportunity to try all three roles. We recommend this camp for children ages 7-12 however younger children enjoy it as well with a little more help from fellow campers or instructors. Minimum 12/Maximum 20  
Ages: 7 - 12  
Days: Monday - Friday  
Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Session: #4961 June 11 - 15  
Instructors: Mad Science Staff  
Loc.: The Lodge, Activity Room  
Cost: \$210/Member; \$220/Resident; \$240/Non-Resident

**MAD SCIENCE CAMP, HALF DAY - NASA: JOURNEY INTO OUTER SPACE**  
The Lodge Des Peres, 1050 Des Peres Road 63131, is offering a Mad Science Half Day Camp this summer. From our Earth's atmosphere to the outer reaches of our solar system, this hands-on program for children ages 5-12 sends them on a quest for exploration! Comets, planets, stars and more are all waiting to be discovered. Learn about the four forces of flight, the challenges of space travel and participate in a rocket launch! For more information or to register call 314-835-6150. Minimum 12/Maximum 20  
Ages: 5 - 12  
Days: Monday - Friday  
Time: 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Session: #4962 June 25 - 29  
Instructor: Mad Science Staff  
Loc.: The Lodge, Activity Room  
Cost: \$138/Member; \$145/Resident; \$158/Non-Resident

**IMAGINE TOMORROW COMPUTER CAMP**  
The Lodge Des Peres, 1050 Des Peres Road 63131, is offering a computer camp this summer!

Imagine Tomorrow teaches more than just computers; every class brings new experiences designed to teach our young students how to think creatively, express their ideas, and apply the skills they are learning to solve problems and accomplish their goals. Every class combines interactive video and software in a proprietary format that allows children to work in a group setting, yet advance at their own pace; one computer per child. This course is designed for children 3 - 7 years. For more information or to register call 314-835-6150.

Days: Monday - Friday  
#5227 12:30- 2 pm, June 25-29  
#5234 2- 3:30 pm, June 25-29  
#5228 12:30 - 2 pm, July 23-27  
#5235 2 - 3:30 pm, July 23-27  
Inst.: Computer Bryte Kids Staff  
Loc.: The Lodge, Activity Room  
Cost: \$189/Member, \$198/Resident, \$216/Non-resident

**DANCE AND CHEER CAMP**  
The Lodge Des Peres, 1050 Des Peres Road 63131, is offering a cheerleading camp this summer! DANCE, CHEER, KICK and JUMP in this fun camp! Campers, ages 5-12, enjoy dance routines, cheers, spirit crafts, and dance parties every day! Dance routines include hip hop, jazz, pom-pom, and kick. The latest dance moves, jumps, chants, and cheer technique are taught by experienced instructors. There is a daily all-camp performance to show off new skills to parents and friends! Dance and Cheer camp is perfect for kids who love to groove! Everyone receives a camp t-shirt. For more information or to register call 314-835-6150.  
Days: Monday - Friday  
Time: 8:30 - 11:30 am  
Session: # 4808 June 18 - 22  
Instructors: Ultimate Potential Fitness Staff  
Loc.: The Lodge Activity Room  
Cost: \$80/Member; \$84/Resident; \$92/Non-resident

**KID'S COMEDY CAMP**  
The Lodge Des Peres, 1050 Des Peres Road 63131, is offering a comedy camp this summer! Funny how much fun you can have when you're learning to be funny! Learn comedy by doing it at Kid's Comedy Camp! You'll master the secrets of stand-up, sketch and improv comedy as well as theatrics. At the end of the week you'll display your newly enhanced focus, creativity, con-

fidence, teamwork, performance skills and sense of humor in a show for family and friends on Friday, July 20 from 11:15 a.m. - 12 p.m. For more information or to register call 314-835-6150. Minimum 5/Maximum 20  
Ages: 6 - 14  
Days: Monday - Friday  
Time: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Session: #4813 July 16 - 20  
Instructor: Jeff Lefton and Staff  
Loc.: The Lodge, Activity Room  
Cost: \$115/Member; \$121/Resident; \$132/Non-Resident

**PUPPET THEATER CAMP**  
The Lodge Des Peres, 1050 Des Peres Road 63131, is offering a puppet camp this summer! Looking for a fun camp? In Puppet Theater camp, kids make puppets they get to keep out of simple materials. They will choose a story, adapt it, and work with their peers to make props and sets. The camp culminates with the campers putting on a puppet show for their families and friends on Friday, August 3 at 10:45 am. If your child enjoys playing with puppets, arts & crafts, or stories, they'll have a great time in this camp! For more information or to register call 314-835-6150.  
Ages: 5 - 10  
Days: Monday - Friday  
Time: 8:30 - 11:30 am  
#4814 July 30- August 3  
Instructor: Jeff Lefton and Staff  
Loc.: The Lodge, Activity Room  
Cost: \$125/Member; \$131/Resident; \$143/Non-Resident

**CAMP TINY TOTS**  
Des Peres Parks and Recreation is offering Camp Tiny Tots this summer! Get ready, get set for arts and crafts, games, playground fun, water days and more at our camp for 3-5 years olds. Children must be toilet trained and 3 years old by June 1, 2006. Morning camp is geared for three and four year olds who are first time campers. Afternoon camp is geared for the experienced four and five year olds. Nutritious snacks will be shared. There is no camp held July 4; the price reflects this change. For more information or to register call 314-835-6150. Min. 10/ Max. 20 campers.  
Days: Monday - Friday  
Instructors: Des Peres Camp Staff  
Loc.: Des Peres City Hall, 12325 Manchester Rd, Activity Room B  
Cost: Call for info.

# NEWS ON DELMAR

## Big Shark Bicycle Receives National Recognition

Contact: Big Shark Bicycle Co.  
 Address: 6133 Delmar Blvd.  
 St. Louis, MO  
 Phone: 314/862-1188  
 Email: info@bigshark.com  
 URL: www.bigshark.com



Big Shark Bicycle Co. has been recognized as one of the Top 100 Best Bicycle Retailers in the country by a panel of leading manufacturers. Boulder Sports Research, LLC, a leading bicycle industry research company, conducted the survey. Working with the top twelve suppliers in the industry and the industry's leading trade publication Bicycle Retailer and Industry News, criteria used to pick the winners included market share, community outreach and store appearance.



"There are more than 5,200 bicycle retailers in the United States," said Thomas Prehn, president of the research company. "For Big Shark Bicycle Co. to achieve the status of one of the Top 100 Bicycle Retailers in the nation is no small matter. This bike shop stands as the best of the best," he said. Marc Sani, the magazine's publisher, said choosing the nation's best stores is a tremendous challenge. "There are so many excellent shops - in hundreds of communities throughout the U.S. - that picking the Top 100 only begins to reflect the overall high quality of bicycle retailing," he said.

Big Shark Bicycle Company was founded in 1993. Located in the popular St. Louis Loop, Big Shark Bicycle Company was established with a simple goal in mind: provide great products, fantastic service, and a refreshing place to pursue all the different facets of cycling.

From racing to touring, from kid's bikes to a bike that the grandparents would be proud to own, Big Shark Bicycle Co. has got them all. We've got the right bike for you, and even better our knowledgeable staff can help steer you to that perfect bike. All of the staff at Big Shark Bicycle Company pursue cycling in one way or another, and although we all love the glamour of high-end bikes and the newest gadgetry, we are just as excited to get children on their first bike, get people off of the couch or internet (sorry), and out pounding the pavement or trail.

Please visit our website [www.bigshark.com](http://www.bigshark.com) for further details about this announcement as well as information about our store. For more about the Top 100 Award, please visit [www.bouldersportsresearch.com](http://www.bouldersportsresearch.com)

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## SOLES for SENEGAL

### Art Show & Shoe Drive

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Time: 7:00 - 9:00 PM

**Art & Jewelry for Sale**

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To learn about the community that will benefit from your donation, please visit [www.senecorps.org](http://www.senecorps.org)

## Welcome to McPherson Place!

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# IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

Her last cycle on Earth as a human being was in the nineteenth century. She was born to a poor family in New York. Self-taught and quite industrious, she became a Civil War nurse. Medicine was, as we look back, primitive in those times, but Elaine, as she was called, made a real difference in the lives of many wounded soldiers.

His last iteration as a human being was fairly recent. His life ended in 1942 in a combat zone in France. Prior to the last battle, there was nothing to set him apart from his peers. He had dropped out of school at age 15 and was aimless until he felt the call of duty. Even then, he was but a nondescript trooper. That changed in France on that July day. Six different times he raised his body and ran across the field, exposing himself to enemy fire in order to bring a wounded comrade back to safety. Five times he was successful, but on the sixth time, he became another of the World War II dead.

Prior to being a nurse in the Civil War, she last lived in Jamestown, in an early colonial settlement.

Life was tough in those days, and the living conditions were matched by the harshness of the citizens. Those who deviated from the norm, those who questioned, were given no slack. Yet she stood up for what she believed was right, often shielding others who were not so strong.

She was also a maiden in the Spanish royalty during the time of Columbus. Again, she was noted for not just being kind, but for actively seeking to protect those who were less fortunate. Many times she and her servant slipped out of the castle at night in order to carry food to someone in need.

His lives were all different and yet all the same. They were different by context. Prior to serving in WWII, he had been a tribesman in China in the 1800's, a mother of eleven in the 1700's, and a denizen of London in the year 791. Yet despite the differences in environment and role, his kindness was constant. He always took the time to listen and always found a way to help.

Despite our relative sophistication today, there is still much that is unknown and unclear. That ranges from "What is dark matter?" to "How come I don't lose weight even though I'm cutting back on my eating?" to "How did this country elect him to be president?" In a way, as a wiser

mind might suggest, the more we know, the more we know that we don't know. That puts us on a bit of an intellectual treadmill, of course. As we gain, we lose. Is this a great world or what?

As one example of what we don't know but should, Karma, believe it or else, is real. I mean, do you really think that THIS is it? How disappointing that we trudge here for 20 or 80 years and then the movie is over. Even 80 years, OK, even 100 years isn't enough to smell all the flowers and eat all the junk food. Sure, some folks make an incredible dent on the world and then they're gone. Poof. Most of us, though, knock around, creating a bit of leverage here and tilting things there, and then it's over. We're over. But it's not and neither are we.

You see, dear readers, Karma is the real deal. We are each here for many iterations. In previous lives, for example, I was a chimney sweep in Germany, a Conquistador in Spain, a prostitute in Rome, and a scribe in China. Each of those lives was separate but they were each mine. Who I was and who I am didn't really change. I told bad puns in every setting and wore mismatched clothing century after century.

Note that I'm leaving religion out of this. It's between you and your God whether or not there's a heaven at the end of our ultimate journey (and whether that heaven offers chocolate with the calories removed). Good luck on that one.

Yes, heaven may be our final resting place but the final rest is a ways away. I figure that I have at least a dozen iterations still ahead. There are no guarantees, of course, but I've requested warm climates and a svelte frame. Extraordinary skill with a basketball is also on the wish list.

Like many things, this is far more complicated than it appears – certainly than I explain it. You see, the examples I've cited have all been human beings. Their time, location, role and gender will change, but humans they are. But they're not always. You see, sometimes we come back as another life form. Someone who was a terrible bully, for example, maybe Attila the Hun or Donny Rumsfeld, might come back as a rabbit, just to get a feel for the other side. Or someone who

always over-ate might come back as a porcine oinker.

But these "lower" life forms need not always be lower. Indeed, the people that I began by describing – the Civil War nurse, WWII soldier, and so on – are back with us today, even as I write. Over the centuries and throughout the continents, these two figures (note that I'm avoiding using the word "human" here) stood apart by their commitment to others. Regardless of their situation, they reached out and helped. They didn't just talk; they acted to help others. Each iteration found them striving even harder to make a positive difference in the world. Sure, a condo in heaven – which I suspect must resemble Merb's Candies – probably lies in the distance for them, but what about now? How could another iteration possibly reward these two figures for lifetime after lifetime after lifetime of reaching out and making a positive difference?

Well, meet B.J. and Casper, my two dogs. In this iteration they're each a standard poodle. B.J. is a black female and Casper is a white male. They're dogs in appearance but not always in behavior. Subtly, if you look closely, you can see traces of the humans they were. B.J. is empathetic and Casper smiles. And, as their reward, they have come back as my dogs.

It doesn't get much better than being one of my dogs. Think about it: Eat well, nap as much as you want, sleep in a warm dog-bed, have treats simply for just coming inside, patted on the head rather regularly, daily walks to smell the roses, and a front door with a glass window so that you can bark at anything that moves. And what's missing? No worries, no taxes, and no listening to Rush Limbaugh. It doesn't get any better than that.

So stay true to what's good, dear reader. Listen well, act graciously, and be kind not just to strangers and dogs, but also to people you know (which is much harder). Maybe, just maybe, if you're lucky, you can come back and be one of my dogs in a future generation. I don't know on what planets we'll be living in 2137 or what technology will allow us to do (or what it will have done to us), but I'll be here and I'll have a dog. You could be my lucky pooch. How's that for a goal?

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