

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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Fall 2007

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

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New Commercial Ventures on Our Borders

by Lana Stein

A Cafe with Wheels

Susan Gyrog plans to open **Velocity**, a new cafe and cyclery, in September at the intersection of DeBaliviere and Pershing (formerly home to Archway).

The cafe is planned to be as green as a cafe can be. The coffee and teas served will all be organic. The cafe will be open from 7 am to 9 pm.

In addition to providing libation to customers far and near, it will also rent bicycles, including tandem and other speciality bikes, to those who wish to explore Forest Park, only 2 blocks away. This dual purpose gives rise to its name: Velocity Cafe.

The shop will also repair and restore bicycles. The cafe occupies 2000 square feet in what is again called the Bristol Building. It takes up 3 storefronts.



A Gallery Moves and Grows

Diversity Gallery has been housed in the Pageant for seven years. It now intends to expand to the new building being constructed on the south side of Delmar, between Mirasol and the former church. The Diversity Gallery draws its art objects from all African countries. It will add a cafe and bookstore in its new location, **The Culture Cafe**. It will serve gourmet dishes representative of different ethnic cuisines.

The Gallery is applying for a license to sell beer and wine at its cafe. The newly relocated Diversity Gallery should be open in October and is owned by Leslie Wilson, with her mother, Rubina Patton. The Pattons are longtime residents of Skinker-DeBaliviere.

Another storefront in the new Joe Edwards building will be **Knitti Couture**, which will sell fine yarns and offer knitting classes.

Second floor office space also is available in the new building. Offices are 800, 99, and 1100 square feet and space rents for \$16.50 a square foot.



MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC

The **West End Arts Council** and **SDCC** are sponsoring a free concert series three Saturdays in September: September 15, 22 and 29, at Greg Freeman Park at Four Corners, Des Peres and Kingsbury, 6:00pm - 9:00pm.

Fresh Heir – a hot, young and talented group based out of St. Louis, whose music reflects elements of soul/blues, R&B, rock and hip hop. The energy that this group will bring to the stage will keep you dancing and grooving all night.

Lamar Harris – Jazz, Urban, R&B – Lamar Harris sound is "Funky, Jazzy, Gritty and Soulful with his talking horn." Lamar Harris' seamless blend of horns electric sounds and vocals forms an explosive combination.

Bones Jones Band – "Bones Jones" is a local St Louis Jazz, Blues, Funk, "Island", Rock, Pop & Soul act covering tunes by a wide variety of artists including the Neville Brothers, Motown Hits, Etta James, Nina Simone, Dr. John, Earth Wind & Fire, Van Morrison and Santana to name just a few. Bones Jones Band features our own Skinker DeBaliviere resident, music genius, Jeff Stone.

Please come out and join us for a free, night of music that's unique, danceable and entertaining... all evening long. Lawn chairs are welcome and adult beverages are permitted. However, no glass bottles will be allowed. For more information, call SDCC, 862-5122.

Joe's Café, located at Christman Art Studio, 6016 Kingsbury, just west of the SDCC office, is artist-neighbor Bill Christman's experiment in entertainment, providing a place for neighbors to meet and relax by turning his studio into Joe's Cafe one night a week. On Thursdays beginning at 8pm, neighbors are invited to bring themselves and their refreshments to the Cafe to hear acoustic music and get to know each other better. Everyone kicks in a little for the musicians. It's a pleasant, inexpensive interlude close to home. Bill welcomes children and dogs (behaved of course).

GREAT GREEN PESTO FEAST

The 17th Annual Great Green Pesto Feast will be held on Saturday, September 15, 2007, at Grace United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 6199 Waterman. The cost is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. This is one of the best vegetarian dinners in St. Louis. Tim Montague and Naomi Davis will speak on "From Climate Chaos to Global Justice."

The feast is sponsored by the Gateway Green Alliance. For more info call 314-727-8554 or visit the web site: www.gateway-greens.org

Rags to Riches: The Ultimate Yard Sale

On Saturday, September 8, 2007, Rags to Riches, the "ultimate" yard sale, will be held throughout the neighborhood. Sponsored by Rosedale Neighborhood Assoc. and Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, sale times are 8am - 2pm. Registration Fee is \$10 in advance, \$15.00 day of event. Forms are at the SDCC office, (314) 862-5122. No competitive food sales – food sale includes BBQ and is held at the parking lot at Westminster and Skinker, all proceeds go to the Rosedale Neighbors Association. Donated baked goods are welcomed, as are volunteers to help sell the food items. Please contact SDCC at 862-5122 to let us know when and how long you can tend the booth, and plan on bringing and eating goodies on Saturday morning during your shopping spree.

Loop Events

By Debbie Murphy

Loop On Sale Sept. 15 - 16, 2007

The wildly successful Loop On Sale continues for the third straight year and is taking place on Friday & Saturday, September 15 & 16. It is the only event of its kind – the ENTIRE neighborhood is on sale.

The businesses that stretch along Delmar between the University City lions and the Loop Metrolink station are banding together to present a bargain shopper's dream weekend. This includes all the participating restaurants, boutiques, gift shops, book stores, record stores, art galleries, baby shops and more. Some merchants have up to 50% off. Hours and discounts vary business to business.

There will be a little something for everyone at these eclectic, largely independent establishments. So come out and support alternative shopping and diverse dining. The fresh air while walking the historic Loop neighborhood is free. For information check www.VisitTheLoop.com.

Loop in Motion Festival Oct. 5 - 6

From 6-9 p.m. on Friday, October 5 enjoy dance & live music stages and exhibits in galleries & alternative spaces along Delmar. Festivities continue on Saturday, October 6 from 1-9 p.m. with live music & dance and two stages, sidewalk performances, children's activities, sidewalk sales and continuing art exhibits throughout The Loop. For information visit www.VisitTheLoop.com/loopinmotion.

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

As I frequently remind people, I grew up in Michigan. A temperature of 80 was considered very hot. Once every few years, there would be two or three days of 90s for the whole summer. Here, during the height of our worst heatwave of the summer, I had two very discombobulating experiences. I went to Dierberg's after dark for necessary provisions and exited into the worst traffic jam I've ever seen here. It was when the car and tanker trailer collided and they closed 170. It was a mess. I of course worried about all the perishables in my trunk (the reason I'd shopped after dark in the first place!) and I am not a patient person. I made it home and everything was ok but I would suggest that St. Louis County and Brentwood and Richmond Heights have someone directing traffic during such an event. Many of us made a right to nowhere and lost 20 minutes of motor running.

The second calamity was the power outage. Mine went about 5pm and did not return till 6:20am. Luckily my house remained relatively cool and my pets (dog and cat) never let me down. I always knew I would be bad in a more extended outage and I was. In addition, Ameren never gave an accurate projection of when power would return. Do we really know what happened? But, as one friend said, 13 hours was nothing; she lived through 7 days last summer.

On the first really hot Saturday, I attended a birthday party in Manchester. There were many trees, a clubhouse and pool for neighbors and quiet. But, I didn't relax till I returned to our hood. I could never be a suburbanite. There's the traffic in the city . . .

As a segue, our Delmar Commercial Committee has learned that METRO has (finally) begun planning the construction of the long-delayed transit plaza at the Delmar Loop Station. The committee will be meeting with Metro soon to give some feedback about their plans. Although excited about this progress, I would be remiss in not reminding METRO that their current upkeep of the station leaves something to be desired. It should be free of debris etc. James Q. Wilson coauthored a very famous article about the "broken windows" theory. Neglect, waste etc. lead to disturbance and crime. If things appear to be well-kept, it will be safer. So, let's urge METRO to get on the stick now and clean up the station so many neighbors use.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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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 Nov.-Dec. issue: October 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

"RAGS TO RICHES" Saturday, September 8, 2007, 8a.m. – 2 p.m. For more information call SDCC, 862-5122.

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Monthly meetings
 – 2nd Monday of the month: September 10, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council/General Meeting/All Skinker DeBaliviere Residents are invited--October 8, New Cote Brilliante Church 7:00pm, all other meetings, September 10, November 12, December 10, January 14, 2008 are held at SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury (Kingsbury @ Des Peres), 7:00pm.

Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation (SDCHC) – Year 2007 Wednesday – September 5, September 19, October 3, October 17, November 7, November 21, December 5--6:00 p.m., at the SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury.

Loop on Sale: Sept. 15-16. For more information, see www.visittheloop.com

WU Neighborhood Safety Seminar, 6-7:30 p.m., September 20, Regional Arts Commission, 6128 Delmar. For more information, call 935-9511.

Loop in Motion: October 5-6. For more information, see www.visittheloop.com

Report to WU Neighbors, 7:00 p.m., October 25, Charles Knight Executive Education Center, Danforth Campus. For information, call Cheryl Adelstein, 935-5752.

Piano Extravaganza, 7:00 p.m., October 28, WU's new performance facility, "The 560 Building", Trinity and Delmar. For discount tickets, call 935-5566, or make dinner reservations at one of the Loop restaurants offering dinner and concert packages: Blueberry Hill, Brandt's, Riddles, and the Melting Pot.

Halloween Party, St. Roch's Gymnasium, 5:00-6:00 p.m., October 31. For information, call SDCC, 862-5122. Traditionally, neighborhood Trick or Treating begins immediately after the party.

NEW NEIGHBORS PARTY

By Jo Ann Vatcha

The early summer evening of June 23, 2007 was definitely charmed, as an early sprinkling of rain threatened the first "New Neighbors Party" in three years. But the rain failed to materialize, and over 100 neighbors were seen in the back yards of 6115-6117 Westminster. The crowd built all evening long, making this one of the most successful "new neighbors" parties ever.

It was also the first time in recent memory that there were special activities and treats for children, and we were delighted that so many young families brought their kids. A few are pictured here, of the approximately 30 children who attended with their parents. There were even teenagers, including **Chela Colvin**, of the 5700 block of DeGiverville, who is off to college this fall with a scholarship, won for her MLK Day essay, "A Dream Fulfilled: Coexistence in America."

Another happy outcome – over \$1,000 raised for **THE TIMES!** Thanks to all who helped with food donations, with special thanks to **Jon Parker** of **Parker's Table** wine shop. Attendees included Bob and Maggie Mahon, Rachel Boxdorfer and a hundred adults, plus about 30 kids, including this spirited group atop the Baybeck playhouse.



Photos by Jo Ann Vatcha

News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer



Fourth of July parade participants J.D. Allen, with Sarah and Maddie Baybeck.

The **Wimmer-Brown family** of 61XX Washington hosted their annual Independence Day Parade. A crowd of nearly 30 – including a handful of former neighbors and a few new faces – marched, pedaled or roller-skated around the 61XX blocks of Washington

and Westminster before returning to the Wimmer-Brown's for some "stars & stripes fruit: watermelon, blueberries and strawberries". The 6100 block of McPherson also continued with their annual parade which was headed up by the **McGroarty and Voss families!**

Photo by Jennifer Olmstead



Congratulations to **Rose Storey**, formerly of 57xx Waterman, who retired recently from the Collector of Revenue's office. We wish Rose well and miss seeing both Rose and George regularly here in the neighborhood.



From left, Mike x, former 28th Ward Committeeman, Mayor Francis Slay, Rose Storey, former Mayor Vince Schoemehl, former 28th Ward Committeeman, and Jim Sonderman, Special Assistant to Mayor Slay.

We're happy to have a new contributor join The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere staff. **Ligaya Figueras** was featured in a recent Post-Dispatch Food Section with some great healthy breakfast ideas. She has contributed a story in this issue about summer fun in Skinker-Debaliviere. Ligaya and her family, husband **Joe Gudiswitz** and their sons **Alvaro and Anton** (61XX Washington) welcome **Daniele Tiddia** to their home. Daniele is a seventeen-year-old foreign exchange student from Italy. Daniele arrived in August and will be living with the Figueras Gudiswitz family until June of next year while he attends Crossroads College Preparatory School.

Welcome new neighbors! We are pleased to extend a warm welcome on 61xx Westminster to **Jamaal Campbell and Maya Fields** and also on 57xx McPherson to **Ed and Joy Mock!**

The Times is sad to report the passing of **Betty Botz**, longtime resident of 61xx Kingsbury, St. Roch parishioner, wonderful water color painter whose house portraits of neighborhood homes

were much appreciated, and a beautiful lady who will be missed. Our sympathy to her husband **Joe** and their family.

Also passing far too early in his life was developer and businessman, **Rainey Crawford, Jr.** Rainey was known by many in the neighborhood and could be seen regularly in the neighborhood checking on his many renovation projects.

Have you got some news to share? Please send your items to Rachel Boxdorfer at rboxdorfer@charter.net with the subject line "News of Neighbors."



Ed and Joy Mock at the New Neighbors Party.

Photo by Jo Ann Vatcha

What's Cooking in the Hood?

by Lana Stein

Skinker DeBaliviere has been home to a bevy of authors – writers of fiction, specialists in education, historians, political scientists –and now we have a homegrown cookbook inspired by family and friends. **Shirley Polk** has lived on DeGiverville for four decades and she has served on the Community Council for over two. She's well-known on her block and has long befriended school children and encouraged them.

Cooking has been a major part of her life. She watched her mother as a child and learned about many recipes from her. She has continued to cook a lot over the years, particularly at holidays. Her family and their recipes were a particular inspiration for this new cookbook, **"What's cookin': Shirley in the Kitchen."** As the book states, "only the best make the best."

A particular inspiration for this cookbook came from the wonderful people Shirley encountered at the Canaan Baptist Church in New York City. Housed in a former theatre, the congregation draws people from many nationalities. She received a lot of encouragement on her visits there.

She said that her favorite recipe is one from her mother for Black Walnut Cake. She is also fond of the recipe for Sweet Potato Pie. Her



husband Al likes Big Daddy's T-Bone Steak. He also supplied a chicken recipe that comes from where he went to school.

Quite a few books have been sold but there are some left for those interested in these recipes. You can write to Shirley Polk - SPP Inc., Cookbook Chair, 5755 DeGiverville, PO Box 4521, St. Louis MO 63108. As Shirley says, "Keep cooking!"

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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT: A Rousing Success in Skinker DeBaliviere

Robyn Nagle, Assistant Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council

On Tuesday evening, August 8th, approximately 200 residents of the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood braved the heat to come out in support of the "National Night Out Against Crime" effort. The festivities began at 6:00 pm, with live music provided by "Valle Tudo," whose music provided a great backdrop to the evening's festivities. Add in some outstanding balloon work by Michael Geerloff and face painting by Jessica Dana (both of whom were extremely popular with our younger attendees), the sprinkler in the park for some water-related fun, and some great food (hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats, all hot off the grill), and you have one great evening!

The overall success of any event relies on the people who work on it, and we were extremely lucky to have the best. Special thanks to the following for their contributions and hard work: Andy Cross and his volunteers for manning the barbeque grills; Kate Nash and Arline Webb, SDCC Board Members, and Bonita Jamison, Principal of the



Photos by King Schoenfeld

Des Peres Big Picture School, and her staff, and Ron Glenn for their tireless work in making sure everyone got food and cold drinks; Bob Mahon and Alice Stanley, SDCC President and Treasurer, for taking care of the cashier duties; and (finally) Margaret Nagle, Lena Braylock, and their volunteers (Allison, Grace, Madison, and Shaun, St. Roch 8th

Grade) for handling the games, activities, and emcee duties.

Last, but certainly not least, a special thanks to Pulaski Bank, for their generous financial support of this event and their investment in our community!



Circuit Attorney Jennifer Joyce joined our local policemen at Four Corners.



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SDCC Minutes 6-11-07, 7:00 pm
 Aldermanic Representatives: Lyda Krewson, 28th Ward; Chris Howard, 28th Ward NSO.
 Staff: Darcell Braylock, Executive Director; Robyn Nagle, Assistant.
 Others: Gary Boehnke, SDCHC; Sgt. Mark Hemholt, 7th District (SLMPD).
 1. Welcome/Introductions: The meeting was called to order by President Bob Mahon.
 2. Alex Shaffer/Fundraiser: Alex Shaffer, who is a member of the Kingsbury Ensemble (a Baroque music group, consisting of Washington University faculty) indicated that the group would be interested in performing free of charge at an SDCC event. Darcell indicated that she has contact information, will facilitate efforts to contact the group.
 3. Minutes from April 9th were amended to reflect that Gwen LaZard's absence was

excused. Minutes from April 9th, 2007, were approved as amended. Minutes of the meeting held on May 14th, 2007 approved.
 4. Financial Report: Alice Stanley presented the Financial Reports, with Robyn Nagle providing additional clarification. It was requested that a "Budget" column be added to the reports presented to the Board. Financial Reports for May, 2007 approved.
 5. Executive Director's Report: Darcell Braylock reported on the following:
 * Rosedale Association Representatives: The Rosedale Association has appointed new officers and representatives to serve on the SDCC Board: Nicole Blummer, Karen Hagaman, Alex Lowenstein, and Duana Thomas. Arline Webb, a current member of the SDCC Board, is the new President, and will continue on the SDCC Board.
 * SLPS Update: The current Des Peres facility will reopen as an alternative elementary school, and Hamilton School will reopen as K-8th grade.
 * SDCC Board Training: To be conducted in July and August, 2007.
 * 7th District Police Contribution: A group of businesses within the 7th District have joined together to support the officers, "Officer of the Year" luncheon, bi-annual barbeque, and community building events. A \$100 contribution to this effort was approved.
 * Skinker-DeBaliviere Jazz Festival, 2007: Troy Williams (owner of Sweet Dough Hot Beans) is proposing a summer jazz concert series utilizing the stage in 4 Corners Park. The events will be conducted from 6-9 pm, with beverages (including alcoholic) and food for sale. Proposed dates are July 14 and 28, August 11 and 25, and September 8. It was noted that September 8th is the annual "Rags to Riches" sale, and Darcell will work with Mr. Williams on necessary rescheduling. Finally, it was noted that a portion of the net event proceeds will go to SDCC, making this a fundraising effort.
 * SDCC General Meeting, October 8th: The annual meeting will be held at New Cote Brillante Church, with all Committee Chairs required to give a short presentation and respond to questions.
 * Home-Based Business Approval: A request for a home-based property management business submitted by Melanie Rudolph was reviewed and approved. Norb Hart suggested development of a mechanism to review business proposals in the business district.
 * Thanks: Appreciation was expressed to Aldermen Frank Williamson and Lyda Krewson for their support and participation at the May 14th meeting with SLPS.
 * Lyda Krewson was also thanked for her attention to maintenance of the alleys, and for her patience and willingness to compromise on a controversial ("no win") project. (see report below)
 * U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill held an open house on Saturday, June 2nd, at her new office located at 5850 Delmar.
 6. Aldermanic Reports:
 Lyda Krewson:
 * Alleys: There have been many complaints over years. Input was solicited from residents, as well as recommendations from the Street Department. Eventually, it was decided to "mill" (grind/remove asphalt) alleys/evaluate condition. Based on the

results, the current recommendation if for pavement of the 6000 and 6100 blocks of Kingsbury (both sides), and the 6000 block of Kingsbury/Westminster. Arline Webb noted a problem in the 6000 block of Pershing/Forest Park Parkway alley, which Lyda will look into.
 * 6200 block of Delmar: Scheduled for new pedestrian lighting
 * Delmar Bridge (over MetroLink): Out to bid, and Delmar will remain open during construction. Norb Hart raised the issue of accommodating the proposed trolley on the new bridge, and has contacted Tom Shroust (CMT). Lyda cautioned that construction needs to commence ASAP, to avoid the risk of losing Federal funds for the project.
 * Signal at Lindell/Skinker: Reconfiguring intersection; construction should be completed by mid-August.
 7. Community/Neighborhood Reports
 * 7th District Report: There has been an Increase in auto accidents (over half of police reports in neighborhood).
 * Chris Howard/NSO 28th Ward:
 1. Meeting with property owners over property in 5800 block of Pershing - 13 nuisance calls since Dec. (domestic disturbance). 2. 5754 Pershing (2-family/owner-occupied - traffic/gunfire - need residents to call SLMPD). 3. Weekly yard sales at apartment building on Laurel/working with property owner - if no luck with owner, call SLMPD (permit required for yard sale). 4. Some graffiti on Parkview monument at Skinker/now repaired.
 8. SDCC Committee/Neighborhood Reports
 * Rosedale Neighborhood Association: Arline Webb reported new Board members/SDCC reps; "Rags to Riches" event on Sept. 8th.
 * West End Arts Council: Andy Cross expressed support for proposed jazz series.
 * Beautification: Andy Cross reported that Planting Day on May 5th was a success. Trees have been replaced at the Des Peres pocket park/cul de sac, and the redbud trees have also been replaced at the Pershing/Des Peres pocket park. Trees have also been planted at DeGiverville cul de sac.
 The Garden Tour (June 2nd) was also a success, and Andy expressed thanks to all the volunteers.
 * SDCHC Report: Gary Boehnke referred the Board to the attachment in the Agenda packet, and noted that the SDCHC Board is currently working on a strategic planning effort. Finally, Ron Stephens (City Building Inspector) is being promoted to supervisor and transferred to the north part of City. Ron has been in Skinker DeBaliviere for several years, and will be missed.
 9. Other Business:
 * Education Committee Proposal: Kate Nash proposed that SDCC establish an Education Committee to work on the relationship with neighborhood schools (Hamilton and alternative school) on things such as a mentoring program in schools (Washington University program), welcome event, etc. On motion by Kate Nash, second by Alice Stanley, and unanimously carried, establishment of an Education Committee was approved.
 10. Adjournment: On motion by Karen Hagaman, second by Joe Keaveny, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.
 Respectfully submitted, Robyn Nagle

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S-D Residents Beat the Heat

by Ligaya Figueras

Skinker-DeBaliviere residents went looking for a cool escape from August's triple-digit temperatures. **Pattie Voss** of 61XX McPherson loves the shade at the Heman Pool in University City, which made it possible for non-residents to enjoy their beautiful facility this summer. The 2007 non-resident rate for a family pool pass was set at \$210 and \$130.50 for a single membership. "There are so many mature trees, and the baby pool has a wonderful shade canopy as well," says Pattie. While she and her husband Tim appreciate the shelter from sun exposure, her four children flock to the serpentine waterslide and the brightly colored, giant animal-shaped rafts of the newly renovated pool.

Until this year, the Voss family, like other S-D neighbors, had

visited other community pools to stay cool. The Maplewood Family Aquatic Center located at 7550 Lohmeyer, directly behind Maplewood City Hall, remains a popular outdoor facility that includes an entire pool for young children. The non-resident daily fee is \$6 for adults and \$4 for youths. Family memberships are available for \$300 per season. The pools at 55XX Pershing and 56XX Waterman pools, though smaller than municipal pools, are other nearby swimming options. The Pershing and Waterman pools are operated by Park Station at DeBaliviere Place Apartments. Non-residents of DeBaliviere Place Apartments can purchase a membership for \$150, which is good for up to three people. Memberships for each additional

person cost \$50. The pass is valid at either location and includes access to the tennis courts adjacent to the Pershing Pool.

For a handful of residents, finding a place to swim was as easy as opening the back door. **Joe and Beth Hogan** of 61XX Kingsbury love the in-ground pool that they had built earlier this year. "Not a day goes by that Hannah and Jamie aren't splashing around in the water," says Beth of her two young children. **Jennifer and Jon Barton** of 61XX Westminster likewise enjoy swimming with their daughters Clara and Grace in the evening. "Our family loves our in-ground swimming pool. Even the dog Linus gets in the pool!

"We often comment that we can't remember 'life before pool.' We keep it open from April to October, as it is heated. It's even helped us to get to know some of



our neighbors better – everyone wants to be your friend when you have a pool!"

For those who couldn't enjoy the amenity of a backyard pool, like the **Wimmer-Brown family** of 61XX Washington, the classic sprinkler-and-hose method was the best way to beat St. Louis's scorching heat.

You can email Ligaya at figuerasl@sbcglobal.net.



Photos by Andy Cross.

Rebekah Asen is standing among her collections of cactus, roses, elephant ears, orchids, and bonsai trees.



Sean and Angie Meara have transformed their yard from a tangled mass of debris and neglect to a lush and inviting oasis in just one year.

2007 Garden Tour with a Mission

by Andy Cross

One of the many goals of the Breakfast Garden Tour is to reach out to all neighbors and bring them into parts of the neighborhood which they may not have a chance to visit. This 2007 Breakfast Garden Tour visited a part of Skinker DeBaliviere which has been moving forward. Houses have been rehabbed and renewed from poor conditions to excellent. New neighbors are moving in and getting involved. The new Metro line has changed a few things here. Public areas are on the rebound as well. There is also a message in this tour about a group of nature's hard workers. Like all of nature, this group is fascinating, they are a lesson for us, we cannot survive without them, and they need our attention.

All along the tour, puzzle pieces were offered to tour goers. Each puzzle piece had a big letter and facts about bees on one side, and part of a picture on the other. The letterpuzzle spelled the word 'honeybees' and the assembled picture was a drawing of two honeybees. Tour goers who brought their puzzle pieces to the last place on the tour map received a book with drawings and amazing facts about bees and how important they are to our planet and our survival.

The underlying theme of this '07 tour is the worker bee attitude of our participants. The old and new neighbors who have been working hard to re-stabilize this part of Skinker DeBaliviere. Like bees they all have their tasks set out for them. The coop students are recycling old things into a new garden and sharing them with their neighbors. The potter is harvesting the soil from the earth to make useful and attractive objects, keeping alive an ancient and creative tradition. The bee keepers are protecting one of our worlds most valuable resources. The new neighbors are reclaiming old houses and yards and beautifying them with healthy lawns, flowers, and plantings, while steadfast neighbors have been holding down the fort through some turbulent times on these blocks. Their gardens are a symbol of their efforts. Public gardens are being replanted, and new ones are being created to make the neighborhood more attractive and healthier. Even our coffee has a mission, Coffee on the Loop' at 6017 Delmar donates it's proceeds to a special charity.

Thank you to all who volunteered to work on this tour, and thank you to all who attended. A special thanks to the gardeners all of who made an extra effort to create a garden tour in this challenging, changing, and exciting part of Skinker DeBaliviere.

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How Well Do You Know Your Home?

By Dennis Northcott, Associate Archivist for the Missouri Historical Society

If these walls could talk, what stories might they tell? Perhaps you've wondered: When was my house built? What additions or alterations were made over the years? Who were its past residents? Fortunately for those in the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood, the nearby Missouri History Museum Library and Research Center at 225 South Skinker may hold the answers to these questions. As a test case, Skinker-DeBaliviere resident Jennifer Olmstead asked what I could uncover about the history of her house at 6115 Westminster Place.



William Garrels



MILDRED E. GARRELS
 Divinely tall and most divinely fair.
Dramatic Club, '17
Round Table, '16, '17
Tennis Club, '17

Determining when the house was built proved to be easy thanks to an architectural survey map of the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood compiled by the Landmarks Association of St. Louis in 1983. This map indicates that the house was built in 1914 and designed by architect C.W. Pomeroy.

To find out who resided at 6115 Westminster Place, I consulted the Red-Blue Books and Blue Books. These annual reverse directories allowed me to look up the street address, which then provided the name of the resident. The first residents were traveling salesman William Henry Garrels and his wife, Clara, who resided in the house from 1914 to 1925. (William Garrels died in 1922.) The 1916 city directory includes his business address, 1000 Washington Avenue, which was then the location of the Rice-Stix Dry Goods Company. This additional bit of information gave me a new avenue to investigate. A quick search for the Rice-Stix Dry Goods Company in our library catalog revealed a publication titled *The Progress of a Progressive House: Rice-Stix Dry Goods Company*, published circa 1907, which includes a photograph of William Garrels.

The old Rice-Stix Dry Goods Company building has recently been renovated as the home of the Merchandise Mart Apartments. The Library and Research Center holds a wealth of resources documenting the history of the burgeoning downtown loft district.

But who was this man, William Garrels? The 1920 federal census provides additional information: He was 59 years old; he was born in Missouri; his parents were born in Holland; and he owned his home. Living with him in 1920 were his 48-year-old wife, Clara, his 19-year-old daughter Mildred, and two roomers.

Nearby Soldan High School



seemed a likely school for Mildred Garrels to have attended, so I consulted the Soldan yearbooks. Among the graduates of 1918 was the "divinely tall and most divinely fair" Mildred Garrels. The yearbook also noted a party held at the

be found in the Pullman Company archives at the Newberry Library in Chicago.

Charles W. Keisker lived at 6115 Westminster from 1950 to 1972, and celebrated his fiftieth wedding anniversary with his wife, Irma, in the home in 1969. Sam K. Green and his wife, Lucille, resided in the home from 1973 to 2005 until it was purchased by current residents Brady Baybeck and Jennifer Olmstead.

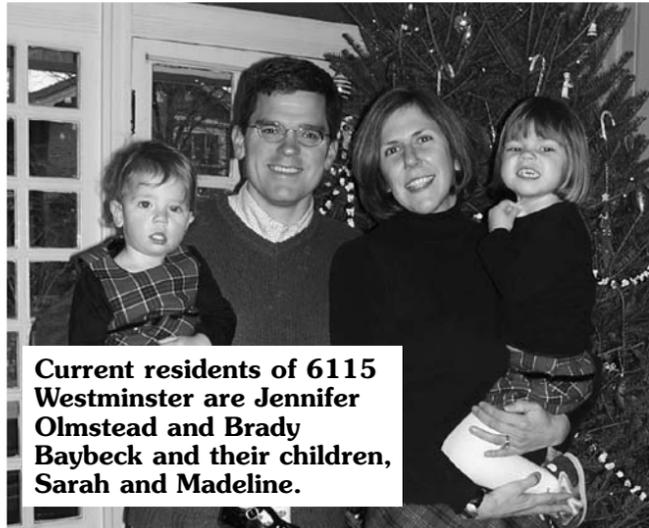
If you'd like to investigate the history of your home and order reproductions of photographs or artifacts visit the Missouri History Museum Library and Research Center at 225 South Skinker. The library is open to the public Tuesday-Friday, 12-5, and Saturday, 10-5.

For special instruction on researching the history of your home, sign up for "House History 101," a guided tour to our valuable holdings including maps and atlases, city directories, census records, letterheads of old businesses, photographs, and more. The class will be scheduled during a weekend in mid-October. For more information or for advanced

registration, please contact Alex Detrick, Assistant Director for Community Education and Events at abell@mohistory.org or 314-361-8059.

Editor's Note: In reading MOHIS' account of 6115 Westminster, here's an interesting link between the generations of homeowners. In the late 70's, Sam Green also worked at the Merchandise Mart Building in another dry goods enterprise,

Lady Arrow Co. His showroom there was supplemented by an ingenious "mobile" showroom in a converted Greyhound bus, which was frequently parked in the back yard of 6115. The bus also made many appearances at political events throughout the 80's, when Lu Green served as director of Operation Brightside and her brother Vince Schoemehl was Mayor of St. Louis. - JV



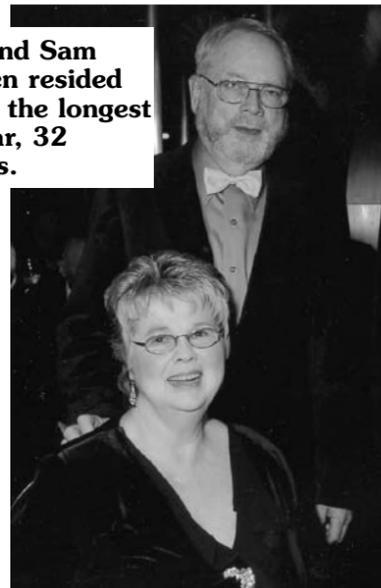
Current residents of 6115 Westminster are Jennifer Olmstead and Brady Baybeck and their children, Sarah and Madeline.

Garrels' home: "At Mildred Garrels' house one night, A tea was given, that was just right; Our senior boys were gentlemen, And served the ladies now and then."

Returning to the city directories, I located the home's second owner, Malcolm Henry Campbell, who resided at 6115 Westminster with his family from 1925 until his death in 1950. The 1930 federal census notes that the value of the home at that time was \$15,580, and the home contained a "radio set."

Malcolm Campbell was a conductor for the Pullman Company, whose famous sleeping cars were a fixture of luxury train travel in the United States. Our library holds a collection of the company's magazine titled *The Pullman News*, which includes a few mentions of Campbell. Additional information about his career may

Lu and Sam Green resided here the longest so far, 32 years.



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SDCC and SLPS Work Together for Successful Schools

By Kate Nash

When the St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS) reopen for the 2007-2008 school year, Skinker-DeBaliviere will be home to two public elementary schools – Hamilton School, which provides K-8 classrooms, and the Big Picture School at Des Peres. These are in addition to our two private schools: St. Roch's and Crossroads. In recognition of the need for communication between the schools and the neighborhood, the SDCC has started an Education Committee.

One of the committee's first actions was to meet with the new principal for Big Picture elementary school at Des Peres, Ms. Bonita Jamison.

Out of that meeting, the committee has been working with both public schools to promote relationships, and to look for opportunities for neighbors to

be involved in the schools. In this capacity, the SDCC collected school supplies and donations from area churches, Office Max and Bank of America, and will provide schools supplies to every classroom at the Des Peres school and at Hamilton School, in addition to providing supplies to St. Roch's and Crossroads.

The Big Picture Elementary School at Des Peres will be home to 96 students, and will offer a teacher-student ratio of 1:16. Part of the Big Picture program is to offer mentors to every student in the school. The Education Committee is looking for volunteers to be mentors. Interested residents should contact the SDCC office at 862-5122 for a volunteer application. Volunteers are also needed in other capacities, and interested persons may contact

SDCC for more information.

Both public schools will offer various resources to the community. Ms. Jamison has offered the use of the facilities at Des Peres for public gatherings. Persons interested in utilizing the facilities should contact Ms. Jamison for more information. Her contact information is available at the SDCC office. In addition, Hamilton School offers various courses for St. Louis residents, from exercise courses to sewing classes. The contact person for these courses is Avis May, who may be reached at 345-2581.

The SDCC looks forward to working with our neighborhood schools for a successful school year! Any person interested in getting involved or volunteering at the schools should contact the SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury Avenue, 862-5122, for more information.

Metro Update

By Alderman Lyda Krewson

It is about the 1 year anniversary of the opening of Metro's Cross County MetroLink extension. While the new service is great, Metro has left the neighborhood with a lot of unfinished business.

- The sprinkler system in Forest Park Parkway has not been restored. The new trees and grass are very stressed.
- Accessible ramps on the NE & NW corners of FPP & DeBaliviere are way off the ADA slope guidelines.
- Pedestrian Access at the NE corner of FPP and Des Peres is limited. The crosswalk runs you into a guard rail and a traffic signal.
- Metro promised a button activated pedestrian signal at Lindell & DesPeres, but said later it was not on the drawings and they did not plan to do it. As a result we still have the traffic signal cycling which causes cars to sit there spewing fumes when most of the time it is not needed. This is a very expensive project... around \$100,000. It requires a completely new controller, wiring etc.

I have not given up ALL hope of Metro reconsidering and doing the right thing. But since it has been a year, I am starting to make plans to fix these things from 28th ward capital improvement funds... or where ever I can 'beg, borrow, or steal'.

Hamilton School and Community Education Center

By Avis May, Community Education Coordinator

Hamilton Elementary eMINTS Academy & Community Education Center has returned to Skinker-DeBaliviere! As many neighborhood residents may know, during the 2006-2007 school year, Hamilton was relocated to the former Scullin Elementary School, at 4160 N. Kingshighway Boulevard, across the street from the Mathews-Dickey Boys & Girls Club and the City Academy Charter School.

Albeit an interesting year with many challenges, it was a successful year. Our community council, under the chairmanship of Kelvin Johnson, continued to hold monthly meetings, make positive strides,

host great community events and increase membership. This year at Hamilton, the extended-day/ evening program continues to offer varied classes for all interests. We are particularly happy to promote our Chess Club for youth, and the long-awaited return of the Sugar N' Spice Programme for Girls. This class explores manners, poise and style for today's young ladies, taught by Sister Sherill Jones.

We have many course offerings for adults and youth including Sewing, Word Processing & the Internet, Private Guitar Lessons and Junior Achievement. Look for the Community Education Fall

2007 Brochure to arrive in your mailbox in late August or early September. Classes start Monday, September 17, 2007.

We look forward to seeing you soon! Please call Avis May at 345-2581 voice mail or Katheryn Williams-Weaver at 367-6996 with any questions.

Become a Home Plate Host Family

For some students, heading off to college and being completely on their own for the first time can be a intimidating. Thanks to the Home Plate program, some Washington 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."

Currently there are 250 students placed with about 100 families. Washington University is seeking more families interested in hosting students. According to Zwerling Wrighton, "This is 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. A special effort is made to match you with students who have similar interests as your family members."

Home Plate families are asked to host two to three home-based informal dinners over the course of the academic year for a small group of Washington University students. After the first preset dinner date, students and families will schedule their own dinner plans.

All Home Plate host families and students are invited to join Chancellor and Mrs. Wrighton for the annual spring Home Plate reception at their historic University home, Harbison House. This great opportunity enables Home Plate participants to enjoy the beautiful surroundings, great company – and maybe even a frame or two of bowling in the downstairs bowling alley.

You can learn more about this program by visiting the Web site, homeplate.wustl.edu, e-mailing Risa Zwerling Wrighton at homeplate@wustl.edu, or calling (314) 935-5040.

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IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

OK, so let me begin by noting that this year's power outage doesn't even begin to come close to last year's down-time. This year our friendly zip, 63112, was all out a total of maybe a dozen hours. Last year some of us – please note the "us"; this is a first-hand account – were out seven days. That's seven days as in the same length of time it took Walt Disney to create the world. Seven.

And let me continue by expressing my admiration for the crews who braved the heat (they were still hot even after they restored others' power) and risked their lives to enable you and me – please note the "me"; this is a first-hand account – to work and relax in comfort. Thank you! Our lives proceed smoothly only because of the myriad of people like this, often faceless, who do their thing so that we can do ours.

It's easy to pick on Ameren, our utility. Utilities aren't warm and friendly. People develop loyalty to their sports teams, politicians, and even computers (the Apple loyalists are a bit nuts, if you ask me; it's only a machine), but no one seems overly fond of Laclede Gas or Ameren. When's the last time you saw someone wearing a Metropolitan Sewer District t-shirt, for example? Go MSD, yeah team! I'm in no position to know Ameren's level of responsibility in all of these power outages. I mean, they didn't cause the storms. Perhaps the hiring of Karen Foss, former KSDK news anchor was a wise move too. For all I know, she is the reason that so many people's power was out a much shorter time this year. Please note the "our"; this is a first-hand account. Thank you, Karen.

A year ago, seven days. Did I mention that this is the amount of time that it took to create the entire world, including the continents, mammals and reptiles, and the arch? Oh, I did. This year the power was out just a few hours for most of you. Please note the "you"; this is a first-hand account.

When the power first vanquished, I assumed, being the trusting soul that I am, that it would be restored momentarily. Sitting there in my Metropolitan Sewer District t-shirt, I sighed and waited. And waited. Growing up in St. Louis – don't even ask, Roosevelt High – I'm used to the rolling thunderstorms and brief outages. We don't have an ocean, Wash U students, so this is as glamorous as Mother Nature gets. Enjoy.

So I waited. After an hour or so I figured that I'd have a couple of hours to go. The good news, I knew, is that the outage was pretty local. "It's in the Central West End, they said on the news," my mom reported when I talked to her on my cell phone. It was encouraging to realize that the crews weren't going to have to work to restore the power to hundreds and hundreds of thousands of

folks like they did a year ago. Sooner rather than later they'd get to us, I knew. So I waited. Did I note, by the way, that this is a first-hand account?

Initially, it was OK. Although the temp was hot, hot, hot, the house was closed and the air remained reasonable. It was during the day so there was enough light to read. I couldn't use my trusty laptop for a couple of hours but that was OK. I don't want to become too dependent upon technology, so I was gratified to see that not touching a keyboard for even three hours was tolerable. The food in the fridge was still cold, so the afternoon passed more easily with some white wine and a frozen Hostess Cupcake. Life was good. I love camping out like this.

Then a few hours turned into six hours. By now it was early evening. I went outside to brave the heat and read. (Do you know that the sun stays out longer in the summer? Amazing!) By now I was beginning to have some computer withdrawal symptoms. My fingers were moving sporadically, uncontrollably, searching for JKL;. I went inside to check to be sure that my computer was OK, and it was. It was just sitting there, all dark and lonely. And then the sun began to go down. Still no power. With no sun, no light; with no light, no reading. Now what? Not only could I not read, I couldn't turn on the tube to see the latest Gilligan's Island, an evening ritual. What if this was the episode where they escaped from the island, and I missed it? Yegods!

Late afternoon turned to night. I could peer out the window and see that some of the neighbors had power; their porch lights taunted me. Still dark at my place, though. And now it's beginning to get a bit stuffy. But the inside air is cooler than the outside air – the temp was still hovering in the low 90's as late as 10 pm – so I kept the house closed and tried to sleep. The good news is that it was dark. The bad news is that it was dark. And warm. Did I mention that I

was without power? I changed to my Ameren night shirt, and tossed and turned all night.

Morning came and still no power. Where's Karen Foss now that I need her? I checked the computer and it was still OK, just resting. I grabbed the cell, and called the Ameren hot-line. The recording said that all power would be restored by 4:30 a.m. That's great but it was already 5:45 a.m. and I'm still without! I ran from room to room turning on and off light switches, just to ensure that I hadn't missed the voltage jolt. Alas, no. I only tripped and fell twice in the dark. I'm still in the dark, literally and figuratively.

I called Ameren again and waded through the labyrinth of phone options – it felt good to work the phone keyboard; I pretended that it was my computer. Note the "my," by the way; this is a first-hand account, pun intended. Finally a live voice got on the line and told me that they were working on it. "The number of powerless households is less than fifty," he said way too cheerily. "Powerless," eh? He called that one right, I thought, sitting in the dark and having voted for both Gore and Kerry. Now what?

At a bit before six, the sun was rising so I could read, but I was in no mood to do so. I pulled my Laclede Gas baseball hat down around my ears in a fit of frustration. I need a jolt, I realized so I changed to my AT&T gym shorts and drove to Starbuck's to get some hot java, but that didn't help. Try as I might, I couldn't use the caffeine to turn on the computer. So I waited. And waited. Then it dawned on me, even without power I can use

my laptop. Thank goodness for batteries!

I turned the computer on and was hugged by Microsoft. Bill Gates never looked so good. No, I can't get on-line, but that's OK, at least I can write. I wonder what is happening in the world, but it will have to wait. My In Your Ear column is due, so that will be my focus. Power or no, life feels a bit normal now. Sure, it's already turning warm, and I can't even microwave my too-cool Starbucks. But at least I have the power to type! Thank you, Energizer Bunny. I don't know how long the power in my computer will last, but I want to write about modern conveniences and how reliant we've become on them. You see, without electricity, I find that

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