

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 38 No.1

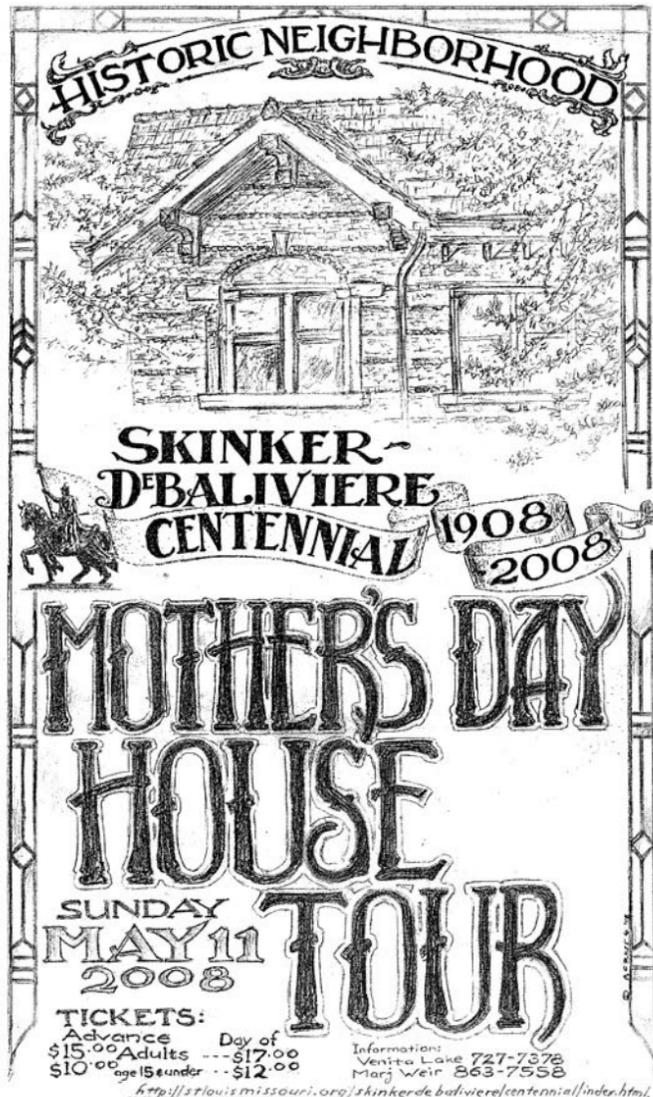
April - May 2008

www.stlouis.missouri.org/skinkerdebaliviere/sd_times

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

FREE

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House Tour!

The Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood begins its centennial celebration with a house tour on Mother's Day, May 11, 2008. Reviving our tradition of tours held between 1969 and 1981, eleven homes will be open from noon until 5:00 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in advance at \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 15 and under. They may also be purchased on the day of the tour at the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council office, 6008 Kingsbury at Des Peres Avenue, at \$17 for adults and \$12 for children. Call Venita Lake at 314-727-7378 or Marj Weir at 314-863-7558 for further information, or check for updates at <http://stlouis.missouri.org/skinkerdebaliviere/centennial/index.html>.

Ticket requests may also be sent to House Tour, Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, 6008 Kingsbury, St. Louis, MO 63112. Make checks payable to The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere.

Shuttle buses will travel the route throughout the afternoon and light refreshment will be sold at the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council office at Four Corners.

The homes selected reflect the variety of choices in the neighborhood – two and three story homes built in the first years after the closing of the 1904 World's Fair, an apartment, a two-family building now converted to a

single-family home, and one youngster – a nearly new four-year-old house. Most of our houses retain their original brick exteriors, art glass windows, and elaborate woodwork, but like any structure nearing the century mark, they have seen numerous occupants and have had renovations, rehabilitation, and in some cases rescues and total transformations. Gone are the coal bins and furnaces and the iceboxes. (Remember Tootie riding the ice wagon in Meet Me in St. Louis?) Among other features, new windows, security systems, expanded electrical services, and cable or satellite dishes meet today's needs. We hope you will enjoy seeing how well our old ladies have stood up to time.

See pages 3-6 of this issue for descriptions of the houses on tour and a history of the event.

Houses on Tour

- 5782 Waterman
- 5782 McPherson
- 5739 McPherson
- 5798 Pershing
- 5843 Waterman
- 5838 Waterman
- 6155 McPherson
- 6145 McPherson
- 6186 Kingsbury
- 6147 Westminster
- 6116 Westminster

House Sitters for 2 hour shifts are still being recruited for the day of the House Tour. Call Venita Lake at 727-7378 to sign up!



Operation Brightside Project Blitz Spring Cleanup Set for May 3

Company's coming! With the Centennial House Tour set for May 11, the annual Operation Brightside cleanup is scheduled with perfect timing the week before the tour. The Centennial House Tour Committee is hoping to see lots of visitors from outside the Skinker-DeBaliviere area, as well as our own neighbors. After a long winter and what seems to be an unending period of wet spring weather, it's time to rake, trim, sweep, and in general spruce up the neighborhood. Residents are encouraged to get out, renew acquaintances and meet new neighbors, and sweep sidewalks and alleys.

On our scheduled Blitz day, the City provides extra trash pickups and bulk item pickup is scheduled the first week of the month. Our area commanders are Andy Cross and Darcell Braylock, and each block should have a block captain who will provide information, but

here are a few pointers.

- Place all small items in trash dumpster. Be careful not to overload the dumpsters so that the trucks cannot empty them.
- Place large items, such as appliances and furniture directly behind your own home at the edge of the alley on your side. (This is your regular bulk pick-up site.)
- If you have a dumpster directly behind your house, make sure your bulk items are at least four feet away from the dumpster. No large items should be placed next to or behind the dumpster. When items are placed leaning against or too near to the dumpster, the truck cannot lift the dumpster and set it back in place.
- Car batteries, used motor oil, large appliances and tires will be recycled. Please separate from household items such as furniture, mattresses, etc.
- "Yard Waste Only" dumpsters should not have other materials placed in them. Place grass, leaves, and twigs in these

dumpsters. This natural material can be shredded and made into compost. Branches must be bundled in lengths no longer than 3 feet and placed with bulk items for collection.

The City's Brightside program is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary. Additional information about Brightside and its wide range of programs is available at its website <http://stlouis.missouri.org/501c/brightside/enter-operation.html>.

Skinker-DeBaliviere's neighborhood cleanup efforts are older than the City's program. The day before the art fair/house tour saw many residents out mowing lawns and sprucing up. Reports in *The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere*, or The Paper as it was called then, tell of alley cleanup days, removal of debris from the depressed railroad section between DeBaliviere and Delmar where Metrolink now runs, and one special Forest Park Expressway effort known as "Raiders of the Lost Parkway."

"Raiders," undoubtedly based on the movie title of the time, was organized by resident Roy Bell in

1981. Traffic was closed off and teams started at Skinker sweeping trash and pruning overgrowth along the fences, working all of the way to DeBaliviere. Several trucks and the limo of newly elected Mayor Vince Schoemehl were put into service. Grilled hot dogs were provided on the lot at DeGiverville for those who were not too exhausted. The parkway was cleared and, if memory serves right, a number of volunteers went home to treat their poison ivy outbreaks.

Not long after the raiders had rescued the parkway, resident Lu Green began her work of founding Operation Brightside as a part of her brother Vince Schoemehl's first term as Mayor. Lu and Sam Green's daughter Mary Lou Green has carried out the work of this trailblazing organization as its Executive Director for the past fifteen 15 years. In addition to the spring Blitz, recycling programs, and more, she also implemented a great graffiti removal program, which has treated some 100,000 buildings. As Mary Lou says, "Imagine St. Louis without Operation Brightside!"

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

Celebrating the centennial of our neighborhood is a good thing. The house tour, block parties, and the big Oct. 11 bash will certainly remind us of why we like our neighborhood. We have historic houses and apartment buildings, we have the growing glowing Delmar, we're close to everything and most of all there are the people, our neighbors. To me, that has been the most endearing quality for living here.

But there is another important reason to celebrate our neighborhood. It is a successful, diverse, integrated neighborhood that has stabilized over the past 3 decades. We still have a problem now and then but we have achieved what few other neighborhoods have. We integrated in 1963 and we are integrated today. Every white family did not flee, not the case in many communities, and now we continue together. The dedication of those who came together to form our council and those who sought to maintain diversity in the 1960s and 1970s cannot be admired enough.

Kudos go to Venita Lake, Arline Webb, Marj Weir and others who have worked hard to make the House Tour a success. It should be a great day for running into people as well as seeing the different styles of Skinker DeBaliviere living. Andy Cross and Katie Kurtz are chairing the October grand celebration. A couple of bands are booked. Tents have been obtained. If you would like to help, please let Andy or Katie know. It will be wonderful to have participation from all areas of our hood. JoAnn Vatcha and Marj Weir are spearheading oral histories of longtime neighbors, assisted by Dan McGuire and myself. It is hoped that we will have a wonderful neighborhood history keepsake volume with DVD for you to enjoy by the October fete. In addition, we are looking for old photos of neighborhood activity and reminiscences. Please contact JoAnn or I.

I've known a lot of other cities in my time but I've never found another Skinker DeBaliviere. Please join us in making this centennial one to truly treasure.

Calendar

Apr 18, 19, 25 & 26 @ 8 pm, and Apr 20 & 27 @ 2 pm., "The Lion and The Jewel", Edison Theater, Washington University. To order tickets call the Edison Theater box office at (314) 935-6543. Mention the article on page 9 and receive one ticket half price with the purchase of one full price ticket.

April 27, 2008, Chancellor's Concert at the E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall in the 560 Building. It is free to the public and will feature performances by St. Louis Symphony musicians. Loop restaurants are offering a package deal for the concert and dinner.

May 3, Free Comic Book Day at Star Clipper, 6392 Delmar. An international event with the only St. Louis location in our own Loop! Millions of new comic books are to be brought to the hands of readers of all ages at participating stores in the United States and more than other 30 countries. And, as the name of the event implies, the comics are FREE! Simply walk into Star Clipper on May 3 to pick up your free comic book - it's that easy. More than 40 publishers are participating by releasing special edition comic books for Free Comic Book Day. For more information, visit www.freecomicbookday.com. Star Clipper's phone is 314-725-9110.

May 7 and 21, June 4 and 18: Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation, 6:00 p.m. 6008 Kingsbury

May 10: Planting Day 08. The 12th annual Skinker DeBaliviere Plant Exchange, 10 a.m.-Noon. Wood chips, flowers, grass seeds and more will be available for plantings in your tree lawn or other public planting areas, and exchange free plants from others' gardens for your own. Hot dogs and sodas from 11:30-1:00 at the Four Corners, Des Peres and Kingsbury.

May 12 and June 9: SDCC Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury

May 15, Washington University Graduation

May 15, 28th Ward Regular Democrats meet at Town Hall, 665 So. Skinker. For more information, call Brad Weir, 863-7558.

May 31: Photo Day for the Centennial, call Marj at 863-7558 for more information.

June 14, the 10th Annual Breakfast Garden Tour

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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Guidelines for Submitting Copy
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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 June-July issue: May 30, 2008. Please send copy by e-mail to jvatcha@gmail.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.

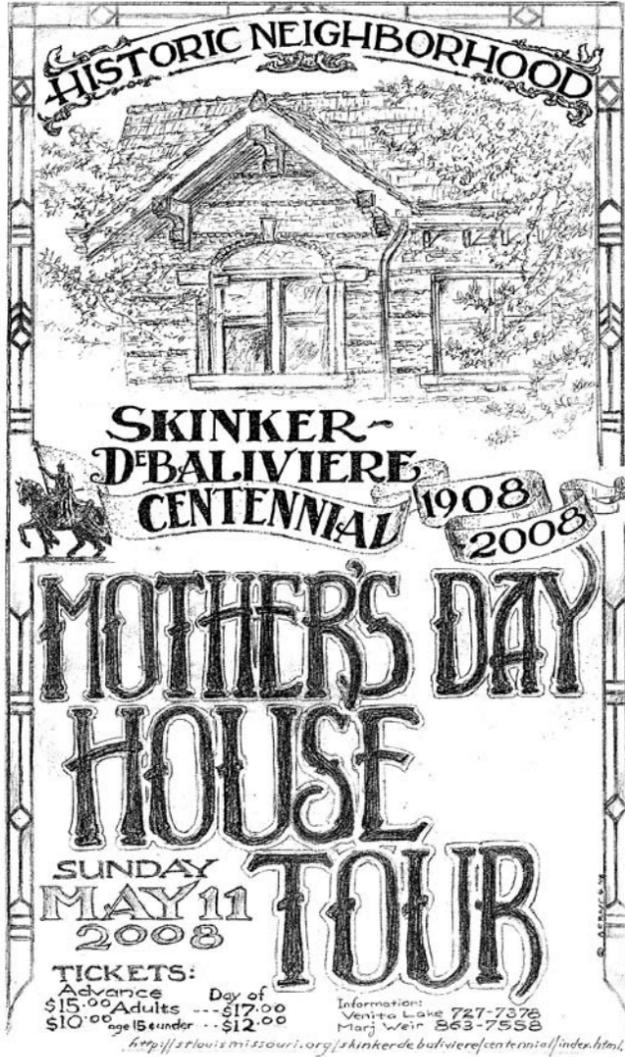
Photos courtesy of St. Louis Development Corporation



Diversity Gallery/Culture Cafe hosted Mayor Francis Slay and other dignitaries, friends and family at a St. Louis Development Corporation Minority Spotlight Reception on February 29, 2008. Congratulations to Leslie Christian-Wilson (with Mayor Slay) and the entire family. Shown here are mom



Rubina Patton with daughters Roxanne Robinson, Leslie Christian-Wilson, and Jamae Scott. The family are long-time neighbors on the 6100 block of McPherson. Their new location at 6150 Delmar follows 7+ years of business in the Loop and is a true treat for the senses!



by Venita Lake with Jo Ann Vatcha
2008 House Tour Photos by King Schoenfeld

5782 Waterman is located on the point where DeGiverville intersects Waterman at an angle, forming a large odd-shaped lot.



One of the most obvious exterior changes that owner Dean Porter has made to this federal style house was to remove the iron security bars and have all of the windows reglazed and rehung. New ironwork now graces the stairs and balconies. The south-facing second floor sun porch has tall windows protected by full-length modern storm windows, creating extended living space for the master bedroom. All new heating and air conditioning systems, modern baths, and kitchen have been installed. Part of the living room flooring had been damaged by termites and has been replaced with salvaged flooring to match. Woodwork in this home is sparser than in other homes in the area, apparently part of the original design. Porter has an extensive contemporary art collection that works very well with the light-filled open design of this 1915 home, Lawrence Ewald, Jr., architect.

5782 McPherson started life in 1913 as a two-family building. Architect Kelly Stockie and his wife



bath are also on the first floor. A back stairs also leads to the second floor. In addition to enlarged baths, the much coveted feature of a laundry area has been added on the second floor. Stained glass windows rescued from nearby buildings that were being demolished are displayed upstairs. The master bedroom opens to a large covered deck and has a private bath. One of the front bedrooms opens to the balcony overlooking the front porch. The original architect was William P. McMahan.

If one tries to imagine what the newly developing Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood looked like during its first two decades as lots were being sold and new brick homes were being built, a visit to the 5700 block of McPherson on a weekday might give a hint of the level of activity. In the past, a number of homes here were abandoned and allowed to deteriorate to the point that the only options were to rejuvenate them as a true gut rehab or to tear them down. In the past four or five years, new housing emulating the style of the original houses has been built, and a number of lots are currently being offered by a developer.

5739 McPherson, built in 2004, started out with many special features and has been further enhanced by its owners Troy



Robinson and Anthony Spears. The large and inviting entry opens to the living room with crown molding and wood floors or into the

Kasia have rescued this derelict building and converted it to a single-family home, expanding the formal living room to include both front doors and the front stairs. The separating walls were partially removed, but new archways were designed to match the existing ones. Many original features have been saved including the living room fireplace and pocket doors on the second floor. A modern kitchen open to the family room provides space for their two young children to play and watch television. It goes out to a large deck at the first floor level. A nanny's room, with the largest closet in the house according to

kitchen featuring granite counter tops. Most of the furniture was purchased in North Carolina and the decor is impressive. Window treatments throughout the house were custom made by Troy. Both the dining room and kitchen lead to the back yard. Conveniences on the first floor also include a half bath, a main floor laundry, and a



large coat closet.

The lower level is also luxurious with an entertainment/media center and a billiard area. Even the basement is topped off with crown molding! A full home gym with more equipment than some local gyms and a full bath complete this area. The homeowners finished it in seven weeks.

The second floor has a full bath off the main hall and three bedrooms, one being a master suite with bath. One bedroom is currently used as an office. The resort-like back yard of this home was professionally landscaped. It features an in-ground pool, a pergola area with sun screen and overhead fan, and a detached garage with a trellis covered by clematis and morning glories.

5798 Pershing, 3W, is the apartment of Mark Gorman, who



grew up on Pershing and now owns this building and several others on Pershing, Laurel, and Nina Place. This is not a small efficiency apartment! It is a spacious, three bedroom, light-filled unit with a sunroom looking out above Forest Park Expressway toward the park. The large entry hallway and living room have virtually all of the original Craftsman-style woodwork with beamed ceilings. The stone fireplace repeats the Craftsman motifs as well. The new kitchen was designed to maintain the style of the rest of the apartment, and the luxurious bath has a whirlpool tub and separate shower. This six-unit building was built in 1912, W. H. Mills, architect.

5843 Waterman is very much the original Craftsman two-story bungalow of 1916. Owners Darrell Hartke and Nancy



Farmer have done a careful study of the architecture and style of decorating and have painted the exterior and interior and chosen their new furniture in the dining room and living room accordingly. Most of the woodwork and floors have recently been stripped and refinished. Built-in cabinets in the butler's pantry and upstairs hallway are original. Modern renovations have included unobtrusive central air-conditioning.

Nancy notes that she is unwilling to go so far as to have a vintage kitchen, so modern appliances are set off by era-appropriate wallpaper strips. Second floor bedrooms serve as office space, guest room, and master bedroom with adjacent sun porch. The back porch leading from the kitchen has been screened in, giving cats Bud and Lou a place to watch the birds and squirrels. Nancy may be the most famous of the home's residents, serving as Missouri State Representative and Treasurer of the State of Missouri, following her success as Executive Director of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council.

5838 Waterman, across the street, has the same basic house plan, but owners Doug and Andrea Powell have made many changes. While the entry, stairs, living room, dining room and adjacent sun room retain the original design, the kitchen and upstairs master bedroom have been extensively reworked. The ceiling of the master bedroom suite has been vaulted and the adjoining bedroom has been transformed into a walk-in closet and a large bath. Another



bedroom serves as Andrea's office, looking out onto the street. Here, too, the built-in linen storage in the hallway is original. Expanding in all directions, the basement is fully finished as a recreation area and the back yard has an outdoor kitchen and patio area. The new garage, dubbed the Garage-Mahal, is designed to hold up to six cars, accomplished by lifts, and has a shop area and its own half bath. There are other houses on the 5900

and 5800 blocks of Waterman built in a similar style. There are thirteen built in 1915 and 1916 that were designed by the same architect, J. L. Wees, AIA.

6155 McPherson has served many large families over the years. Vince and Lucille Schoemehl and their large family moved to McPherson from Pine Lawn in the mid-60's. Son Vince Jr. already lived nearby, later serving as Alderman and then Mayor of the City of St. Louis 1981-1993. Daughter Lu lived across the street and then



on Westminster, and son Jim lives a few doors down on McPherson with wife Julie and sons.

The home retains many of the original features, including lovely columns, woodwork and stained glass. The wood on the first floor is from the Black Forest in Germany and came from the German exhibit at the World's Fair after it closed. Significant modifications have been made over the years to accommodate the needs and tastes of the owners including the conversion of the old butler's pantry between the dining room and the kitchen to a small casual dining area.

Current owners Sean and Cristina McGroarty previously lived on Westminster, and Cristina grew up in Parkview, daughter of Mary and Charley Fleener. They have recently added French doors leading from the dining room to a deck. The space formerly used as a pantry off the kitchen has been changed to a first floor half bath, an amenity not often offered in homes in the area when they were first built. The stained glass windows in the living room had been covered in the past, but were reopened and finished with spare woodwork from another part of

the house as well as newly milled material. On the second floor there are four bedrooms and a full bath. The third floor has two more large bedrooms, one of which is reserved as a playroom for the McGroartys' four boys. This 1911 home has evolved over the years without losing its original appeal, E. Hess, architect.

6145 McPherson. Upon entering Jeff and Michelle Pikes' foyer, visitors cannot miss the beautiful grand piano and the lovely natural wood staircase, which starts upstairs with an elegant swirl. Their home has several original stained glass windows and an unusual stone fireplace that replaces a damaged mantle and unusable gas fireplace. Their large dining room has a beamed ceiling. Michelle created fabric-covered inserts in a subtle dragonfly pattern for most of the ceiling's spaces in order to reduce



the echo created when the rug was removed from the room. When passing from the dining room into the renovated kitchen, one sees the butler's pantry so familiar in homes of this vintage. This space had been used for a first-floor half bath for many years, but when the Pikes' renovated their kitchen, they moved this half bath to another space just off the foyer. Their economical use of space here is very effective. The second floor has four rooms and a full bathroom. Two of these rooms are used as offices for each of the owners. Several built-in storage features have been added to increase usability. The third floor has two rooms, but only one will be on display. This is used as an entertainment center, especially enjoyed by the Pikes' daughter. Outside, the Pikes have spent a lot of effort on their front and rear yards. Their garage has attractive French doors facing the house adding formality to the back yard space and large deck. The roof of their garage was especially constructed to mimic the shape and cast of the roof of their house. This house by T. C. Lee, architect, is the oldest on the tour, built in 1907. You can see the Pikes' "house history" in this issue. The charming photo of previous owner and granddaughter in horse and buggy reminds us of the full 100 years of this beautiful house.

6186 Kingsbury, Joe and Beth Hogan's large front porch home is a hallmark of many Kingsbury homes. The interior of the house is also very spacious. This 1909 home built by George F. Bergfeld has probably undergone the most



dramatic change of any on this house tour because of the variety of purposes for which it has been used. In the late 60's, owner W. Alfred Hayes donated the house to the Children's Home of the United Methodist Church. An article in our neighborhood newspaper recounted in the licensing debate taking place in 1981, at which time the house had been operating as a "home for hapless teenagers" since January 10, 1970. Called "Hayes House," the home provided a family atmosphere. "We try to offer them a family atmosphere, to bridge the gap between living in an institution and living on their own," said director Marie Stark. One neighborhood resident, Mr. Cunningham, testified at the hearing, "the teenagers were no trouble at all." After the hearing, the house had several inspections and permits were issued. There were certainly changes to the house, however.

Extra bathrooms were added over the years to accommodate these residents, and changes sometimes were extreme. Originally there would have been pocket doors dividing the living room from the parlor and the living room from the dining room. More recent owners and the Hogans have added large graceful arches and chair rails, resulting in an elegant and airy space. Once again designating new uses for space, the former parlor is now their dining room, and the original dining room is used as a family room.

The Hogans have also added new stained glass windows in the living room. The old ones were gone and were enclosed in glass bricks. The glass bricks remain because removing them would require the application of jackhammers, a potentially destructive operation.

A side porch adds charm to the first floor space. It is an original feature, judging by the numerous three-sash windows. The modern



kitchen is small, but efficient and well suited to the needs of their young family. Joe Hogan, an attorney by profession, but reportedly an accomplished chef, yearns for a more spacious kitchen.

There are three and one half bathrooms in this house, one more than is typical in the large houses on Kingsbury. The Hogans' son and daughter have rooms on the second floor decorated to reflect their personalities. The master bedroom has its own full bath, and a room that was probably once a small bedroom is now another full bath. The third floor also has a bath and two large bedrooms.

In two years, the Hogans have put in baseboards, chair rails, crown molding, painted every room, put in a fireplace using bricks from the original chimney, added granite counters and new appliances in the kitchen, and most recently they have had a new pool and deck put into the back yard. They are now planning which outdoor projects they will start next.

6147 Westminster is a classic example of a traditional 1908 home adapted to meet present and ongoing needs, and is described as a "work in progress" by owners Hitch and Mary Powell who have lived here since 1981. The house displays an open and welcoming floor plan, while preserving the traditional ambience of turn-of-the-century homes. The first floor



features a spacious foyer, accented with a painted exposed brick wall dating to that period in the 1970s and 80s when stripping woodwork and exposing brick were popular topics of conversation. The nine-foot-tall case clock made during the war of 1812 has been in Hitch's family for five generations. It's a look-but-don't touch treasure! The adjacent living room features a working fireplace, and flows into a gracious dining room. Mary's favorite stenciled panels in the beamed ceiling were done by previous owners and have remained untouched. The traditional butler's pantry was closed off from the kitchen and modified by an earlier owner into a half-bath. Mary describes her kitchen as "vintage 1970's."

The upstairs includes four bedrooms, one of which is currently used as an office, and includes a master bedroom with a private bath and working fireplace. The main bathroom was re-done in 2002, and now includes a separate bathtub and shower. Space for the expanded bathroom was found by blocking off the original back stairs, an alteration that now provides

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additional pantry space for the kitchen.

The most recent improvement is a lovely screened porch, which provides an inviting retreat during the warmer months of the year. It overlooks a lovingly landscaped back yard, which also includes a small patio for outdoor relaxation and entertaining.

The home was previously owned by the family of Steve Schiller, who grew up in the neighborhood and worked with his father at Colonial Rug Co., a venerable neighborhood business for over 25 years.

6116 Westminster, owned by Jamie and Cari Allen, has had more than its fair share of rehab work. Previous owners Nick and Denise Gollubske had spent nearly two years working on renovating the house in the 1970s and were only a week away from moving in when a fire destroyed much of the front exterior and the first floor and stairwell. As recounted in the House Tour coverage in May, 1978:



"Turning disaster into an opportunity, the Gollubskes began again, time time with a contractor, Joe Mensing [see "History of the House Tour" for more examples of Mensing rehabs.] The result is a harmonious blend of new and old, of contemporary trends and traditional details. The facade provides the first example of this

combination. The dramatic two-story window, a modern element, is accented with woodwork details reminiscent of the period in which the house was built. The new portico also echoes the design of originals of the period. "This house is testimony to the enduring dynamic quality of our old houses."

Inside, the exposed brick fireplace wall extends all of the way to the roofline and a new broad staircase leads to a gallery overlooking the living room. The nursery at the front of the house has French doors opening from the gallery. An innovative entry at the stair landing leads into the little boy's room. As a result, some of the original hallway became part of an expanded master bedroom. Restored and replacement woodwork on the ground floor and beautiful windows in the dining area attest to a very successful rescue. This house was built in 1913, T. C. Lee, architect.



6116 Westminster in 1973, painted white, with lots of ivy. Photo by Jo Ann Vatcha

6145 McPherson

by Venita Lake

Sometimes learning one small bit of information leads to other paths. Researching house history is no different. About seven years ago, Michelle and Jeff Pike, whose home will be on the Mother's Day House Tour on May 11, were visited by Dale Harrell and her grandson. Mrs. Harrell was delighted to revisit the home of her grandfather and followed with a note and three family snapshots showing bits of the house.

A portion of the note follows:

"Last evening I called and shared with my grandparents' maid the wonderful visit I had just had to your home. Kathryn is now 90 years old and it was January 28, 1929 when she moved in, however her remembrance of "6145" is crystal clear.

"Although I didn't remember these features, she said the dining room ceiling, living room fireplace, and front parlor radiator are all original. She corrected me that the basement floor was not dirt and reminded me that there was a fruit closet down there as well as the coal room. She could shed no light on the portion of dining room floor that had been replaced, confirming as I recalled that there had been a free-standing buffet over that area. She did mention that in the corner of the dining room by the swinging door to the butler's pantry, there had been some termite damage which I never knew." I learned that the front porch had been screened in for my grandfather and indeed a fan hung by the large center hook in the ceiling. Their neighborhood friends came many nights a week to visit in that comfortably cool environment.

"This morning I spoke to my mother's first cousin who moved into 6136 Westminster in 1924. She thinks her uncle (my grandfather) was already living on McPherson at that time. We know the house was not new then but I have no knowledge as to when it was built.

"I have enclosed a few photos that I hope you will enjoy. You're welcome to keep them. Again thank you so much for sharing your home with my grandson and me."

Michelle Pike recalls that Mrs. Harrell said that her grandfather owned a livery business, delivering furniture for Stix Baer & Fuller. The horse lived in an earlier garage built on the same site as the existing garage, so the horse and mule company fits the description.

Based on the information provided, we did a bit of further investigation and found a great deal, including listings in the 1930 census, where the handwriting is difficult to read, David H. Wolfort is described as a



"Since I am the babe in my grandfather's [David H. Wolfort] arms in this photo I can date it at spring, 1939. His buggy is parked in front of your house [6145 McPherson] but you can clearly see 6135 with the awning and 6131 with the white pillars." (from Mrs. Dale Harrell)

veterinarian, age 55, born in Missouri, but his father was born in Germany. His wife Irma was age 50, born in Illinois. Their children were Viola K, age 25 and single, and Erma L, age 16. David's sister-in-law, Carrie Kohn, was also living with them, as well as their servant Katherine LaFlaur, age 18 (if we deciphered the writing correctly). This of course, is the Katherine who filled in Mrs. Harrell on the details that she would not have remembered.

The History Museum' library on Skinker and the main public library downtown, among other places, have city directories for late 19th and early 20th century that list residents by address and then give an alphabetical listing that tells more about occupations of head of household, and sometimes others. Federal census records are now available for 1910, 1920, and 1930. If you have a city or county library card, you can view records for these and previous years on line from your home computer by going to the libraries' websites, selecting the genealogy pages and looking at HeritageQuest. If you already have the name, it will go much quicker. We were happy to be able to provide the Pikes with all the information gleaned.



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HISTORY OF THE SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE ART FAIR AND HOUSE TOUR

By Jo Ann Vatcha

From an article originally published in THE TIMES OF SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE September-October, 2000.

Every Mother's Day for over a dozen years (1969-81), the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood was home to a remarkable Art Fair and House Tour. Long before other historic St. Louis neighborhoods started their house tours, ours was a stunning success emulated all across the area.

It all started with a new resident, an energetic and effervescent young stay-at-home mother named Susie Roach [Feinberg], who convinced Father Peet to let her use the St. Roch parking lot for an Art Fair. Designed to bring attention to the neighborhood and bring people in the neighborhood together, Susie modeled the fair after a similar event in Chicago's Hyde Park, from where her family had moved to St. Louis. In 1968, she organized other neighbors and started the event with 32 artists on the St. Roch parking lot.

The House Tour was added in 1969, the second year of the Art Fair. As Susie Feinberg recently stated, "One of differences (between Skinker DeBaliviere and suburbs, even University City) is that all the blocks in the suburbs are either single-family or apartments. There are really no neighborhoods like this one, where there are various types of housing on the same block. In Chicago, blocks are all mixed-up like St. Louis City. That's the way cities are." The house tour was begun in part to show that off,

that Skinker-DeBaliviere was truly a CITY Neighborhood.

Many, many volunteers were needed to make up a successful House Tour Committee. The committees worked hard year after year to find suitable houses distributed throughout the neighborhood, lived in by families of all types, many owner-rehabbed. The tours were, as Gee Stuart wrote in 1974, "designed to advertise, highlight, and promote the charm and livability of our neighborhood". During this same period of time, neighbors like Sue Tepas and Carolyn Toft were leading the research that resulted in the neighborhood becoming a certified Historic District. Clearly, the interest in historic preservation was greatly enhanced by the real-life families who opened their homes to outsiders, demonstrating that historic houses could be more than museums.

The idea of diversity – of housing styles and size, of people of different economic groups, as well as ethnicity, was key to the success and unique quality of the Skinker-DeBaliviere House Tours. As in every volunteer effort of the 70's, the House Tour leaders took pains to ensure that every part of the neighborhood was on display, including houses owned by African-American families and gay homeowners, even a commune one year, showing the rest of St. Louis what a truly diverse neighborhood was like. And it didn't hurt that we were all obviously having a lot of fun.

Just a few of the Washington Heights homes on the House Tours were these: 5959 Waterman, a Joe Mensing rehab of a HUD-owned house, showed the great potential of a vacant building (1974); Horace and Anna Busch opened their beautifully decorated home on the 5700 block of Pershing to visitors from all around the St. Louis area who saw – probably for the first time – what living in a diverse neighborhood really meant. (1974). In 1975, George and Karen Brown, who had done most of their own rehab work, displayed their home at 5826 Pershing, and close friends and later co-leaders of the Art Fair/House Tour Rich and Venita Lake opened their Mensing rehabbed home on the 5800 block of Waterman. Mensing, a prolific rehabber who sparked development on several streets in the neighborhood, completed homes on Waterman, as well as 5815 Pershing, owned by Dorothy Roper, on tour in 1977. Other memorable Washington Heights homes on tour included Floyd and Pat McKissack's own innovative rehab at 5900 Pershing, John and Linda Thomas' home on the 5700 block of Waterman, and homes on the 5700, 5800 and 5900 blocks of DeGiverville.

Parkview also participated from the beginning of the house tours, leaders

of each and every house tour obviously taking great pains to include the larger Parkview homes, which shared the spotlight with more modest houses in Rosedale and Washington Heights.

Rosedale was possibly the most varied. Several single-family renovated homes were included, both the 6100 and 6000 blocks: 6140 McPherson (under two different owners), 6103 Westminster, 6136 Waterman, 6050 Westminster, 6154 McPherson, 6039 Waterman, 6131 Westminster, 6109 McPherson, 6147 Westminster, 6137 Westminster, 6116 Westminster, 6042 Pershing, 6167 Washington. A dramatic turnaround was shown at 6154 Washington, which Roy Bell and Pat McLafferty had rehabbed their single-family home. Westminster Company (Stan Jones and Jim Bartl) rehabbed 6016 Washington, then lived in by Paul and Katie Kurtz. Two homes completed by rehabber Jim Mitchell, were on tour: 6144 Washington and 6047 Westminster. A townhouse at 6047 Kingsbury – a totally new concept for the neighborhood, executed by a Roach/Kohn partnership was on tour, with its unique conversion of a 6-family building into two 3-story townhouses. Most years highlighted one home on the "Art Fair Street" of 6100 Kingsbury, including 6106 Kingsbury, 6170 Kingsbury, 6116 Kingsbury, 6185 Kingsbury, 6150 Kingsbury, 6142 Kingsbury.

Besides the single family homes, tours also included: St. Roch's Church in 1979, Delmar Baptist Church in 1980, 321 Rosedale (then, the convent for Sisters of St. Joseph, where St. Roch Principal Sr. Leo Ann and others lived) in 1978. Apartments included 6101-03 Washington, 6175 Waterman in, 6124 Pershing, and even a lavish suite at 316 No. Skinker, probably the only time many of us has ever seen the inside of that beautiful grey stone building.

In 1975, the tour included 6194 Washington: "This is the only house on the tour that is run as a collective. This means that the people who live here share common space and responsibilities without sharing as many aspects of each other's lives as might be true of a commune." As co-owner and

resident Kurt Lorenz put it: "This house represents a life style that we believe is more in keeping with the economic and ecological realities of the post-industrial age in American, than the nuclear family."

Owned by teachers Nancy Nonnenkamp and Kurt Lorenz, other residents included Peter Muckerman, Administrator of the People's Clinic; David Haynor, a med school student; Susan Sante, teacher at Forest Park Community College, and her two children. Members of the collective also belonged to the Limit Food Co-op, which was extended to many in the neighborhood.

By opening their homes to outsiders, residents of the SD neighborhood demonstrated to the entire St. Louis community how proud we were to live in such a diverse and lively neighborhood. As House Tour leaders Venita Lake, Blanche Reel and Kathy Harleman wrote in 1976, their criteria for selection included: "1) geographical distribution throughout entire neighborhood, 2) specific architectural interest, special historical importance, or interesting feature; 3) on one house, an emphasis on exterior or garden or patio. Vacant houses must be ready for occupancy and only one may be on the tour." At the height of its popularity, well before many other neighborhoods had started their tours, over 800 tickets were sold in 1977.

In 1981, the Fair was well organized and enthusiastically planned as usual, but the weather claimed the day. Torrential rains caused a delay from Mother's Day until Father's Day a month later. When the rains again caused cancellation of the fair, it seemed to spell the end. It was a lovely tradition which lasted for a dozen years, throughout the 70's, when neighborhood volunteers worked together to make the most of our historic and energized neighborhood.

NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR: We are still assembling artifacts and photos of the Art Fair/House Tours, as well as other memorable neighborhood events. If you have a special memory or photo or artifact, please contact me at jvatcha@gmail.com or 726-6974, or blog it at <http://sdcentennial.blogspot.com>.



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1977 House Tour

6147 Westminster

Owners: Steve and Joni Schiller

The attractive interior of this home was completely renovated by the Schillers. It reflects their personal tastes and lifestyle. Built in 1908, this house has had many different owners and was in need of much renovation when purchased by the Schillers. Features of this home include the modern kitchen unusual hardwood floors in the entryway, fireplaces, art deco on the dining room ceiling, and the antique front door with leaded glass windows, personally designed for the Schillers. There is charming use throughout the house of painted walls, wallpaper, and painted woodwork.



News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer



photo by Rachel Boxdorfer

Andy Cross (center) with Jeff Pike (left) and Gene Hoefel (right). Both Jeff and Gene were Andy's art professors at Washington University. All three are Skinker-DeBaliviere residents.

One of the best things about this column is sharing news about our growing community. So we'll begin there. The month of March brought at least two new people to our neighborhood. Congratulations go to **Tim Woodcock and Katherine Gordon** of the 60xx block of Westminster on the birth of their gorgeous daughter **Freya Sofia** on March 12th. Tim is the editor of the West End Word and Katherine is an English Professor at Florissant Valley Community College.

Heather Corcoran and Gregg Thompson of the 61xx block of McPherson welcomed their second child, **Sam**, to their family on March 25th. And of course, congratulations are also extended to big sister **Margaret!** The 61xx block of McPherson is sad to say goodbye to **Melanie Rudolph and her boys** who will be moving off the block this spring. Happily they will still be in the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood! McPherson will also bid farewell to **Bob & Holly Moraca & family** who will be moving back to Pittsburgh this summer. Bob is completing his residency at Barnes-Jewish. They will be missed.

Skinker-DeBaliviere resident and 7th District Policeman **Mike Butler** was recognized recently at the Pageant as the Officer of the



Month for June 2007. Mike has lived in the neighborhood for 18 years and is involved in many aspects of our neighborhood, including being a block captain, and the 1035 Block Unit Garden. Mike is pictured here with **Angela Newsome** - 7th District Public Affairs and **Mr. Abu Rob** - Papa John's International, Inc. - Marketing Representative, on the occasion of the Norvelle Brown Memorial Scholarship promotion initiated by Butler.

Art and politics have both always seemed to play a strong role in the make-up of our neighborhood. And that is where we will go now! First the art. Lifetime Skinker-DeBaliviere resident **Andy Cross** is well known to so many in the neighborhood for his boundless energy and passion for neighborhood events and especially the community gardens. Most of us also know

of Andy's talent as an artist. Finally, St. Louis was able to enjoy his talent at his first ever art show, *New Leaves*. Andy opened the show on February 29th at the Bill Kohn Studio. Attendance and enthusiasm were both strong with several hundred people showing up to support Andy and admire his work. The

location of the show had special meaning for Andy. Not only was **Bill Kohn** one of his teachers but also his mentor. Andy said he felt honored to have his first show in Bill's studio. Through his lessons Bill encouraged Andy and other students to become artists who not only improve one's own talents and education, but one who is involved with the world and it's trials, struggles, gifts, and worries. Lately, with encouragement from **Pat Kohn**, Andy has pursued more of the artistic part of his life and he promises it will not be so long until his next show.

And now for the politics... **Dan Schesch** of the 60xx block of McPherson and past president of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, has decided to seek the position of Treasurer

Joe Kerth lives a few blocks away in the Loop, and another son, **Andy Kerth**, lives with his wife in Colorado Springs. Kyle is a psychotherapist in private practice, specializing in the treatment of eating disorders, is an avid walker and cyclist and plays the cello, piano, banjo, and sings, too! She hopes to get involved in the community garden.

Kudos to Parkview resident **Kristina Stierholz** who was recently promoted to Assistant Vice President of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Kristina now oversees the areas of Staff Development and Administrative Support for the Supervision Division. Twin sister **Katrina Stierholz** also works at the Federal Reserve Bank - what a team! Success must run in the family, as Kristina's daughter **Lilly** took first place in the St. Roch Spelling Bee this year!



photo by Andy Cross

17 high school students and four adult volunteers from the First Presbyterian Church "Urban Mission" from Ames and Boone, Iowa, recently came to St. Louis to help the Gateway Greening Organization. On March 19th, under the guidance of the Beautification Committee of SD, and their fearless leader, Andy Cross, they helped build a community garden at the Big Picture School on Des Peres.

for the City of St. Louis. The primary election is August 5th. Good luck to Dan!

A hearty welcome to **Kyle Dennis**, our new neighbor on the 6100 block of Washington. After living in Clayton for 20 years and the CWE for 10, she says she feels like she has finally "arrived!" Her new/old home was rehabbed by **Lenn and Suzanne Knese** and she says it's "a beautiful, small old home in fantastic shape." Son

Have you got some news to share? Please send your items to **Rachel Boxdorfer** at rboxdorf@cbgundaker.com with the subject line "News of Neighbors." Thank you!

Want to Blog?

It's easy to go to <http://sdcentennial.blogspot.com> and write your memories

of life in our neighborhood. Or you can mail them to Marj Weir, 6120 Westminster, 63112.

Here are some of the questions that you might consider:

Memories of Skinker-DeBaliviere

1. How long have you lived in the neighborhood? _____

 2. What brought you here? _____

 3. What are the most special features of the neighborhood?

 4. What one or two events do you think were most important to the development of the neighborhood? _____

 5. Describe one or more special memories you have of your life in the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood. _____

- Your name and neighborhood address(es): _____

"Fair Shares" Bring Farm-Fresh Food to Skinker-DeBaliviere

By Ligaya Figueras

As more studies have revealed the benefits of eating locally and supporting sustainable agriculture, the market for local, farm-fresh food has expanded enormously. Numerous farmers' markets are already located within a 10-minute drive of Skinker-DeBaliviere and more farmers' markets are sprouting every year in the metropolitan area. With the arrival of Fair Shares, a combined community supported agriculture, our sources for locally grown food just got even better.

Fair Shares is a newly formed nonprofit organization that connects local farmers and artisan food producers with St. Louis area residents. Headed by sisters Sara Hale and Jamie Choler, the group organizes various farms and CSA members, or shareholders, creating a direct relationship between food producers and consumers. Each season, shareholders provide the money that growers and producers need to operate by purchasing a "share" of the season's harvest. The farmers supply members with their products, usually on a weekly basis, throughout the growing season. The CSA model is an economically viable way for small scale farmers to produce high quality, sustainably grown food.

Unlike most CSAs, which run a limited growing season, Fair Shares offers year-round subscriptions. As a combined CSA, Fair Shares has accessed multiple growers from Missouri and Illinois including

Hinkebein Hills Farms, Prairie Grass Farm, Seven Thunder Bison, Pilgrims' Acres, Troutdale Farm, Greenwood Farms, Nature's Way Gardens, Esther's Honey, Ropp Jersey Cheese and many others. This long list of producers will enable Fair Shares to provide its members with a wide variety of seasonally harvested fresh products including various meats and fish, produce, mushrooms, and artisan food products such as cheese, bread, pasta, and honey.

Also unique to Fair Shares as a CSA are its social justice endeavors. The group will give low-income families access to healthy, fresh foods by donating some shares, as well as any extra food, to needy individuals. Other recipients will include food banks such as Operation Food Search, or to New Roots Urban Farm, which holds a farmers' market in under-served north city.

A few Skinker-DeBaliviere residents have already signed up for their weekly basket of food stuffs. "There has been a lot of support from this area," commented Hale, "so U. City will have its own drop off site." Delivery is planned for Wednesday late afternoons and will begin on Wednesday, April 23.

Membership to Fair Shares is still available. The cost to join is \$50 plus approximately \$50 per weekly share. For more information, visit www.fairshares.org.



Hamilton Students Assist in Neighborhood Food Drive.

The SDCC Social Services Committee sponsors a food drive each year. Volunteers help to collect the food from neighbors' stoops and the food goes to the pantries at neighboring churches. This year the food drive occurred on November 11. Shirley Polk, chair of the Social Services Committee, spearheads the effort. This year, Hamilton School and its chair, Tiffany Abernathy, helped the cause considerably. Students and staff at Hamilton collected 800 cans of food for the drive. And many neighbors also chipped in and donated. This food drive was a considerable success.

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News on Delmar

By Jo Ann Vatcha



Photo by King Schoenfeld

The City's Board of Public Service has contracted with Kozeny-Wagner as General Contractors to replace the Delmar Boulevard Bridge over MetroLink tracks (between Hodiament and Des Peres Avenues). The \$3.2 million project replaces the bridge supporting structure built in the late 1920's. The work will be done in two phases and one lane of traffic in each direction will be available. The north side of the bridge will be demolished and re-built. Traffic will be switched to the north half and the same work will be done on the south half. This project will be complete in approximately one year.

Editor's Note: the rebuilding of the Delmar Bridge had been scheduled for several years, but was purposely postponed until after the Forest Park Parkway reopened last year, saving the neighborhood from major isolating construction on two fronts. Having one lane open for through traffic was also a priority to help residents get to all the new businesses on Delmar. Thanks to Alderwoman Lyda Krewson for her successful push for our neighborhood priorities!

At the same time, Metro is working on the long-awaited improvements to the MetroLink station and bus plaza on Des Peres. New bus bays, all on the west side of Des Peres, plaza style sidewalks, new landscaping and greatly enhanced lighting will make the station safer and brighter. The Delmar Streetscape becomes

more uniform this spring when University City begins an important streetscape improvement project, installing decorative pedestrian scale street lighting and trees from the city limits to Kingsland. The design has been planned for several years to coordinate with the improvements made east of Skinker. The last connecting piece will hopefully also start this year, the two blocks between the city limits and Skinker. The lighting project will also be enhanced with new street trees where dead or stressed.

A panhandling ordinance was passed recently by Ald. Lyda Krewson in the City of St. Louis limiting panhandling to daylight hours and banned at all times at bus stops and Metro stations, ATMs or within 30 feet of public doorways or sidewalk cafes, schools, and crosswalks. University City is considering similar legislation.

Welcome to new businesses **PI restaurant**, a great San Francisco style pizza, and **Suite 100**, a gallery and coffee shop in the 6100 block of Delmar, and **Not Just a Bookstore** and **Sir BBQ** in the 5800 block of Delmar. And note Norb Hart's article on **Knitty Couture** in this issue. This beautiful shop is located next to **Diversity Gallery and the Culture Cafe**, across from the **Pageant**.

Exploring Africa: The Lion and the Jewel

The Performing Arts Department at Washington University will close their 2007/2008 season with a production of *The Lion and the Jewel* by Nigerian playwright and Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka.



Soyinka wrote several light-hearted plays that examine political ideas about colonization, culture, and gender roles... and often makes fun of Westernized school teachers.

Lukunle, the teacher, tries to woo Sidi, the Jewel, by belittling her and trying to convince her to adhere to modern ways. Meanwhile, Baroka, the tribe's chief, decides that Sidi would make an excellent addition to his already large collection of wives. In a carnival of dance and

song, Sidi must find her destiny somewhere between the old and the new, between the modern and the traditional in this comedy of the human condition.

The *Lion and the Jewel* will be directed by Ron Himes, the founder and Producing Director of The Black Repertory.

Performances of *The Lion and the Jewel* will be performed in the Edison Theater Apr 18, 19, 25 & 26 @ 8 pm, and Apr 20 & 27 @ 2 pm. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$9 for students and senior citizens. To order tickets call the Edison Theater box office at (314) 935-6543. Mention this article and receive one ticket half price with the purchase of one full price ticket.

Yarn Again

By Norbert Hart

Everybody who remembers the former sewing shop on Delmar raise your hand. My mother was to give me the name but as of this date has not been able to remember it (nor have her past & current neighbors Claire Walsh & Jean Eberle).

Anyway, we have somewhat of a repeat performance with the opening of **Knitty Couture**, an establishment who's opening was heralded by folks camping out of the front door for the grand opening!

Camping out for an opening is just one factor showing the rise in popularity of knitting. The store has even had a 5-year-old come in for materials so he could join his siblings in the craft. To help meet this demand is Knitty Couture, which stocks not only yarn (specializing in small & local

suppliers) but knitting supplies, books, needles, and accessories. They also have classes and spinning demonstrations (with spinning supplies and equipment). In the future they hope to organize trips to visit different farms when yarn is harvested.

The store has set out to be a community and social venue, which is apparent as soon as you walk in the door. The store develops the social aspect of knitting with patrons working and helping each other in a comfortable work area, filling one of the store's missions of being a community venue. The other missions the owner has is to support small yarn producers and to become a foundation for community programs.

Additional information and store reviews are available at www.knittycouture.com; 6148 Delmar, 727-6500. Open Tuesday through Sunday till 6; Thursday until 8.

Pi Restaurant Brings Deep-Dish Pizza to Delmar Loop

By Ligaya Figueras

Skinker-DeBaliviere welcomes Pi Restaurant, an upscale pizzeria located at 6144 Delmar in the spot recently vacated by Mirasol. Pi opened its doors on March 14 to coincide with the approximate number that represents pi, the ratio of a perfectly round pizza's circumference to its diameter. Besides the homonymic word play, owner Chris Sommers chose the name because it matches the St. Louis area code. "I'm surprised that no one has done it yet," said Sommers.

Pi specializes in deep-dish cornmeal crust pizza and the menu reflects Sommers' roots to St. Louis (he grew up in University City) and San Francisco, as well as the Chicago origins of deep-dish pie. The selection of 9-inch or 12-inch pizzas includes the classic combo of mozzarella, sausage, mushroom, green peppers and onions, a vegetarian version fittingly called "Berkeley," and "Western Addition," which denotes the San Francisco neighborhood where Sommers worked at the famed Little Star Pizza. Sommers hopes that St. Louisans will come to love the same recipe that customers in the Golden Gate City are raving about. "The recipe keeps winning the 'Best Ever' award in San Francisco," added Sommers. St. Louis-style aficionados can still enjoy authentic thin crust pizza baked in a brick oven.

So far, S-D residents have not been disappointed. "Great pizza!" commented Jennifer Olmstead of 61XX Westminster. "The best pizza I have had in St. Louis and it is only a two-minute walk from my house. The cornmeal crust really makes a difference." Shelly Goebel-Parker, husband Jon and their children Isaac and Clara felt



the same way. "The deep dish was terrific, I have not had a good deep dish pizza in years," stated Goebel-Parker, a resident of 60XX Kingsbury. "Everything about it; it has absolutely amazing food and it's good for kids and adults!"

The restaurant also offers a thoughtful variety of salads like a caprese, a toasted almond and bing cherry salad, or "k2," which features field greens, beets, goat cheese and pine nuts dressed in a lemon poppyseed vinaigrette. Welcome change from the standard iceberg lettuce and a tomato wedge salad found at some pizza joints. Post-pi offerings include cornmeal crusted apple and seasonal dessert pies baked on the premises.

Another unique aspect to the independently-owned eatery is its bent towards being a leading 'green' restaurant. The restaurant offers local draught beer, organic and sustainably produced wine and spirits and has eliminated bottled beer and bottle water. Other sustainable practices include using post-consumer products, purchasing locally-grown food, using reclaimed building materials and furniture, energy-efficient lighting and an active recycling program.

Pi Restaurant is open daily from 4 pm to midnight. For more information, call 727-6633 or visit www.restaurantpi.com.

Flag Etiquette

By your crabby old neighbor Dan McGuire

My wife Jill says I'm just getting old, but I must admit that it drives me crazy when I see the U.S. flag displayed on the wrong side of our neighborhood porches when it is flown with other flags. †Don't get me wrong, I truly love the show of colors of all the various flags in the neighborhood and the patriotism shown when flying the American flag, but let's please get it right and place the American flag on the correct side of our porches in time for our neighborhood centennial celebrations!

When flying two flags from your porch, the flag of the United States of America should be on the right, the flag's own right, and to the left of the porch when observed from the street. One example: the flags at 6186 Kingsbury (on the Centennial House Tour).

crossed staffs

The flag of the United States of America, when it is displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, should be on the right, the flag's own right and to the left of the observer in the street, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

flag on staff

When the flag of the United States is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, balcony, or front of a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff. †If two flags are displayed in this manner, the flag of the United States should be on the right, the flag's own right and to the left of the observer in the street

flag in church or auditorium

When displayed from a staff in a public auditorium on or off a podium, the flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the speaker's right as he or she faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the speaker (to the right of the audience).

flags in a group of flags

The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of States or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs. flag other than being flown from staff

When the flag is displayed in a manner other than by being flown from a staff, it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the left of the observer in the street.

flag hanging from window

When displayed in a window it should be displayed in the same way, that is with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.

For more information on the flag that you ever really wanted to know see: <http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagetiq.html>.

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Trouble Paying Your Mortgage? There's HOPE -- Call 1-888-995-HOPE

The rising number of people losing homes to foreclosure has been in the news a lot lately, as a million families will face losing their homes this year. Although counseling is one of the most effective ways to prevent foreclosures, those at risk often are too afraid or embarrassed to talk to their lender about the situation.

But there is help. A nationwide hotline where homeowners can find professional counseling is available to homeowners in the St. Louis area. The toll-free number, 1-888-995-HOPE, is a project of the Homeownership Preservation Foundation, a national nonprofit dedicated to preventing home foreclosures. Those whose problem cannot be resolved by the

telephone counselors are referred to a local organization – Beyond Housing/Neighborhood Housing Services or Urban League – that provides face-to-face counseling for the homeowner. All counseling is free of charge. The City of St. Louis is also helping fund the local efforts.

So if you are having trouble paying your mortgage, call the HOPE hotline today for real help and guidance. Because nothing is worse than doing nothing. Foreclosure affects more than just you. It affects your whole family. Call 1-888-995-HOPE.

This information is provided by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

A Greenway the Color of Skinker-DeBaliviere

By Alex Lowenstein



Over forty Skinker-DeBaliviere residents gathered at the Des Peres Big Picture elementary school on Saturday, April 5, 2008 to redesign the Des Peres Avenue Corridor. The event, called the Des Peres Greenway Design Day, is a big part in the efforts of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council Great Rivers Greenways Committee and a group of nine Washington University students (all Skinker-DeBaliviere residents but one) to produce a neighborhood specific redesign for the currently lackluster Des Peres Avenue, the underutilized central axis of Skinker-DeBaliviere.

The opportunity to pursue such a redevelopment project is provided by the Great Rivers Greenways District, an initiative to install a network of "Greenways", bike and pedestrian paths, in the St. Louis metropolitan area to promote a healthy lifestyle of exercise and non-vehicular travel, as well as spur economic development in the region's neighborhoods.

Great Rivers Greenways District has hired a landscape design firm from Colorado to design the network of greenways. Currently Skinker-DeBaliviere is expecting a ten foot wide asphalt and concrete path to connect Forest Park and Delmar via Des Peres. The SDCC Great Rivers Greenways committee saw with the new construction the chance to really change the character and use of

the Des Peres corridor and asked the Wash U students to produce a neighborhood specific design. The committee's goal is to use the Skinker-DeBaliviere specific design, and the community's support as leverage, in discussing with the Great Rivers Greenways District how construction of a corridor more beneficial to the neighborhood than just an asphalt path can be achieved.

The key phrase is community supported, and the Greenway Design Day was part of an effort to gather community support by including residents in the process. Together with four Wash U professors in the school of Architecture and Urban Design, the Wash U students facilitated activities to help brainstorm ideas for how the Des Peres Corridor could be designed to be Skinker-DeBaliviere specific, fitting in with the neighborhood's existing character and charm, while meeting the needs and wants of the community.

In the next phase, the Wash U students will produce initial design concepts for the corridor, to be presented to the community on April 28 (time and location TBA) for review. Please keep an eye out for information about the presentation. The more residents that get involved with the design of the corridor, the better the design will be.

May, 1980

the Paper

Run, Run - THE PAPER ROUTE

Editor's Note: Our long-time columnist Tom Hoerr's "In Your Ear" column normally runs on the last page of our issue and will appear once again in our Summer issue. For something "historic", we wanted neighbors and visitors to glimpse some of the great fun we have had through the years, in large measure due to folks like Tom and Karleen Hoerr, who have participated with such enthusiasm. In May, 1980, Tom celebrated our fundraiser "The Paper Route." 28 years later, he's still having fun, at New City School and in our great neighborhood.

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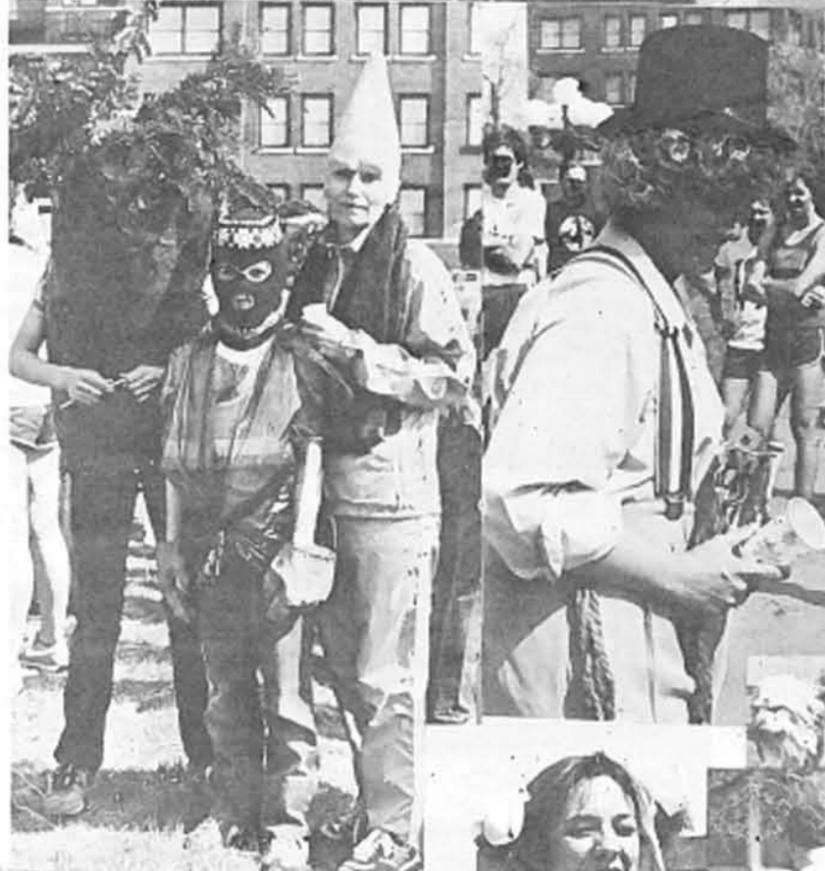
by Tom Hoerr

Unsubstantiated reports indicate that the Alcoholism Hotline was flooded with calls from the Skinker-DeBaliviere area on Sunday, April 20, between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. Residents awakened, still feeling the effects of the previous evening, only to look out their windows and see a horde of brightly attired figures trotting down the street. Many folks, used to rather trying "morning after," rubbed their foreheads and looked again. It was this second look that sent them on their way to the wagon and the telephone.

There was Wonder Woman! This real-life Wonder Woman stood well over six feet tall and had golden locks which gently cascaded to a point slightly below beardline. Near her was something out of a Beetle Bailey cartoon: an ambulatory tree! Other noteworthy costumed runners included a genuine Conehead (who apologized for not knowing it was a costumed run), a belly dancer, a dancing bear, an O.J. Simpson airport traveler, Harpo Marx, a clown, Dolly Parton, a child wearing a wagon, and some residents impersonating a kind, gentle, and exceedingly handsome neighbor. (Wonder Woman, a.k.a. Mike McEvoy, a counselor with the Parkway School District, won the \$50.00 first prize for best costume. In addition, a dinner at the Flamingo Cafe, several portable radios, shirts, and Baskin-Robins ice cream coupons were awarded as prizes.)

The run was definitely a success. The 375 registrants and the support of the Central West End Savings & Loan enabled the run to generate approximately \$800 for *The Paper*. Of equal importance, a lot of us worked together to let some non-neighbors see what a neat place Skinker-DeBaliviere is to live and play in.

Plans are already underway for next year's run. If you close your eyes and listen you can already hear... "Look, up ahead. Is that really Johnny Carson being chased by his ex-wives?"



photos by Gabriel Suarez

The Paper is extremely grateful to the CWE Savings and Loan for sponsoring The Paper Route Run. Many thanks to Ken and Nancy Cohen and Karleen Hoerr who devoted countless hours to insure its success, and particularly to Tom Hoerr, the sinister character who masterminded the whole event.





2008 SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD CENTENNIAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- MAY 11, 2008 HOUSE TOUR
- MAY 31, 2008 PHOTO DAY
- JUNE 7, 2008..... 10TH ANNUAL BREAKFAST GARDEN TOUR
- OCTOBER 11, 2008 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AT FOUR CORNERS

CHECK THE CENTENNIAL LOGO ON THE SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE WEBSITE. FOR UP TO DATE PLANNING INFORMATION AND TO VOLUNTEER GO TO: www.stlouis.missouri.org/skinkerdebaliviere/centennial

Centennial Planning Update

By Jo Ann Vatcha

The Centennial Planning Committee has expanded to include a broad cross-section of Skinker-DeBaliviere residents and alums, working to implement an exciting agenda throughout 2008.

Co-Chairs Katie Kurtz and Andy Cross.

First up: as this issue highlights, the Centennial House Tour will be held on Sunday, May 11. Venita Lake and Arline Webb are co-chairs for the house tour, which will be held on Mother's Day, as were the past house tours, held from 1969 to 1981. Eleven houses are on the tour, and house sitters are still being sought to help man each house. Call Venita Lake at 727-7378. Marj Weir and Jo Ann Vatcha are working with the Missouri Historical Society on the publication of the neighborhood history, including an oral history DVD. Already several residents have been interviewed, and more are being scheduled. In addition, Lana Stein and Dan McGuire are also interviewing other residents and prominent neighbors, and you could be on the list!

"Photo Day" is scheduled for May 31 from 5-7 pm. Bring any of your old photos, home movies, or just memories of the neighborhood

at any time in its history. Call Marj at 863-7558 for more information. This will be an informal event with potluck refreshments.

The Big Centennial Celebration will be held on Saturday October 11, at the Four Corners. The event will feature two live bands, food and drink, and much more, including special recognitions for all those groups and individuals who help make our neighborhood so special.

If you would like to be involved with the centennial celebrations, contact Katie Kurtz at 727-6377--knkurtz@swbell.net, or Andy Cross at 721-6060--mccross@swbell.net. To help with the House Tour, contact Venita Lake at vlake@mindspring.com. To be added to the email distribution list, send your email address to: lloyd53@sbcglobal.net. If you are interested in participating in the "oral history", contact Jo Ann Vatcha at jvatcha@gmail.com or Marj Weir at weir.marj@charter.net, or Lana Stein at lstein@umsl.edu.

For updates, you may also visit the Skinker-DeBaliviere website, www.stlouis.missouri.org/skinkerdebaliviere/centennial. And don't forget our "blog" at <http://sdcentennial.blogspot.com>.



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