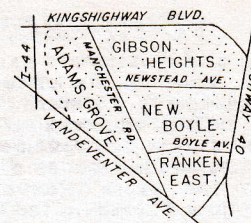


FPSE NEWS & VIEWS

THE FOREST PARK SOUTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER

"PROVIDING INFORMATION YOU NEED"



APRIL - MAY, 1991

SPRING ISSUE

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BRIGHTSIDE CLEAN-UP MAY 18

By Karl Chauffe

May 18 is Operation Blitz day in FPSE. Neighbors will again join to clean streets and alleys of winter's accumulated debris and litter. According to area commander Joe P. Roddy, each block unit is being requested to do a special project this year. Roddy said, "We are trying to get each block unit to adopt a vacant lot. We want them to remove all of the trash and litter, plant flowers and adopt it for the year."

Operation Brightside will again provide trash bags, flowers, tools, dirt and mulch for the neighborhood blitz. Periwinkles and marigolds will be available for planting in public areas.

Trash pick-up will be at 10 AM and at 3 PM. Branches and tree limbs must be bundled. Motor oil, car batteries, tires and appliances should be separated. These can be recycled and will be collected in a special truck. Do not overload the dumpsters or place large items within three feet of them.

For information or to volunteer call 781-4556. Additional information will be distributed just before May 18.

TOUR OF TOURS

By Richard Sandall

Three FPSE residences will be featured on the 1991 St. Louis Magazine's Tour Of Tours on May 4 and 5. In previous years the tour highlighted homes in the county and south city area. This year greater emphasis will be given to the city's central corridor.

Tickets are \$10.00 (presale) or \$12.00 on the days of the tour. The tour begins at the Cabanne House in Forest Park and runs from 11:00 to 5:00 both days.

In FPSE, the Dolan House (4448 Arco), Ritter House (4520 Wichita) and Brickly House (4522 Wichita) will be featured. Volunteers are needed to assist on the days of the tour. Call Kate Roth, 533-6704.

NSN UPDATE

Neighborhood Safety Network (NSN) is a resident funded organization that hires off-duty police officers to patrol FPSE. Contributions have increased the last two months and the number of patrols has now returned to their pre-Christmas level.

In February, NSN patrol officers made one arrest and five field interview reports. They also interviewed youths congregating on street corners and discouraged public drinking.

A FPSE resident has offered to install crime deterrent devices free of charge. If interested, call the NSN hotline, 652-2711.

Remember to send your contributions to NSN. We are entering a high crime season. NSN patrols can be a major deterrent. People are encouraged to join NSN. The more members NSN has, the safer our neighborhood will be. Call 652-2711 for more information.

FOOD SHOP SEEKS ZONING VARIANCE Corner of Gibson and Newstead Avenues

By Karl Chauffe

Responding to neighborhood opposition, the Board of Adjustments denied Dwayne Hester a zoning variance for a food shop at 4398 Gibson Avenue. The property is zoned residential; commercial enterprises are not permitted without a variance. Hester is currently seeking neighborhood support for an appeal of the Board's ruling. The hearing is scheduled for May 8, 1991.

The intersection of Gibson and Newstead avenues has long been a neighborhood trouble spot. Complaints of drug dealing, fencing, gambling and prostitution were centered in or around the storefront at 4398 Gibson, previously Newstead Food Shop. That corner frequently appeared in police reports and was pictured in newspaper and television crime reports.

In 1989 Newstead Foodshop closed. For several months the property remained empty. Loitering and litter decreased. In the fall of 1989, Robert Hester purchased the building and opened The Neighborhood Groceries. Reports vary as to his success in controlling loitering and litter.

Recently, Dwayne Hester took control of his uncle's grocery business. When he applied for a business license, it was discovered that the store is in an area zoned residential. No commercial license could be issued without a zoning variance.

Dwayne Hester applied to the Board of Adjustments for a zoning variance. Alderman Roddy, FPSE Housing Corp., New Boyle Improvement Association and Operation Conserv opposed the zoning change. At the hearing FPSE Housing Corp. Executive Director Kate Roth stated that a food shop was incompatible with a residential area and that better use could be made of the property. The Board of Adjustments denied Hester's request and ordered the store closed.

According to Conserv Officer Carole Rulo, numerous health and safety viola-

tions existed on the property. They included: refuse in rear yard and basement, accumulation of dog feces in rear yard, maintaining poultry in a residential area and lack of bathroom facilities in the rear apartment. Rulo stated that many of the violations had been abated, but only after the zoning variance was denied. She also reported 17 police calls were registered for the intersection of Gibson and Newstead over the last 60 days.

Since the hearing, New Boyle Neighborhood Association has reversed its position and now supports the zoning change for a six month trial period.

Dwayne Hester and his attorney, Henry Cummings, attended the April FPSE Housing Corp meeting to request the Board's support. Hester explained that he is a fireman, but has managed the store for the last three months after an accident prevented him from working. When he returns to the Fire Department, his brother will manage the store, if it reopens.

Hester stated there is a need for a convenience store in FPSE. He said, "There are no stores other than the Manchester A.G. Manchester Ave. is dangerous for children and the A.G. is too far for senior citizens." He claimed opposition to his store, called Old Home Town Market, is based upon problems associated with the Newstead Food Shop. "I have eliminated the loitering and will be working with the 3rd (Police) District. I have started taking pictures of people gathering in front of the store and they have moved down the street. I know the homes and families involved with the drug activities over there. The police will be able to come into the store. I plan to work very closely with them," Hester declared.

Hester cited improvements recently made to the building, "I painted the building because a person on the

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SOME FPSE STREETS TO CLOSE

Major Street Changes Decided By Less Than 20 Residents

By Mark Jefferies

At a poorly attended neighborhood meeting fourteen residents determined that Arco, Gibson and Oakland avenues will be closed at their eastern ends for a trial period of six months. These street closings are part of a larger plan to control displaced traffic after the Kingshighway Viaduct is closed. The viaduct may close as early as this fall. It is expected to be two years before the new viaduct is opened.

The FPSE Housing Corp. convened a neighborhood-wide meeting on March 14 to discuss traffic pattern changes necessitated by the Kingshighway Viaduct closing. Included on its panel of experts were SafeStreet Executive Director Suzanne Hart, Deputy Fire Chief George, Emergency Medical Service Deputy Chief Hardy, Bob Boxdorfer of Street Department, and Public Safety

Director William Keuling. Alderman Joe D. Roddy chaired the meeting.

Low attendance, less than 20 residents, prompted Roddy to ask if the meeting should continue. New Boyle resident Mrs. Hughes objected to continuing because meeting notices were only distributed that morning. Many people did not learn of the meeting until that night. She stated, "This is unfair to New Boyle residents who are not here because they did not know. I don't think this is right."

In contrast, Dan Corbin justified continuing the meeting because, "The changes are only temporary and if we find that they don't work they can be taken away." The group voted to continue the meeting. Following the meeting several Adams Grove and

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FOOD SHOP SEEKS VARIANCE

from page 1

Board of Adjustments said it was ugly. I took care of the violations upstairs and now have a permit for that apartment. The chickens are gone." He stated future improvements would be made as money became available, but "With the store closed there is no cash flow." He noted, "If I do not reopen soon, my creditors will be after me."

I have eliminated the loitering and will work with the police.

Dwayne Hester

New Boyle President Ida Fields addressed the Housing Corp Board in support of Hester. "Greg (Thomas) has the store on Manchester and you can't go in there without people asking for money. And people are robbed there. Why pick on this man (Hester) here. He is a young man who is trying to help clean up. This is a segregation thing. You are picking on one black man and there is still that laundry on Manchester."

Following his presentation, Hester and his lawyer were invited to stay for the meeting, but they left. During the meeting, Cate Dolan expressed serious reservations. She asked, "If a large store like Greg's cannot control the problems (littering and loitering), how can a smaller store do it?" Manchester A. G. has a full time security guard to patrol the store and parking area.

Suzanne Goodman noted that the food shop has always been a financially marginal enterprise. She said, "This is not a racial issue, but a business issue. He is ill-prepared; he has no business plan. We need to think of this in economic terms." She questioned if Hester will need to install pinball machines and other games to "make ends meet."

Several board members questioned Hester's claim that the neighborhood needs another food shop. There is a food shop on Tower Grove about a block away from Hester's location. Manchester A.G. is only four blocks in the opposite direction. Members

also expressed concern that those managing the store after Hester's return to the Fire Department may not share his commitment.

Bryon Young observed that this would be the Board's only opportunity to place restrictions on the business. He stated, "Existing businesses are hard to put out." He continued, "The people who live around me do not like what they see there (outside of the shop). Hester should be asked if he will be involved in the neighborhood and NSN (Neighborhood Safety Network) and to what extent."

Roth proposed that the Board delay its decision until their May meeting, so a committee could meet with Hester and establish conditions for a six month trial period. Young, Goodman and Tom Goshen volunteered for the committee.

The Board passed a motion, proposed by Tom Goshen, "to approve it in principle". Some members later stated that the motion was so vague, they did not feel it was a commitment

"If a large store like Greg's can not control the problems, how can a smaller store do it?"

Cate Dolan

to a six month trial period.

Since the Housing Corp meeting, NEWS & VIEWS has received conflicting reports regarding Hester's right to conduct business from the food shop until the appeal hearing on May 8. Calls to various City Hall departments indicated that the store was to remain closed. Because of zoning, no license could be issued and conducting business without a license would be a violation of the law. Yet, the food shop remained open.

N&V was told that Hester claimed to have a letter granting him permission to remain open. Attempts to confirm this were unsuccessful. Phones at both the food shop and Hester's lawyer's home were disconnected. No one answered Hester's home phone.

BLOCK UNIT NEWS

BY KARL CHAUFFE

ADAMS GROVE and NEW BOYLE President Bernice Matlock (Adams Grove) and Secretary-Treasurer Tom Goshen (New Boyle) prevent coverage of those meetings.

(See also Aldermanic Report, Brightside, Street Closings & Housing Corp. News)

GIBSON HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (BU 6)

February: Lt. Blane, Dispute, & Fletcher

Vice President Dee Ross resigned.

Lt. Blaine (3rd Police District) announced that FPSE will receive additional police patrols because of increased neighborhood drug activity. He predicted more arrests are eminent.

A dispute erupted following Alderman Roddy's report. Roddy accused NEWS & VIEWS of lying and distorting reports about him. Block Unit President Owen Eaton refused to allow N&V editor and block unit member Karl Chauffe to speak, despite protests by past-president Jane Sykes and current Secretary Paula Limermen. Sykes noted that members are guaranteed the right to speak and ask questions. Limermen questioned the purpose of having Roddy speak, if questions are not allowed. Eaton threatened to adjourn the meeting if

members continued to oppose his rulings. Past-president Richard Sandall left the meeting in protest of Eaton's behavior.

Eaton appointed himself block unit representative to a city-wide leadership conference. He said he would report to the group at the next meeting.

Pam Fletcher (Ranken Health Clinic) explained that the clinic offers numerous services, including nutritional programs, a resource guide and physicals. Currently seven physicians are affiliated with the clinic. Ranken Health Clinic is seeking a permanent location and is looking at buildings on Tower Grove and Manchester.

March: Controversies, Boxdorfer, Rent & Brightside

Bob Boxdorfer (Department of Streets) explained traffic pattern changes planned for FPSE when the Kingshighway Viaduct closes (see Street Closings). Responding to questions, Boxdorfer stated that the service roads parallel and adjacent to Kingshighway will be kept open. These roads service the businesses and rail yards in the valley.

Jane Sykes proposed making Arco and Gibson one-way streets to eliminate truck traffic. Boxdorfer suggested waiting and evaluating the need for changes after the viaduct closes. He said the residential area is unlikely to

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HOUSING CORP. NEWS

By Karl Chauffe

March: Display House, Grant, Bars & Rent

Sufficient FSIP (For Sale Incentive Program) funds are available for the renovation of both the display house at 1091-93 So. Taylor Ave. and 1060 So. Kingshighway. Construction financing for the display house is from Mercantile Bank. Additional funds are from the Operation ConServ grant. Both Boatmen's Community Development Corp. and Mercantile are interested in participating as partners in the project.

WUMCRC will sell 1091-93 So. Taylor to the Housing Corp. for \$10,000. Estimated renovation cost as two town-houses is \$215,000, about \$42.50/square foot. Up to \$82,000 in FSIP funding is available. Sale price per unit will be between \$70-80,000. The Housing Corp. will spend about \$10,000 to retain the display unit for one year. Motion to purchase the building, contingent upon obtaining financing, passed unanimously.

Mercantile Bank has donated \$3800 to purchase of miniblinds, reglase tubs and paint radiators in 1084-93 So. Taylor Ave. Robert Sykes will donate 35 railroad ties for landscaping the building's rear yard. Cate Dolan offered to donate \$50 to have the rear yard tilled.

Roth reported that OSCAR'S Bar at 4146 Manchester Ave. plans to participate in the Manchester Facade Program. The program provides funding (up to \$1500) to improve the facade of commercial buildings on Manchester.

ATTITUDES Bar at 4100 Manchester has obtained permission to extend its hours to 3:00 AM on Friday, Saturday and several holidays during the year. Jack and Terry Larrison have gathered sufficient signatures to obtain a full drink license for their planned restaurant at BLITZ, 4301 Manchester Ave.

No plans have been completed for Earth Day. Roth stated that each neighborhood church would have its own Earth Day service, instead of having a joint neighborhood-wide service. President Scherer suggested placing a sign on Taylor stating, "If you really cared for ecology, you would live here and not drive out to west county." Other members discussed having a plant sale to celebrate Earth Day and raise money for neighborhood projects.

Roth reported that Ron Gines (Habitat for Humanity) agreed to look at buildings available for rehab. President Scherer instructed Roth to provide Helen Sheets with a list of available buildings.

April: Foodshop & FSIP

Dwayne Hester requested the Board's support in obtaining a zoning variance for 4398 Gibson Ave. (see Food Shop on page 1).

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Concerned Citizens of Forest Park Southeast, a non-profit, non-political group working to improve FPSE, publishes NEWS & VIEWS bi-monthly. Founded in June, 1988, N&V is delivered at no cost to approximately 1700 homes and numerous city officials. N&V provides free distribution of fliers for non-profit organizations and campaign literature for candidates. This is not to be construed as an endorsement. Contributions by FPSE residents and others pay for printing.

Direct inquiries to editors K. Chauffe, R. Sandall and M. Jefferies at FPSE NEWS & VIEWS, 4420 Arco Ave., St. Louis, Mo. 63110. Deadline for the next issue is June 1, 1991.

SOME FPSE STREETS TO CLOSE

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New Boyle residents informed NEWS & VIEWS that they received no notification of the meeting.

Housing Corp. Executive Director Kate Roth explained the planned changes. A left-hand turn signal onto Manchester would be installed on southbound Kingshighway. Tower Grove between Manchester and Vandeventer would be one-way southbound. Boyle between Manchester and Vandeventer would be one-way northbound. No parking will be allowed on one-way sections of Tower Grove and Boyle, or along Manchester between Kingshighway and Tower Grove. Three proposed street closings are: Oakland at Newstead, Arco at Manchester, and Gibson just west of the Villa parking lot. The closings are designed to prevent residential streets from becoming short-cuts for displaced Kingshighway traffic. Roth noted two possible side-effects of the closings: preservation of the neighborhood's integrity and a decrease in crime.

Bob Boxdorfer (Street Dept.) explained that 49,000 cars will daily be displaced from Kingshighway when the viaduct is closed. Because few crossings to the south exist, a comprehensive traffic plan is necessary. Several years ago Boyle and Tower Grove avenues were widened and changed to opposing one-way streets to handle more traffic. Neighborhood opposition convinced the city to designate them as two-way streets again.

Regarding traffic in FPSE Boxdorfer stated, "I do not really see that much traffic will cut through here, but I have no problems with closing Gibson,

Oakland and Arco. They are residential streets. They are not made for heavy traffic." Boxdorfer continued, "When the viaduct is closed, Boyle and Tower Grove will have to be made one-way again. Initially there will be pandemonium as people attempt to find alternate routes, but after a while the traffic will settle down and we may be able to allow parking on those streets again."

Tom Goshen asked where residents were supposed to park when parking is prohibited on Boyle Ave. Boxdorfer responded, "Streets are for moving traffic, not parking. If we leave the parking on Boyle and Tower Grove, there will be traffic jams all day long." Allowing parking between certain hours is not feasible because traffic on Kingshighway is always heavy. Others residents expressed concerns about increased traffic near Adams School and the school busses that park on Tower Grove. Goshen suggested eliminating parking on Taylor Ave. north of Manchester "to be fair to the Boyle residents."

Neither Deputy Fire Chief George nor EMS Deputy Chief Hardy felt street closings posed additional danger to FPSE residents, although response time might be slightly longer. Hardy stated, "The plan is a simple one; we

can work around it."

Because the date for closing the viaduct is uncertain, Boxdorfer suggested waiting to close the streets. He stated, "If you close the streets now, the six month trial period will be over before the viaduct is closed. You will not know if the closings are effective at deterring traffic." Boxdorfer's proposal was accepted. The group voted 14 to 3 to close Arco, Gibson and Oakland at their eastern ends for six months, beginning near the time when the viaduct is closed.

At Block Unit 6's March meeting Boxdorfer said the closed streets will be blocked by three to four large flower pots. The pots are sections of sewer pipe turned on end and filled with soil. They weigh 1200 pounds (545 kilograms) empty and about a ton when full. Although initially planted with flowers and a shrub, the planters are not maintained by the city. The pots are fitted with reflectors, but "these are frequently stolen," complained Boxdorfer. He also noted that despite their weight, people who dislike having their street closed manage to push them to the side. Others simply drive on the sidewalk and a few crash into them.

BLOCK UNIT NEWS

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experience a great increase in traffic. Trucks using the residential streets is a police problem he said. "It is our job to put up 'no truck' traffic signs; police have to enforce them."

A dispute developed over wording in the block unit minutes about Alderman Roddy's refusal to answer questions. Joe P. Roddy motioned to revise the minutes, but members objected because Roddy is not a block unit member and therefore not eligible to introduce motions. President Eaton offered to introduce Roddy's motion, but withdrew his offer after objections from the membership.

Block unit 6 voted to pay Gibson Heights Presbyterian Church \$50 a year for the use of Fellowship Hall.

Joe P. Roddy requested block unit participation in Operation Brightside. He suggested they adopt the lot at 4401 Gibson Ave. A dispute arose when Roddy refused to provide a Brightside information sheet to block unit member Karl Chauffe. Chauffe noted that at the last three meetings Roddy had refused to give him informational handouts supplied to all other members. He declared that Roddy's behavior was discriminatory and violated his rights as a member. The matter was resolved when secretary Paula Lemerman provided Chauffe with a copy of the handout.

Responding to a question about joint meetings with Block Units 5, Eaton stated that they will be held in the future. Carole Anne Stevens asked why they were being delayed. Eaton responded that Stevens had not been there to vote for joint meetings and "some things just take time." (Eaton had been opposed to holding regular joint meetings with Block Unit 5.) Chauffe noted that Eaton's response was unbecoming of a president and may violate Robert's Rules of Order. Eaton requested someone to move for adjournment.

GIBSON HEIGHTS NEIGHBORS (BU 5)
February: Gene Kilgen

WUMCRC (Washington University Medical Center Redevelopment Corp.)

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Executive Director Gene Kilgen spoke briefly on redevelopment during a recession. He noted the successful rehabs of 1084-92 So. Taylor, 4429 Arco (Graceland) and the planned rehab at 1060 So. Kingshighway, as encouraging signs for FPSE.

In response to a question about WUMCRC plans to demolish additional buildings, Kilgen replied that all of their properties have been inspected. Only the recently razed building at 4548 Wichita was a major liability. "We now spend a lot on roofs, but we missed it on that one (4548 Wichita). I don't know when we made the mistake, but the building was too far gone," Kilgen stated. WUMCRC plans to retain title to the land. Kilgen concluded, "We have never held buildings as long as we have here (in FPSE) and we have never lost as much money as here."

March: Candidates, Attendance & Reports

A spokesperson for 4-For-Kids candidates for the School Board spoke about their platform. Ray Loehr expressed the opinion that the Board had deliberately withheld maintenance from some schools so they could be closed. "I am particularly concerned about Adams School," he stated.

WUMCRC representative Suzanne Goodman remarked on the poor attendance at the meeting. She observed, "We are having the same problem in neighborhood activities in the West End. I just hope that we are going through a phase. Several suggestions were offered to increase attendance. Larry Ritter said the meeting should begin on time. Joe D. Roddy said the meetings should be kept short."

The block unit voted to purchase decals to attach to the dumpsters informing residents of the days for bulk pickup and regular garbage collection. (See also Building Better Blocks and NSN Update.)

HOUSING CORP. NEWS

from page 2

Requests for proposals for the Display House at 1091-93 Taylor have been published and are due on April 23.

The Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis will provide low cost or free legal assistance to the Housing Corp. for the Display House project.

Renovation of 1060 S. Kingshighway will begin this summer. Seven of the 12 units at 1084-92 S. Taylor are rented. CDA (Community Development Agency) may provide funding to assist in landscaping the Taylor Ave. property. The Housing Corp is applying for FSIP funding for additional neighborhood properties, including a possible neighborhood-financed rental rehab on Wichita Ave.

The Larrisons have obtained a full-drink license for 4301 Manchester, Blitz. Darrel James (Progressive Productions) has applied for a full-drink license for 1245 S. Vandeventer, previously Affirmations Bar. James will be invited to address the next Housing Board Meeting.

FPSE will not hold an Earth Day event.

Habitat for Humanity may demolish the building at 4360 Swan Ave. 4363 Swan, owned by Lighthouse Free Methodist Church may be moderately rehabbed into a two-family by Habitat. Thieves stole the copper piping from the Habitat duplex on Norfolk Ave. Vandals have been smashing the windows of other unfinished Habitat building on Norfolk Ave.

Board elections will be held in May.

Quote for the month

The least important word in the English Language is "I"

John Lubbock

LEGAL ADVISOR: BANKRUPTCY

By Gaylard Williams

A recession causes an economic slow down and the loss of jobs. Without income, bills accumulate. People become delinquent on rent and mortgage payments. If an illness strikes and there is no medical insurance, a family can be plunged deep into debt. Payments on pre-recession purchases become harder to meet when faced with increasingly limited resources. Bills become over due. "Past due" letters flood the mailbox. Bill collectors begin to call. You try to work with your creditors. You get credit counselling, but the bills bury you. Bankruptcy may be your only resort.

During hard economic times the number of bankruptcies increases. Gone is the stigma of falling on hard times. There should be no shame in filing for relief under the bankruptcy law. Congress created bankruptcy to give people in deep debt the opportunity for a fresh start without losing everything. For years, the rich have taken advantage of the laws that offer protection from creditors. If needed, however, bankruptcy is available to everyone.

Bankruptcy is a technical and complex area of law. This short article should not be considered as a substitute for legal advice. If you have questions, consult an attorney.

Two forms of bankruptcy are available: Chapter 13, called a "Wage Earner's Plan", and Chapter 7. Procedures to file under either chapter is similar, but the two forms of Bankruptcy differ significantly. Under Chapter 7, a debtor is relieved of all debts that are dischargeable. Under Chapter 13, the debtor is placed on a budget and must make payments, as determined in a "Plan". The payments are used to repay creditors all or a percentage of what is owed. Chapter 13 is usually available only to debtors who have a regular income.

Bankruptcy petitions are filed in federal court. An individual can only file for bankruptcy every seven years. The filing/court fee for Chapter 7 or Chapter 13 bankruptcy is \$120.00. Attorney's fees vary, but an individual can file without an attorney. Shop for

EVERETT PAGE HONOURED

By Karl M. Chauffe

On February 27, nearly thirty FPSE residents attended United Residents Against Crime's (URAC) reception to welcome Captain Everett Page to the Third Police District and Forest Park Southeast Neighborhood. Captain Page previously served as Commander of the 7th District in north St. Louis and has replaced Captain Gary Perkins.

Captain Page said he was happy to be invited to FPSE. He reflected on his 27 years on the force stating, "I have worked mainly on the north side and it is hard to realize that citizens are willing to work with the police, but it takes more than just the police to fight crime."

Page said that residents will see him in the neighborhood because, "I like to get out on the street and take a more aggressive approach to crime." In conclusion Page promised, "We will stabilize the neighborhood. Once this is done, residents must help keep it that way by working with us. I pledge my support to do as much as I can and to give you the best that I have."

the best price and services. The debtor will have to submit a list of all creditors (anyone you owe money to), a schedule of assets (what you own) and liabilities (what you owe), and a statement of your financial affairs. The court appoints a trustee who oversees the administration of the bankruptcy.

For a Chapter 7 Bankruptcy the process takes two to three months from the date of filing to the date the debts are discharged. For Chapter 13 it may take five years.

About 20 days after filing, the court notifies the debtor of the first meeting with creditors. Here, the trustee and creditors, if any attend, question the debtor about his bankruptcy. Additional meetings may be held. Finally, the court discharges the debts for Chapter 7 or approves the "Plan" for Chapter 13.

The advantage of bankruptcy is that after filing, creditors cannot sue to collect, garnish your wages, foreclose on a mortgage, or repossess property. A disadvantage is that credit will be adversely affected. Bankruptcy information remains on a credit record for at least ten years.

Only debts that existed when an individual filed can be canceled and not all of these may be dischargeable. For example, taxes for the last three years, child support/maintenance, liabilities from misconduct (i.e. criminal matters or damage caused as a result of driving while intoxicated) will not be forgiven through bankruptcy.

Bankruptcy exists to afford the debtors a fresh start, without losing everything. The court allows an individual to keep certain property, but items which were used as security on a loan may have to be refunded to the creditor.

Although bankruptcy can provide the opportunity to start over, every effort should be made to resolve credit problems before filing for bankruptcy. Some creditors are willing to work with debtors during hard times. Bankruptcy should only be the last resort.

BETTER BLOCKS PROGRAM SCORES SUCCESS

By R. Sandall

Residents of Cadet, Wichita and Oakland Aves. spent a cool morning on Saturday March 23 cleaning alleys and streets, as part of the Better Blocks Program. Over 30 residents participated, assisted by Housing Corp. Executive Director Kate Roth, Conserv Officer Carol Rulo and other area residents and friends. By the end of the morning dumpsters were over-flowing with a winter's worth of debris and windblown litter. In contrast, alleys and streets were clean. Following the clean-up, lunch was served to all participants.

Better Blocks is a new program designed to encourage residents to improve the appearance of the streets. According to spokesperson Larry Ritter, if the program is successful on Cadet, Oakland and Wichita, it will expand into other parts of FPSE.

ANOTHER DART

The Police Department has formed a pilot program to address domestic violence. The Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) responds to incidents involving people who reside together or have had a child together. DART (Domestic Abuse Response Team) is not affiliated with DART (Drug And Alcohol Rehabilitation Treatment), located in the Chouteau Building.

ON OUR OWN

By M. Jefferies

On Stage. Our own RICK JACOBS (Adams Grove) was a guest speaker at a city-wide leadership conference. He related the story of the Trapino Bar closure to an audience of over 400. Jacobs' main message was that you do not have to beat City Hall; they are there to work with you. - Sometimes yes, sometimes no.

The Persian Gulf. Copies of the February-March issue of NEWS & VIEWS were sent by one reader to friends serving in Operation Desert Storm. 4420 Arco is now the international headquarters of N&V.

No Price Increase Here. In contrast to the POST-DISPATCH, which is about to double its price, and the SOUTH CITY JOURNAL, which requests donations, our own FPSE NEWS & VIEWS will continue to be delivered for free. Of course some people will claim you only get what you pay for!

The Dark Edge Of Brightside. Shame on our own JOE P. RODDY, FPSE Operation Brightside co-ordinator, for allowing personal feelings to overcome public duty. At BU6's March meeting Roddy distributed Brightside literature, but refused to give a copy to member Karl Chauffe, reportedly stating, "We don't want your help!" Joe, in this neighborhood we need all the help we can get.

The Illogical Connection. Parking along Boyle Ave. south of Manchester may be eliminated when Boyle becomes one of the detour routes after the Kingshighway Viaduct is closed. At the recent street-closing meeting, our own TOM GOSHEN proposed that parking should also be eliminated along Taylor Avenue north of Manchester, so as to be fair to the So. Boyle residents. Tit for tat, Tom?

Setting A New Record. Our own OWEN EATON may have set a new FPSE record for the most constitutional violations by a block unit president in a single meeting. At BU6's February meeting, Eaton reportedly allowed one member to insult another, refused to permit certain members to speak, insulted some members, threatened to adjourn the meeting when members objected to Eaton's behavior and allowed a visitor to discriminate against a member. Maybe Owen should read ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER. Then he might understand why members are complaining.

Backfired. Our own ALDERMAN RODDY should rethink his policy of refusing to allow questions from N&V reporters. It makes him appear afraid of the paper and suggests that he has something to hide. But, maybe he is and maybe he does.

Obsessed. A prominent New Boyle resident was recently caught taping an unsigned copy of an article about gay rights to the door of N&V headquarters. He hurriedly waddled away saying, "I left it for the newspaper." Over the past few weeks other (unsigned) papers were taped to N&V's door. They included personal ads from gay magazines, information on AIDS and articles on gay-related topics. Sounds like someone has an obsession. Does anyone know a cheap, fake psychologist?

ALDERMAN RODDY REPORTS

By K. Chaffee

Job Fair, Youth Fair, Ward Meeting,
NEWS & VIEWS & Goals

Alderman Roddy will hold his annual Job Fair on April 20 from 10:00 AM to noon at Adams School. A workshop will be held at 9:00 AM on that day to assist applicants in preparing for the interviews. According to Roddy, "Hundreds of people have participated in past fairs and dozens have found jobs."

The SouthSide Youth Coalition will hold a Youth Fair on April 27 at Adams School from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Numerous organizations are scheduled to attend and will present suggestions for youth summer activities.

Roddy accused NEWS & VIEWS of "lies and distortions" in its reports about him. He stated, "They (N&V) distort and lie about everything I say, so I will no longer entertain questions from anyone affiliated with the paper."

In his yearly newsletter Roddy announced he has budgeted \$100,000 for public improvements along the Manchester Commercial District. His goals for 1991 are technology, abandoned buildings, Manchester and education. Reviewing his performance last year, Roddy said he was unsuccessful in finding a solution to the problem of "abandoned buildings", but plans to continue to work on it. Although much remains to be done, Roddy said that progress has been made in revitalizing Manchester Ave.

PET CORNER

By S. Bowie

April is national PREVENT A LITTER MONTH. Nearly 25 million dogs and cats are born in the U.S. each year. Of these, 13.5 million die in animal pounds and shelters. Thousands more die on roadways. Others spend their lives searching for food.

There are too few homes for all the animals born. In St. Louis alone, 50,000 dogs and cats were killed because no one would adopt them. Pet owners, who allow their pets to reproduce freely, have turned animal shelters into slaughterhouses. Shelters must destroy many of the animals they were established to help save. Money that could be used to help animals must be spent killing them.

Don't breed animal misery. Have your female pet spayed and your male animal neutered. If you can no longer keep a pet, bring it to an animal shelter. Abandoning an animal is much crueler than having it "put to sleep".

For information on low-cost neutering and spaying call Animal Friends at (314) 481-1833.

Lyme Disease Vaccine

Lyme disease is transmitted by the bite of the tiny deer tick. It causes arthritis-like limping, stiff joints and fever in infected dogs and humans. Dogs are between 6 to 10 times more likely to become infected by Lyme disease than people.

A new vaccine has been developed that prevents dogs from catching Lyme disease. The vaccine stops the Lyme disease organism, *Borrelia burgdorferi* bacterin, from multiplying in the blood stream. The vaccine is administered in two injections, two to three weeks apart. Yearly revaccinations are recommended. Contact your vet for more information.

THE 1927 TORNADO

By Marge Berg

A tornado is a violently whirling column of air with winds of up to 300 miles per hour. It extends downward from a cumulonimbus cloud and appears as a rapidly rotating, slender funnel-shaped cloud that destroys everything along its narrow path. San Francisco has its earthquakes, Charleston has its hurricanes, and St. Louis and the Midwest have tornados.

It was 12:50 P.M. on the last Thursday in September of 1927. I was ten years old and in the 5th grade at St. Bernard's School on Gratiot Street near Sarah. A light rain was falling, so we played under the recently constructed open brick shelter at one end of the school yard.

The nuns returned about ten minutes early from their motherhouse to start school. This was their custom on rainy days. We had just gone to our classroom and were standing for prayers. Suddenly the sky turned a scary black.

The tornado struck. It touched down and was over very quickly. It

**The shelter under which we
had been playing was
completely destroyed.**

was much worse than any thunderstorm we had ever seen. Afterwards, there was a very heavy downpour and then the sky started to brighten.

The tornado passed from the eastern edge of Forest Park diagonally across the city's center. It dissipated over the Mississippi River. Downtown and most of north and south St. Louis were spared.

Although this neighborhood was on the tornado's fringe, it was still hard hit. Live electric wires were laying in the street on Chouteau from Kingshighway to Sarah. A row of houses along Newstead between Chouteau and Clayton had the front walls completely blown off, but the interior of the living rooms were untouched. At school the shelter under which we had been playing was completely destroyed. How lucky we were to have been safe in school.

Everyone had his own story to tell. My father was working in the office of Blanke Ice and Coal Company, across from the Laclede gas tanks on Chouteau Avenue. He saw the tornado touch down, pick up a car, turn it up-

CATARACTS

By Dr. D. Mead

Cataracts are a clouding of the eye's lens that blocks light and may distort or obstruct vision. They commonly occur with aging, but can develop at any age.

Cataract removal is a safe procedure with a 96% success rate. Most cataract removal operations require no hospital stay.

The most common type of cataract surgery removes only the clouded lens. It usually takes only about one hour and recovery requires from six to eight weeks. During recuperation, the patient may have to wear an eye patch and refrain from lifting heavy objects.

Intralocular lens implants are the most popular type of replacement lenses. Made of clear polymer material, they are placed in the eye during surgery and never need replacement.

After cataract surgery, it is very important to see your doctor regularly (no pun intended), so your eye condition can be monitored to prevent complications.

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side down in the air and carry it into the middle of the next block. Dad immediately rushed to St. Bernard's School to see if my sister, brother and I were safe. He walked many children home along the middle of Chouteau. The nuns, not knowing of the danger and destruction, had dismissed school early.

The last Thursday of the month was Dollar Day at the department stores downtown. My mother, six months pregnant, had taken my 4-year-old brother shopping with her. She did not know of the tornado until she left the store. The electric and phone systems were out. No streetcars were running. Pandemonium was everywhere. Nobody knew what was happening in another section of the city. My father was terribly worried about my mother. She finally got a ride to Grand Ave. and walked the rest of the way home, arriving at nine in the evening.

A neighbor girl who lived on Wichita Ave. was at Central High School on Grand Ave. The tornado had demolished the school. When she did not come home from school, her mother held out hope that her daughter had gone to a movie at the Fox after school. Eventually, her daughter was found crushed under a large pillar in the school.

The Central West End caught the worst of the tornado. There had been no warning. A mother, who had rushed upstairs to get her sleeping baby, was killed on her way downstairs when the stairs and outside wall collapsed. Miraculously, the baby was saved, protected by its mother's body.

Some days later, my parents, sister and I walked to the funeral home on Lindell to pay respects to our neighbors who had lost their daughter. Destruction was everywhere. Roofs were blown off houses. Whole walls were gone. Sidewalks were littered with debris and we had to walk in the middle of the streets.

PEPPERMINT

Does More Than Refreshes

By A. Powell

For centuries peppermint was served as the final course of a formal meal. It cleared one's breath and was touted to aid digestion. Originally served as tea, mint deserts and chocolates later became popular. The scientific name for mint is *Mentha piperita*. Menthol is the active and agreeable ingredient. Other members of the mint family, for example spearmint, contain less menthol and are less effective.

Folk and formal medicine have found other uses for mint. Peppermint oil can help relieve indigestion and gas. Mint tea was once the only cure for sea sickness. A few drops of peppermint oil topically applied can relieve toothache and gum pain. Menthol is an analgesic and is used in medications. Peppermint also contains antispasmodic properties. It was frequently used as a household remedy for menstrual cramps. Although safe for adults in reasonable quantities, the menthol in tea may make children choke.

Peppermint is a hybrid. It cannot reproduce from seed and must be bred vegetatively by rooting clippings or division. The plant is invasive and should only be grown in a confined area. All members of the mint family prefer full sun, but will grow in shady areas with less moisture.

EDITORIAL: DEMOCRACY IN ACTION?

During the February 1991 Block Unit 6 meeting, an incident occurred that exemplifies the type of democracy practiced in Ward 17. Alderman Roddy made a presentation then concluded by announcing he would no longer entertain questions from FPSE NEWS & VIEWS. The Alderman implied that information in the newspaper was based on half-truths, biased, and, in some cases, lies.

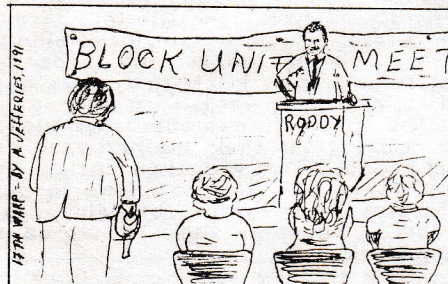
When one of the editors (Karl Chauffe) attempted to state that he would be willing to address any allegations concerning what appeared in the paper, block unit President Owen Eaton refused to allow him to speak. The editor then attempted to state that he should be allowed to respond to the Alderman's allegations. Neither the president nor the Alderman would provide him the opportunity to speak, even though he is a member of the block unit. At this time, I left rather than be a party to such undemocratic procedures. The incident only reinforced my opinion of 17th Ward politics.

In the 4 years I have lived in the 17th Ward, it has become apparent that Alderman Roddy truly believes that anyone who disagrees with him is his enemy. His definition of harmony is the elimination of dissenting opinions. Anything less than full support of him and his policies is not acceptable. I find this attitude intolerable in an elected official.

An elected official is the representative of all citizens within his area, not just those who support him without question. Any constituent has not only the right, but also the obligation, to question an elected official on public issues. When that right is denied, democracy is replaced by dictatorship. It appears that this is the type of government being established within ward 17.

While I do not agree with everything printed in N&V, I know the opportunity exists to have a dissenting opinion printed. The Alderman has been provided ample opportunity to respond to information in the paper. He has chosen not to respond, which is his right.

The Alderman does not have the right to restrict the rights of a constituent to question positions on public issues. The fact that the responses may be printed in a newspaper that reflects dissenting opinions is immaterial. The obligation to question is inherent in the Constitution of the United States. The right to print dissenting opinions is contained in the Bill of Rights. This country was founded on dissent and, as long as



Well, as there are no Questions...



slander is not an issue, it remains a legal and acceptable means of voicing an opinion.

If the Alderman is uncomfortable with insuring the same rights for his constituents that he enjoys, or with being publicly held to task for his performance, he should not be in public office.

Richard Landall

GARBAGE DISPOSAL Changes Are Coming

By M. Jefferies

You finish a container of milk and toss it into the dumpster with the other garbage. After cleaning your yard you dump twigs, leaves and grass clippings into the dumpster. Your old window air conditioner breathes its last breath and is replaced. You and a friend carry the heavy unit into the alley and abandon it. A few days later, the garbage, trash and air conditioner are gone. Where do they go?

According to Refuse Commissioner Nicholas Young, St. Louisians produce enough solid wastes each day to build a 25 foot square column of garbage as high as the Arch. Two types of materials dominate our trash: paper and paperboard (about 41%) and yard and garden debris (20%). Most of St. Louis's garbage goes into landfills. Although the cheapest means of disposal, landfills are rapidly filling up and can pose a major environmental threat to groundwater.

Missouri recently passed a law requiring a 40% decrease in the volume of solid wastes disposed in landfills by 1998. This will require major changes

in how we dispose of our trash. The first part of the law began in January.

It bans the disposal of batteries, oil, appliances and tires in landfills. These must now be recycled. On January 1, 1992, lawn and garden wastes will also be banned.

To finance new recycling programs, Missouri will tax trash going into landfills at the rate of \$1.50 per ton. Nearly \$8,000,000 a year will be raised.

Young encourages residents to begin reducing their trash now. Paper, glass and aluminum can be brought to recycling centers. Several area grocery stores now collect plastic bags and containers for recycling. Compost garden and lawn wastes into rich mulch and soil. Recycling will not only save money, but produce a healthier and cleaner environment.

REMEMBER: Do not place batteries, oil, tires or appliances in the city dumpsters. Place these in the alley at least three feet from the dumpster on the day of bulk pick-up. For our area bulk pick-up is the third Monday of the month.

DAFFODIL DAY WINNER

By R. Sandall

Congratulations to FPSE residents Jerry Scherer, Catherine Dunn and Cate Dolan for their tulips and daffodils on the small pedestrian island at the intersection of Chouteau and Taylor aves. The planting won first place for the most original design in Operation Brightside's Daffodil Days. The island was planted as part of the Indian Summer Festival celebration.

ORLEANS PRALINES

A Special Southern Treat

By R. J. Patrik

A cook once said that trying to describe the taste of a praline (pronounced pral-leen) to some one who had never eaten one, was like trying to describe the colour blue to a blind man. Probably, the closest thing that Yankees have to the praline is fudge, but that comparison does a great disservice to the praline.

The basic recipe for pralines was brought to New Orleans by French settlers in the 17th century. Gradually it spread throughout the South and slowly changed. New ingredients were added; older ones deleted. In some localities pecans were replaced by walnuts and rich maple syrup substituted for cane sugar. In Appalachia, goats milk frequently took the place of cow milk. Some people added spirits.

Below is a traditional recipe from New Orleans.

- 3/4 c. light brown sugar
- 3/4 c. granulated sugar
- 1/2 c. evaporated milk
- 1/2 stick butter or margarine
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 or 2 c. nuts (usually pecans)

Pralines were originally prepared on chilled, polished marble slabs. The polish prevented sticking. The "poor man's" alternative was a generous amount of wax paper over a thickness of newspaper. Today most cooks use no-stick cookie sheets.

Cook the sugar and milk together, stirring constantly, until it can form a firm soft ball. Remove from heat, add butter and vanilla. Stir until butter is melted. Add nuts and beat. Drop onto chilled, marble slab by spoonful. Allow to cool.

LAGNIAPPE

For additional information on FPSE and community services, request to be placed on the mailing list of AT THE CENTER, the newsletter of the Ranken Neighborhood Health Center, 1218 Tower Grove Ave. Call 531-5444.

Southside Youth Coalition is sponsoring a Children's Fair on Saturday, April 27 at Adams School from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Discover alternatives for the summer.

Collar Your Car. United Residents Against Crime has scheduled Saturday May 11 as your next opportunity to protect your GM car, luxury model Chrysler or Jeep Cherokee from theft. Cost of the collars is \$25.00. For more information call 622-3444.

Looking for a job? Don't forget Alderman Roddy's Job Fair on Saturday April 20, at Adams School from 10:30 to 12:00.