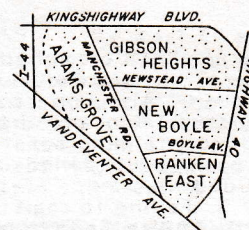


FPSE NEWS & VIEWS

THE FOREST PARK SOUTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER

"THE NEWS OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD"



MARCH - APRIL 1992

WINTER ISSUE

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THIRD POLICE DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS MEETING

Date: Thursday, March 12, 1992

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: Gibson Heights Presbyterian Church, 1075 S. Taylor Ave.

Topic: Crime Prevention Through Urban Design

Everyone is invited. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

FOOTBRIDGE CLOSES

By K. Chauffe

Faced with increased night-time violence, the city has proposed closing the footbridge over Highway 40 from 9:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M. Chain link gates and fences will be constructed at each end of the bridge.

During the day, the Highway 40 footbridge provides a quick, safe and convenient shortcut to the West End for FPSE residents. Using the bridge can save about ten minutes each way.

At night, the crossing seems very different. Despite lighting, both ends of the footbridge are shadowy, isolated areas. To the north, chain link fences enclose the walkway, except where it exits onto the deserted end of Euclid Avenue. There are no alternate routes of escape; nowhere to run if trouble develops. To the south, alleys, rear yards and vegetation provide numerous dark hiding places. Regardless how much traffic streams below on the Highway 40, you are on your own when using the footbridge at night.

Crimes at or near the bridge have
continues on page 3

GIBSON HEIGHTS PARK

By Mark Jefferies

Plans for a pocket park on the vacant lot at Newstead and Gibson have been approved by Block Unit 6. Commitments for donations of services and money for the project are confirmed. A spring fund raiser may be needed.

As the first prize for winning 1990 National Night Out, Operation SafeStreet is working with Block Unit 6 to convert the vacant LRA-owned lot at the northwest corner of Gibson and Newstead avenues into a pocket park.

The proposed park design (see diagram, page 3) was approved by Block Unit 6 in January. According to FPSE architect Stan McKay, "The park will be divided into three areas: green space, flower garden and compost center." Total cost for the project is \$16,000. This will include new sidewalks, new garden soil, planting of flowers and trees, construction of the compost center and installation of bollards along Gibson Ave. to prevent vehicles from driving onto the park.

The high cost is primarily for improved infrastructure. McKay stated,
continues on page 3

CORBIN'S LOUNGE - LIQUOR LICENCE REVOKED

By K. Chauffe

In January undercover police officers purchased packaged liquor for off-premise use from Corbin's Lounge. Subsequent investigations revealed that owner J. Corbin had not registered several of his bartenders with the Excise Commission. Because of these violations, Excise Commissioner Robert Kraiberg revoked Corbin's licence to sell alcohol at Corbin's Lounge. Corbin may appeal the decision, and can sell alcoholic beverages during the appeal process.

For more than twenty-five years J. Corbin has operated Corbin's Lounge at 4344 Manchester Avenue. Long-term residents described the Lounge as a neighborhood bar, but not the type of place to take the family. One Oakland resident stated, "My husband used to go there, but I wouldn't go in alone. It was a 'downside' neighborhood bar, not especially clean inside or out."

As the area economically declined, the Lounge's patrons changed. In the mid to late 1980s, complaints against Corbin's Lounge increased. Men frequently purchased packaged liquor from Corbin's and drank on the adjacent parking lot or sidewalk. Bottles and cans littered nearby properties. Usually the men were just noisy, but sometimes they were violent. Murders occurred in 1989 and 1991.

In 1987, FPSE residents protested the renewal of Corbin's liquor licence, claiming Corbin's Lounge was a detriment to the neighborhood. Excise Commissioner Robert Kraiberg suggested that neighborhood problems could be resolved if Corbin would not sell liquor "to go". Corbin's licence was renewed, but it prohibited the sale of liquor for off-premise consumption. A 1987 agreement, signed by Corbin, permitted Kraiberg to revoke the licence for any violation of this ban. "The agreement has applied to all subsequent licence renewals by Corbin," stated Kraiberg.

In 1990 Corbin was charged with violating the agreement. A bartender at

Corbin's Lounge reportedly sold package liquor for off-premise use. Corbin claimed ignorance of the sale. Excise Commissioner Kraiberg imposed a three-day suspension of Corbin's licence.

A more rowdy crowd began frequenting Corbin's Lounge and loitering nearby in 1991. Illegal drug activity increased nearby. Neighborhood complaints grew. At the February 14, 1992 Excise Commission hearing, Police Officers Terance Miller and Hayward Brown testified that Corbin's Lounge was well known to the Third District (police) because of the numerous complaints received. Miller also testified that he had investigated alleged narcotics activity on the premises of the bar.

In December of 1991 Roger Fields was murdered outside of Corbin's Lounge after evicting several underage men from the bar. Some reports state that Fields was employed as a security guard at the Lounge when he died. Corbin reportedly denies this. Following Fields' death, FPSE resident Jackie Jackels organized a candlelight vigil to protest the murder and to bring public attention to Corbin's Lounge. Since then, many area residents have demanded the bar's closure.

According to testimony from Missouri Division of Liquor Control, the Division received reports that Corbin's Lounge was violating its licence by selling packaged liquor for off-premise consumption. MDLC Officer Dobb Netherwill claimed to have purchased two 12-ounce cans of beer "to go" from Corbin's Lounge on Jan. 3, 1992. Police Officers Miller and Brown also testified to purchasing 6-packs "to go" on January 9 and 14. The purchase on the 14th reportedly was made with the knowledge and consent of J. Corbin.

During the resulting investigation the Excise Commissioner's office dis-
continues on page 2

ARCHWAY BUYS VILLA PROPERTY

By Mark Jefferies

Archway Sales, previously Archway Chemical, has purchased the Villa Lighting property at 4155 Manchester Avenue through its subsidiary, Jaruba Corporation. As part of its planned renovation, Archway has requested the city vacate the section of street from Manchester Ave. to the planters that block Gibson Ave. (See map page 2). If approved, the street will be converted into additional parking for the Archway complex. In exchange, Archway will fence and landscape the parking lot. Archway will occupy the Villa display building. The adjacent warehouses are for sale.

Archway Sales (4321 Chouteau Ave.) is moving its sales department to the Villa Lighting Complex at 4155 Manchester. According to project coordinator Amy Baumstark, Archway purchased the property through its property-holding subsidiary, the Jaruba Corporation. A major element in

the proposed landscaping and redevelopment of the property is the expansion of the parking lot to include the section of street from Manchester Ave. northward to where planters block the 4200 block of Gibson Ave. The Board of Aldermen must approve vacating a public street. Baumstark stated that Alderman Roddy supports the plan. Board approval is not expected for several months.

At the February FPSE Housing Corporation meeting, Baumstark said the expanded parking area will allow more efficient use of the property. She stated, "It will provide access to the rear warehouse for 40-48 foot tractor trailers, enhance landscaping along Manchester and Gibson, and afford greater security for employees and visitors."

Because the 4200 block of Gibson is now blocked, the section of street requested by Archway is used primar-
continues on page 2

covered that Corbin had not registered three of his bartenders, as is required by law. Also, one bartender was a convicted felon and therefore disqualified from tending bar.

Charges filed against Corbin included:

1. Failing to register bartenders Anita Godby, James Rue and Tina Clark.
2. Employing a felon as a bartender.
3. Selling liquor for off-premise consumption.

Corbin pleaded innocent to all charges. He claimed his failure to register Godby and Rue were slight oversights. Corbin stated Tina Clark is his daughter and not an employee. "She only substitutes for me when I am at lunch or away for a short while," Corbin said. Neighborhood residents challenge this claim, declaring that Clark essentially runs the Lounge.

Corbin said he was ignorant of his bartender's police record and he has since fired that person. Bartenders are required to register with the Excise Commission so their police record can be checked.

Corbin admitted selling packaged liquor, but did not recall the sales to Miller or Brown. He claimed the restriction on his licence had been removed. Corbin stated, "I didn't sell it (packaged liquor) for a long time, but then I sent in the petitions and spoke to Mr. Pelham Robinson and Mr. George Hines. They said they would speak to you (Kraiberg) about getting my package licence back. You can ask Mr. (J. P.) Roddy. He knows Robinson and Hines."

Robinson is the City Registrar, son of 17th Ward Democratic Committee-woman Toney Robinson and a board member of the 17th Ward's FDR Democratic Club. The late George Hines was the minorities representative for the FDR Club. J. P. Roddy is

Clerk of City Courts, father of Alderman Joe D. Roddy, and a board member of the FDR Club.

Robinson claims his conversation with Corbin was limited to defining legal aspects of the liquor licence. He stated, "At the time I spoke to Corbin I was unaware there were any restrictions on his licence." Robinson denies offering to intercede with Kraiberg.

Commissioner Kraiberg remembered speaking to Corbin about his licence, but could not recall conversations with Robinson or Hines. Kraiberg stated, "I told Corbin that evidence of neighborhood support would be needed before I would remove the licence restriction. Corbin submitted petitions, but too many of the names were not valid. They were from beyond the 350 foot limit." The ban was still in effect at the time the packaged liquor was sold to the undercover police.

Kraiberg found Corbin guilty of all charges. Because of these and the past violation, he invoked the provision of the 1987 agreement

Corbin admitted selling packaged liquor, but claimed the ban on his licence had been removed.

and revoked Corbin's liquor licence.

According to the Excise Commissioner's office, Corbin is prohibited from selling alcohol after receiving the written decision from the Excise Commissioner. Corbin may appeal Kraiberg's ruling to the Circuit Court.

Concern has been expressed that Corbin's problem patrons may move to other bars and restaurants in the neighborhood. Those interviewed stated that they will deal swiftly with any problems that may develop.

Dan Corbin, President of the Ranken Neighborhood Improvement Association, has stated that he is not related to J. Corbin and has no financial interests in Corbin's Lounge.

ARCHWAY from page 1

ily by the Archway properties. If vacated, most of the street area will be raised to the height of the current parking lots. A six-foot high, black, 4-channel wrought iron fence with half-inch square bars will be installed across Gibson and along Manchester avenues. The fence will have an electronic gate.

City code requires at least 5% of parking areas be maintained as green space. Landscaping along Manchester and across Gibson will be inside the fence to insure proper maintenance and avoid vandalism. Bradford pear or maple trees will be planted every 20 feet along the fence. Hedges of spreading yews, forsythia and/or barberry are also planned.

No major alterations are scheduled for the buildings, but some repainting and repairs are expected. Additional lighting, equipped with motion detectors, may be added.

Archway will lease or sell the two warehouses. According to Bob Flynn Realty, the asking price for the smaller warehouse (7300 sq. ft.) east of the display building is \$120,000. Archway is asking \$395,000 for the larger (27,000 sq. ft.) warehouse and office to the rear of the property. "The most likely purchaser of the warehouses will be a local distributorship," stated Baumstark.

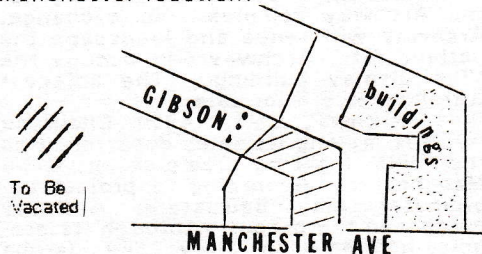
Special arrangements were made with Dan Corbin, 4176 Manchester: the property immediately west of Archway's parking area. Corbin will be allowed to use the parking lot and

have access to the rear of his building from the Archway property.

Baumstark said there has been considerable support for the proposed plan. She stated, "In addition to Alderman Roddy's support, the FPSE Housing Corp. voted to endorse it."

Villa Lighting reportedly considered a similar plan for expanded parking in the mid 1980s, but was unable to obtain needed support. Villa had also attempted to expand westward along the north side of Gibson Avenue. The company purchased 4223 Gibson Ave., but was unable to unite this parcel with its other holdings because Mary Day (4221 Gibson) refused to sell her house.

Day's refusal to sell played a role in the 1989 17th Ward aldermanic race. As one of the conditions for his withdrawal as a candidate, Gaylard Williams obtained a promise from Joe Roddy not to use eminent domain to take Day's house for Villa Lighting. The inability to expand is one of the reasons Villa Lighting moved from the Manchester location.



DUFFY'S TAVERN

By Mark Jefferies

Dan Duffy plans to open a restaurant at 4300 Chouteau Ave., previously the location of Bruger's Cafe. He plans to restore the interior and exterior of the building and install a new kitchen. The restaurant may open as early as May 1992.

The restaurant features a 28-foot marble bar and walnut backbar and booths. Estimated costs of renovation are \$40,000 for the kitchen, \$6000 for the facade and \$5000 for new fencing around the property. The renovated second floor apartment will be available for parties and neighborhood meetings after the restaurant opens.

The restaurant reportedly will be called Duffy's Tavern after the owner, Dan Duffy, and also the 1940-50s radio and television show "Duffy's Tavern". Breakfast, lunch and early dinner will be served Monday through Friday. The restaurant will close nightly at 7:00 P.M. No weekend hours are planned. Area businessmen are expected to be the main clientele.

Duffy stated that he is sensitive to neighborhood concerns. He claims to have more than 25 years of property management experience. To avoid problems, there will be no public telephone, video games or cigarette machines in the restaurant. "This will eliminate much of the undesirable walk-in traffic," Duffy stated.

Although Duffy has applied for a liquor licence, no packaged liquor for off-premise use will be sold. Duffy declared, "I am planning a nice restaurant, not a bar or packaged liquor store. The restaurant will be a credit to the neighborhood." Duffy reports that he almost has the required number of signatures to obtain a liquor licence.

At the February FPSE Housing Corporation meeting, board members expressed concern about the lack of off-street parking for the restaurant and possible noise from the building. Executive Director Kate Roth noted that at the New Boyle Neighborhood Improvement Association meeting, Duffy stated his intent to have live music occasionally.

Because the maximum capacity of the restaurant is about 88 people, an additional 40 cars could be brought to the area at peak times. Presently, parking is not a problem because many adjacent buildings are vacant. It could become one if residential redevelopment near the restaurant begins. Board members suggested that Duffy investigate alternatives to street parking. Despite the concerns, the FPSE Housing Corp voted unanimously to approve Duffy's plan.

Nearby residents have also expressed concern about the potential parking and noise problems. Reportedly, some have refused to sign the petition for the liquor licence. None were willing to speak publicly.

Duffy's Tavern will be the second restaurant to open in FPSE in less than a year. The other is Blits at 4301 Manchester.

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. Chaffee, R. Sandall and M. Jefferies at FPSE NEWS & VIEWS, 4420 Arco Ave., St. Louis, Mo. 63110. Deadline for the next issue is May 1, 1992.

FPSE HOUSING CORP NEWS

By Karl Chauffe

See also ARCHWAY BUYS VILLA
PROPERTY & DUFFY'S TAVERN

January: Newstead Foodshop, Taylor
Phase II, Safety Awareness

Construction on 1091-93 S. Taylor
Avenue (Taylor Phase II) is progress-
ing on schedule and under budget.
The Board will tour the building before
drywall is installed. The building is
scheduled to be the Post-Dispatch
house-of-the-month in April. A Real-
tors showcase will be held to display
1093 Taylor and other for-sale houses
in the neighborhood. Kate Roth, Cate
Dolan, Bryan Young and Helen Sheets
volunteered to organize the showcase.

The Housing Corp is investigating
possible uses for the Newstead Food
Shop building, 4398 Gibson Ave.
Housing for the physically disabled is
being considered. According to New
Boyle Representative Lee Jesenick,
the building will require a gut rehab.

Only 8 of the 12 units in 1088-92
S. Taylor are occupied. Executive
Director Kate Roth credited last sum-
mer's violence with discouraging pro-
spective tenants from renting. The
Board discussed renting to a mainten-
ance person who could work part-time
on the building in exchange for a low-
continues on page 4

FOOTBRIDGE

from page 1
increased. More robberies and beat-
ings have been reported. The bridge
has become a quick escape route for
criminals. Last year several suspects
escaped from the West End by
crossing the bridge into our neigh-
borhood.

Several solutions to the increasing
night-time violence were proposed.
Central Institute for the Deaf consid-
ered placing closed-circuit cameras at
each end of the bridge. Continual
surveillance by Institute guards would
have been possible. This plan proved
too costly. Permanently closing the
bridge was suggested, but residents
opposed this.

The city is now proposing to con-
struct chain link fences and gates at
each end of the bridge and to close
the bridge between 9:00 P.M. and
6:00 A.M. Construction costs would
be shared by Washington University
Medical Center Redevelopment Corpor-
ation and the city's Street Depart-
ment, according to ConServ Officer
Carole Rulo.

At Block Unit 5's February meet-
ing, residents questioned the message
that chain link fences and gates send
to visitors. Philip Heagney stated,
"My concern is that cyclone fencing
and gates will say that this is not a
safe neighborhood...It may imply that
the gates are an attempt to keep
people in here, like a prison." He pro-
posed that the design of the fencing
and gates should promote security and
provide "the feeling that this area is
part of the medical complex." Rulo
suggested landscaping could help hide
the gates when they are open. Block
Unit 5 endorsed closing the bridge at
night, but expressed reservation about
the planned design.

Responsibility for locking and un-
locking the gates has not been de-
termined. Rulo stated, "Central Insti-
tute guards would be a logical choice
to do this, but there is a question of
liability. C.I.D. is looking into this...
Liability was their only concern." Keys
for the gates will also be given to
the police.

BLOCK UNIT NEWS

By Karl Chauffe

See also HARRIS STATUE UPDATE,
FOOTBRIDGE CLOSURE, HOUSING CORP
NEWS & GIBSON HEIGHTS PARK.

GIBSON HEIGHTS NEIGHBORS
(BLOCK UNIT 5)

January: Statue, Newsletter &
Calendar of Events

A letter has been sent to Police Chief
Clarence Harmon expressing opposition
to placing the statue of Christopher
Harris in FPSE.

Distribution of the monthly news-
letter continues to be a problem. The
block unit currently pays \$25.00/mo.
to hire a teenager to distribute them,
but this method is unreliable.

The December holiday party was
over budget. A motion passed to reim-
burse up to \$200 to members for their
out-of-pocket expenses.

President Althea Bolden proposed
developing a calendar to help members
plan participation of neighborhood
events. She also stressed the need to
hold executive board meetings before
the monthly meetings.

February: Membership, Adams School
& Safety Awareness Event

Block unit membership is at an all time
low. There are only five households
which have paid their dues. Treasurer
Barb Prosser encouraged everyone to
renew their membership. President
Althea Bolden stated that the block
unit needs to have a membership
drive.

Suggested ideas for the block unit
discussion during the April Safety
Awareness month include: tenant's
rights, street and driving safety and
alley safety.

J.P. Roddy requested a letter from
Block Unit 5 in support of keeping

Adams School open. The block unit
declined because of unanswered ques-
tions about the safety of the school
building and cost of maintaining
Adams as a school. A speaker from
the school board will be invited next
month to address the meeting.

GIBSON HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION
(BLOCK UNIT 6)

January: Rent, Park, Committees,
Statue & Election Fraud

Gibson Heights Presbyterian Church
has raised the block unit's rent on
Fellowship Hall to \$10.00/mo.

Real Estate Task Force announced
that following several evictions in
the 4500 block of Oakland Ave., drug
dealing is decreasing. Additional let-
ters are being sent to property own-
ers regarding trash, painting, land-
scaping and porch lights.

Stan McKay presented plans for
Gibson Heights Park (see page 1).

During 1992, Aline Shead and
Helena Perine will deliver the month-
ly newsletters on Oakland and Arco
avenues respectively. Volunteers are
still needed for Gibson and Chouteau
avenues. Kate Roth and Karl Chauffe
volunteered to arrange chairs for the
monthly meetings. Paula Lemerman
will represent the block unit on the
April Safety Awareness Month Com-
mittee.

Block Unit 6 voted unanimously to
oppose plans to place the statue of
Christopher Harris in FPSE. A letter
will be sent to Chief Harmon suggest-
ing that the statue be placed at the
Juvenile Court Building.

Chester Perine accused the vote
tabulators of fraud in November's
block unit election. Discussion was
tabled because Perine had not paid
his 1992 dues.

GIBSON HEIGHTS PARK

FROM PAGE 1

"We (park committee) decided the
park was not worth doing unless major
improvements were made to the
corner...The

problems of
the flooding
street, deteri-
orated side-
walks and
cars driving
across the lot
from Gibson
to Newstead
had to be Ad-
dressed." If
all pledges

are honoured, only about \$4000 will
be needed to complete the project.
This money may be raised through a
series of fundraisers.

Housing Corp. Executive Director
Kate Roth stated, "The park will help
to beautify the Newstead-Gibson in-
tersection. The composting center
will be one of the demonstration cen-
ters for the city."

Neighborhood residents will be
able to bring yard wastes to the cen-
ter for composting and later collect
composted for their gardens. Informa-
tion will also be available on learning
how to compost." Moynihan and As-
sociates, a landscaping firm located
across the alley from the proposed

park, will operate the composting
center. Park maintenance will be the
responsibility of residents. If money

is available,
teens may be
hired to care for
the park.

When
completed, the
park may be
leased from the
city for 10
years. This will
assure that the
property is not
sold. Roth

stated, "As long as the park is
maintained, LRA is not likely to sell
the property."

BRIGHTSIDE, MAY 16

The 11th annual Brightside Blits for
Forest Park Southeast is scheduled
for Saturday, May 16, 1992. Block
captains and volunteers are needed
to help beautify the streets and
alleys. Cash prizes of \$25 to \$1000
will be awarded for the best projects.
Brightside will provide trash bags,
tools, mulch and flowers.

Separate yard wastes from trash
for separate collections. Branches,
leaves and grass, will be composted.
Also, separate recycleable materials
such as car batteries, motor oil, and
large appliances. Collection will be
from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

For information or to volunteer
contact Brightside, 2375 Hampton
Ave., St. Louis, Mo. 63139-2908 or
call 781-4556.

page three

LEARN ABOUT COMPOST

FREE SEMINAR

ON MARCH 25, 1992

7:00 P. M., NEW CITY SCHOOL
at LAKE and WATERMAN AVES

HARRIS STATUE UPDATE

By K. Chauffe

Despite neighborhood opposition, Metro Ministry (1040 S. Taylor Ave.) has voted to accept the statue of Christopher Harris for Rainbow Park. A recent WEST END WORD article stating that the statue will be placed there was inaccurate. No location for the statue had been chosen as of late February. The Juvenile Courts is an alternative location being considered.

It has been eight months since Police Chief Clarence Harmon first proposed placing a statue of Christopher Harris in Rainbow Park at the corner of Gibson and Taylor. Nine-year-old Harris was used as a human shield and killed during a drug-related shooting in the 4400 block of Gibson Avenue. Rainbow park is private land owned by Metro Ministry.

Harmon's proposal to place the statue in FPSE met with considerable opposition from neighborhood leadership. The FPSE Housing Corporation, Block Unit 5 and Block Unit 6 voted overwhelmingly to oppose placing the statue in FPSE. Numerous residents sent letters to Harmon and Metro Ministry stating objections to locating the statue here.

Despite neighborhood opposition, Metro Ministry voted to accept the statue. In exchange, Metro is obtaining free design services and financial contributions for Rainbow Park. This has lead some residents to accuse Metro of "Again selling out the neighborhood for their own gains." FPSE has no representatives on Metro's governing Board.

The February 6, 1992 WEST END WORD article entitled "Boy's statue to be placed in Rainbow Park" was based solely upon an interview with Metro's director, Dianne Johnson. The title was misleading and inaccurate. WEST END WORD reporter Eileen Duggan could not confirm where the statue is to be placed.

SAFETY MONTH

By R. Sandall

The Forest Park Southeast Housing Corporation in co-operation with the five block units and various neighborhood organizations is organizing a month long celebration of safety. A series of lectures and activities are planned to heighten residents' awareness of safety in all aspects of life.

Proposed talks are on home and personal security, alcoholism and drug abuse, AIDS education, fighting illegal drug activity, and fire, building, and car safety. Planned activities include a kick-off ceremony for the Gangway Gate Program, health and safety walk, safety parade and safety party.

Participation in all events is free and open to everyone in FPSE. Look for a Schedule Of Events flier on your door soon.

GANGWAY GATES

Citicorp awarded the FPSE Housing Corp. a \$6500 grant to fund a Gangway Gates Program. The funds will offset the cost of gangway gates and security lights. Charges will be on a sliding scale and include installation. Two styles of 6-foot high iron gates are available. In addition to the gates, dusk-to-dawn motion detector lights will be installed in the gangway. These lights turn on at night, whenever anyone walks in the gangway. The official sign-up will be held during April Safety Month.

Working behind the scenes, a neighborhood group has contacted the Juvenile Courts and reportedly convinced them to offer to accept the statue of Harris. Harmon is said to still favor the FPSE location, though Harris' family no longer resides here. As of late February, no location has been chosen for the statue of Christopher Harris.

There is likely to be a protracted delay before the statue is erected, regardless where Harmon wants to place it. According to a source in the Community Development Agency, St. Louis City currently has a moratorium on the placement of public art. No permits will be issued for the erection of monuments or for the painting of murals on the exterior of buildings until an official policy is developed. Since establishing a policy will require action by the Board of Aldermen, the earliest the Harris statue could be installed is reported to be late summer or early fall.

ALDERMAN RODDY REPORT

By K. Chauffe

African-American politicians are challenging in court the recently passed ward redistricting ordinance. The suit claims the redistricting plan is biased against racial minorities by limiting the number of ward in which a minority candidate is likely to be elected. Alderman Roddy supported the ordinance.

New 17th Ward boundaries extend westward beyond Hampton Ave. along Oakland and Manchester avenues. Tiffany, most of McRee Town and the Central West End north of Maryland are now in other wards. The racial balance of the 17th Ward has shifted towards a significantly larger white majority.

A preliminary report on the proposed "Technopolis" will be available in a few months. The concept is to create an integrated support network for the various medical facilities surrounding our neighborhood.

Roddy's annual Job Fair will be on Saturday, April 4, 1992. The South-Side Youth Coalition will hold its annual Youth Fair on Saturday, May, 2, 1992.

Roddy again expressed dissatisfaction with plans prepared for Manchester Avenue. Following last year's announcement that he was budgeting about \$100,000 for public improvements on Manchester Avenue, Roddy requested city agencies to produce a plan for the commercial district.

The plan developed for Manchester proposed extensive planting of trees between Vandeventer and Kingshighway. One city source explained, "The idea was to create a grove of trees at each end of Manchester. These would serve as the formal entrances to the neighborhood. Parking would be interspersed among the trees in the area of Commerce Bank and the Chouteau Building. The trees would continue along the avenue, softening the bleakness of the street and concealing the numerous vacant buildings."

Roddy claimed more planning and a closer study of Manchester and the residential area is in progress. He stated, "There are two directions to go on Manchester: demolish everything and create open land where businesses could build, or keep existing buildings and find a use for them". He did not state which approach he favored.

page four

CORP NEWS

FROM P 3

er rent. Community Development Agency rejected a request for \$9700 for landscaping and improvements to the property. Fencing, new walkways, and parking were some of the improvements not funded.

Allen Levin reported that new accounting practices will generate a more understandable financial statement for Board Members. The first report will be distributed next month.

Board President Cate Dolan proposed holding a SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH in April to raise the neighborhood's awareness of the need for safety.

February: Archway Sales, Dan Duffy, Executive Meeting

Amy Baumstark presented plans for the renovation of the Villa Lighting property 4155 Manchester. See ARCHWAY BUYS VILLA PROPERTY, page 1.)

Dan Duffy requested Housing Corporation support for his plans to open a restaurant at 4300 Chouteau Ave. (See DUFFY'S TAVERN, page 2.)

1988-92 now has nine of the twelve apartments occupied. This is the financial break-even point for the building. Rents now cover expenses. There will be a weekend workday in April to begin landscaping the property. Low-maintenance ground cover will replace the lawn in front of the building.

Following the public meeting, the Housing Corp held a private executive session to discuss the treasurer's report and the purchase real estate. The Board decided to buy 4508 Chouteau Ave., a H.U.D. foreclosure, with ConServ funds. As a not-for-profit organization, the Housing Corp. has right of first refusal and receives a 10% discount on the property.

POWER POSITIONS

By Mark Jefferies

Throughout the 1980s FPSE was in the 64th State Representative District. Following the 1990 census, boundaries were redrawn to reflect changes in population and political power. Most of FPSE is still in the 64th, but the 7th Precinct of the 17th Ward was placed into the 65th District.

If you vote at the Church of the Living God and live between Wichita and Chouteau in the 4500 blocks or between Arco and Oakland in the 4400 block, you are in the 7th Precinct. You now reside in the 65th District. Tom Stoff no longer represents you. Your state representative is Anthony Ribado.

Redistricting has expanded the 64th District westward to the city limits and eastward beyond Grant Ave. so as to encompass two retirement complexes. The 64th has withdrawn from the area south of I-44, except for a small appendix designed to include Stoff's house in the district. The new 64th District contains large parts of the Central West End, Skinker-DeBaliviere, and FPSE. It promises interesting elections.

Currently there are several possible candidates for the 64th District race. They include Tom Stoff, Al Belakhova, Tim Cusick, Gaylard Williams, Nancy Farmer and possibly Barbara Quinn. Although Stoff has filed as a candidate, he is not expected to run for re-election because of "personal and family reasons". Al-

continues on page 5

PET CORNER

CAT FACTS

By S. Bowie

Cats are amazing animals. They are clean and independent. They make wonderful pets for anyone who is not home all day.

Below are some interesting facts about cats:

1. A cat's noseprint is similar to a human fingerprint. It can be used for identification.
2. A cat has more bones in its body than a man, and up to 26 more vertebrae.
3. Domestic cats can run up to about 31 miles per hour.
4. Cats sleep up to 16 hours a day.
5. Even when sleeping, a cat's brain is tuned to sounds and possible danger.
6. Newborn cats are 4 to 6 inches long and weigh 2 to 5 ounces. They are helpless at birth.
7. By the age of three months a kitten's eye colour has changed to its permanent shade.
8. Cats have over 19 million nerve endings in their nose. Humans have only 5 million.
9. Cats have over 30 muscles in each outer ear. Humans have 6.
10. Cats can see 6 to 10 times better at night than humans.

FunFacts About Cats from Purina Cat Chow.

YARD WASTES NOT TRASH ANYMORE

On January 1, 1992 the law changed. It is now illegal to dispose of yard wastes in the trash. Grass clippings, leaves and branches now must be composted. You can do this in your own yard and produce rich soil for your garden, or you can place the wastes into specially designated alley dumpsters. The city will then collect and compost the material. Not all alleys are presently equipped with designated dumpsters.

Composting is easy and does not have to involve building bins or adding chemicals. To start, find an out-of-the-way sunny location where you can pile the yard wastes. Alternate every four inch layer of plant material with about one inch of soil.

Water the pile periodically so it stays moist. Mix it at least once a week or whenever adding new material. Between mixings, cover the pile with plastic or a heavy cloth. This prevents drying, allows rapid warming and increases the rate of decay.

Don't over water. A water-soaked pile will ferment and smell. If this occurs, uncover the pile and allow it to drain and dry. The odor will quickly stop.

Branches and twigs decay slowly. You may wish to place these in the city's composting bin and only work with grass, plant cuttings and leaves. Vegetable matter from meals can also be added to the pile, but not meat or fat. They will attract rodents.

As the material decomposes, it generates heat. It is not uncommon for the interior of the pile to "steam" as you turn it on a cool day. The heat speeds decomposition and is essential for killing weed seeds.

Soil produced from composting is extremely rich in nutrients and minerals. It can revitalize your garden. Unlike the garden soil in stores, it is free.

To learn more about composting and recycling, attend the free seminar on March 25 at 7:00 P.M. at New City School Auditorium, Lake and Waterman avenues.

THE OLDEN DAYS

By M. Berg

"Tell us about the olden days," my grandchildren request. I did not live in the covered wagon days, but I do remember the horse and buggy.

So many buildings in the Forest Park Southeast neighborhood are being reborn. Last fall, before I wrote about the 1927 tornado, I walked along Chouteau Ave. to refresh my memory. I was particularly interested in the southwest corner of Chouteau and Newstead. Imagine my surprise when I saw flowers and shrubs in the yard where horses trod years ago.

My father, Harry Lammert, was a bookkeeper with Blanke Ice and Coal Company, when I was growing up. Blanke sold ice in the summer and coal in the winter. The office was in the one-story building at 4402 Chouteau. To the east at 4400 was a Kroger store and an upstairs apartment.

In the Ice and Coal office where my father worked, a big desk with a high stool stood in front of a large plate glass window on Chouteau. A black pot-bellied coal stove sat in the center of the room.

Mr. Blanke was a well-respected businessman in the neighborhood and a familiar sight. He would ride around in his horse and small open buggy, collecting money from people who could not get to the office to pay their bills. It was the 1920s and 30s and the per-

Dad would never let us in the icehouse... He told us in no uncertain terms to stay out.

sonal touch counted in business.

As bookkeeper, my father had to check the drivers after they ran their routes. Occasionally, he drove if someone did not show up for work.

The ice was bought in 300 pound blocks from a large ice plant on Duncan and Newstead and then broken into smaller blocks. The drivers used large wagons pulled by horses to deliver the ice. I do not remember how many drivers Blanke's employed, but I do remember some of their nicknames: Young Oscar (Blanke's son), Angel Brown and his brother, Juggie. The drivers were popular with the kids, giving out small chipped pieces of ice on a hot summer day.

POWER POSITIONS FROM PAGE 4

ready his supporters are aligning behind other candidates. Stoff will probably delay his official withdrawal until after the March 31st filing deadline. This will force the filing to be reopened for five working days, a move designed to assist the candidate Stoff supports.

Politicians believe that uninformed voters are more likely to vote for either the first or last name on the ballot. These are the "power positions". The sequence of names on the ballot is determined by the order in which candidates file. Because Stoff's candidate knows Stoff will withdraw after the March 31 deadline, the candidate will wait until filing is reopened to register. The other candidates will have already filed and Stoff's candidate will be last on the ballot. This may be why Farmer has announced plans to seek office only "if Stoff does not run".

Farmer is active in the 28th Ward Democratic organization. Although she may be Schoemehl's candidate, she does not have everyone's support. Reportedly, J. P. Roddy declined to

What always interested me most was the yard at Blake's. The horses stayed near the alley in a stable. The large icehouse was close to the office. Dad would never let us in the ice house. In no uncertain terms, he told us to stay out. The icehouse had a very heavy door. Dad propped the door open with a huge rock whenever he sold ice. The door was kept locked at other times. Except when buying ice, children were not allowed in the yard, but occasionally, dad would give us a short ride on one of the horses.

The office was open until 6:00 P.M. every day and from 9:00 to 12:00 on Sunday in the summer. Dad worked every Sunday morning, feeding the horses and selling ice. Children would come with small wagons to get ice, if their mother forgot to place an ice card in the window to indicate she needed a delivery. Every Sunday my sister and I came for the small pieces of ice that could not be sold. We used it to make home-made ice cream in an old-fashion, hand-cranked freezer. Sometimes we made strawberry, sometimes peach.

There were large, colourful posters on the tall wooden fence and gate along Chouteau Ave. They advertised the latest stage shows at the American and Orpheum theaters downtown. My father received free passes for Saturday matinees. My sister, Kathryn, and I attended many of these shows, often sitting in the front rows. We were only about 10 and 12 years old, but the streets were much safer then.

Everything is changed now. Blanke Ice & Coal and the Kroger store are long gone. The property had fallen into neglect, but then it was bought and renovated by Moynihan & Associates, landscape architects. The building has been painted creamy beige. An attractive iron fence has replaced the wooden one along Chouteau. The inside is completely remodeled. My dad's office is a storeroom. The Kroger store and apartment are offices. I can't help but wonder what the horses would think if they could see the property now.

endorse her at their first meeting. This means she might lose the 17th Ward FDR Club's endorsement. Roddy decides who the FDR Club endorses. Members do not vote for or even hear the other candidates usually.

Although Roddy is now in the 65th District, he is still attempting to determine who will be the state representative in the 64th. Roddy may be the reason the 7th precinct was gerrymandered into the 65th District. Roddy reportedly supports Barbara Quinn, a resident of the West End, for state representative. As with Farmer, Quinn has not filed and may be waiting until Stoff withdraws.

If both Farmer and Quinn decide to run, they may wage a war of nerves to see who can wait the longest before filing. The winner will be the last name on the ballot.

A QUESTION NEVER ANSWERED
In the story of Cinderella, everything returned to its original state at midnight, except the glass slipper. Why did it remain a glass slipper?

EDITORIAL: RODDY, RACISM AND THE SEVENTEENTH WARD*

By expelling black neighborhoods and expanding westward, redistricting has created a white-dominated 17th Ward. Black representation in the ward declined from 41% to about 32%. Whites are now 64% of the voters. Alderman Roddy endorsed this plan, thereby reducing the possibility of a successful black challenger for alderman and retaining power for his father's declining political machine. This action calls into question Roddy's commitment to fairness and racial equality. The westward expansion significantly increased the ward's area. Already-limited funds and services will be spread even more thinly. Roddy appears to have placed his own interests above those of the ward.

In December of 1991 African-Americans were 41% of the 17th Ward's population. By January they comprised less than 34%. The change was not from a massive migration, but redistricting.

Aldermanic President Thomas Villa proposed and Alderman Roddy endorsed the redistricting plan for the 17th Ward. The plan exchanged black-dominated McRee Town and Tiffany neighborhoods for white-dominated Dog Town. The substitution eliminated 2214 blacks from the Ward, but added 2056 whites. The black vote declined to 32.8% as the white vote rose to 64.1%. The 17th is now a white-dominated ward. The possibility of electing black candidates in the ward has been reduced.

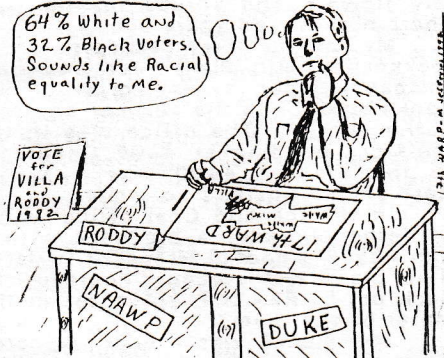
According to black politicians, the 17th Ward is not unique. They see a conspiracy by the white establishment in City Hall to concentrate blacks into a small number of black-dominated wards and to dilute the black vote in other wards. These politicians are challenging Villa's redistricting plan in court.

Black politicians saw the 17th as a ward where a black alderman could be elected. They proposed expanding the ward to the south and east to encompass large numbers of blacks living on the near SouthSide. By expanding to the west, Villa and Roddy gave the 17th Ward a larger white population than at any time in the last decade.

Alderman Roddy and his father, J. P. Roddy, say they support racial equality. Roddy's endorsement of

Villa's redistricting plan may cause some to dispute their claim.

Although Roddy's 17th Ward FDR Democratic Club occasionally endorses black candidates for city-wide office, support of black candidates in ward elections is rare. Committeewoman Toney Robinson is the one exception. She is Roddy's token black ward official. Roddy discourages black candidates from running. He openly opposes them, if they do run. For



example, when Gaylard Williams, a black lawyer, filed as an aldermanic candidate, Roddy attempted to buy him off.

Roddy holds the power in the FDR Club. No candidate may speak at the meetings without his permission. Roddy chooses the candidates the club endorses. Rarely is the candidate black. Roddy will support blacks for precinct and neighborhood office, but only if they work for him. Roddy is unwilling to share power with blacks or allow them real leadership in the ward.

Alderman Roddy claims to assist blacks through his annual Job Fair. His effort should be applauded. Some people complain, however, that his father reminds them of their jobs at election time. Apparently, the senior Roddy expects repayment at the ballot box.

Through menial election-day jobs and the distribution of food from church pantries, J.P. Roddy is assured of a large portion of the poor vote, white and black. For years he could deliver the black vote in the ward.

Recently, McRee and Tiffany became increasingly independent when

voting. Tiffany was now affluent. McRee was violent and disorganized. Reportedly, McRee residents saw Roddy as doing nothing for them and began looking for someone who would. McRee and Tiffany are no longer in the ward.

Blacks may be indebted to the alderman's father, but they do not relate well to the alderman. He is uneasy around them. Some blacks find his attitude condescending. No doubt, Roddy will feel more at home with the "hard-working, God-fearing people" of Dog Town.

Before redistricting, J. P. Roddy feared a charismatic black candidate would run against his son. Roddy can deliver only about 1700 votes and many of those come from blacks. A popular black leader could have swept aside Roddy and his aging political machine. By radically shifting the racial balance, this was avoided, but at a cost to the 17th Ward neighborhoods.

Each alderman receives an identical yearly fund to maintain the ward. In small wards the resources are sufficient. For large wards, they are not. Redistricting has increased the size of the 17th Ward by almost a half, adding miles of streets, sidewalks and alleys, and an increased demand for services. To win reelection, Roddy will have to demonstrate to Dog Town that he can deliver. The services he delivers there may be ones taken from here.

Alderman Roddy must take responsibility for redistricting. He endorsed it; he voted for it. Roddy did not publicly address the question of the radical racial shift in the ward. He barely mentioned redistricting at block unit meetings.

Many aldermen voted for Villa's plan, including some black aldermen, but Roddy did not raise his voice to even question it was just. We must therefore assume he either agreed with the plan or did not care.

Alderman Roddy and his father may have gained from redistricting. Blacks and the majority of the residents of the 17th Ward have lost.

Karl M. Chaffe

*Statistics from block and group block data.

ON OUR OWN

By K. Chaffe

I DESERVE A BONUS

Will our own JOE P. RODDY ask for a bonus this year? In 1989 Roddy requested and received the city's largest bonus, \$3,240, because collections from parking tickets substantially increased. In 1989, Roddy's employees began stealing from the department. By the time they were caught three years later, the city had lost at least \$300,000. Roddy knew nothing about the theft until it was pointed out to him. Now that revenue in the department has increased, will Roddy ask for another bonus or just be satisfied he still has his job?

TOO CROWDED PARK

If our own METRO MINISTRY has its way, Rainbow Park will be very crowded. Metro has plans to renovate the park and include a site for the Christopher Harris statue, \$5000 worth of play equipment, a basketball court, a volleyball court and a gazebo. It will all fit if the statue is changed so he holds the basketball hoop in one hand

and one end of the volleyball net in the other.

CHEAPSKATES AND CHEAP GATES

When our own RENARD BROTHERS were requesting support for the expansion along Manchester Avenue, they were happy to promise anything. They said the parking area would be surrounded by iron fencing and gates. Chain link would be limited to the alley. Apparently, the Renards conned the city into allowing chain link gates on Manchester Ave., despite their agreement with the FPSE Housing Corp. Blitz used wrought iron gates and looks great. Renard didn't and looks, well, so Renard. No accounting for taste; some people have it and some people have chainlink.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send letters to the to the editor to :

Editor
FPSE NEWS & VIEWS
4420 Arco Avenue
St. Louis, Mo. 63110

SPAGHETTI DINNER

By R. Sandall

On Saturday April 4, 1992, Gibson Heights Presbyterian Church (1075 S. Taylor) will host its annual Spring All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner from 4:30 to 7:00. Adult tickets are \$4.00 in advance and \$4.50 at the door. Children under 10 are \$2.00.

In addition to spaghetti, there will be salad, bread, refreshments and desert. Dinner will be served in Fellowship Hall. Use the Arco Ave. entrance.

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