

TENTATIVE AGENDA

The preliminary agenda for the upcoming May 5th Membership Meeting of the Soulard Restoration Group at 7:30 P.M. at St. Joseph Croation Hall includes the following:

1. Final Update on the House Tour
2. Report on the Boys' Club situation
3. Report on the Board of Directors' reaction to the letter from S.N.I.A. and its recommendation regarding further communications.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 7th MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Soulard Restoration Group was held on April 7 at 7:30 P.M. at St. Joseph Croation Hall. Vice President Skip Gatermann presided. John Roach, Director of the Community Development Agency, was present and urged the group to support the proposed tax increase for St. Louis public schools at the polls on April 27. He admitted that money will not solve all of the problems of the school system, but additional funds are desperately needed in the St. Louis public schools budget and would eliminate some of the current problems.

Birch Mullins reported on properties owned by the L.R.A. Skip, Birch, and Dave Lewis have been trying to learn how many properties are owned by the L.R.A., but it appears that L.R.A. records are not always complete or current. Skip stated that the most accurate approach to determine if a property is owned by L.R.A. is to contact the St. Louis Real Estate Department at City Hall.

Skip announced that Cecelia Cappiello should be notified of any property for rent in the Soulard Area, as she is receiving many inquiries for available rental property.

It was announced that the closing date for the Soulard logo design contest has been extended from April 1 to June 1. Entries should be delivered to Mary Sudholt.

Sue White and Ruth Day were elected to the Board of Directors.

Members of the Restoration Group have been invited by Mayor Poelker to a box luncheon at Convention Center Site, May 19 from 11:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. Entertainment will be provided. The cost is \$5.00 per person.

Hilary Clements read a letter from S.N.I.A. and suggested a formal letter be sent to that organization to reject the offer to co-sponsor a house tour this year and to accept the offer to continue communication meetings. Judy Shehan said S.N.I.A. should be asked for a formal reply to a letter sent by the Soulard Restoration Group last year, which requested specific information.

There was a general discussion about the activities of the Boys' Club in regard to buying properties in the neighborhood. The properties are being vacated and rapid deterioration is resulting.

HOUSE TOUR UPDATE

Final selection of dwellings on tour Sunday, May 16 from 10:30 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. are as follows: 1027 Geyer (Norm Vanesse), 1827-29 South 10th (Roffmann), 1849 South 10th (Barbara and Tucker Stark), 1016 Geyer (Birch Mullins), 1015-17 Russell (Hilary Clements), 2301 South 11th (Mead and McClellan), 2310 South 12th (Skip and Darlene Gatermann), 1225 Lami (Ruth Day), 1126 Sidney (Mike and Carol Smith), 2349 South 10th (Bob Hughes), 2401 South 13th (Jerry and Debby Dempsey), 3306 South 9th (Tom and Karen Farmer), 3322 De Menil (Lemp-Richard Pointer) and the Chatillon-DeMenil House.

Five churches will also be open for viewing from the close of services at 12 Noon until 5:00 P.M. They include: St. Joseph Croation (12th and Russell), Sts. Peter and Paul (8th and Allen), St. Agatha (9th and Utah), Holy Trinity Slovak (9th and Soulard), Trinity Lutheran (8th and Soulard).

Tickets may be purchased for \$2.00 in advance of the tour date by contacting Susan White at 241-6636 or by mailing a check or money order to Soulard Restoration Group, P.O. Box 13312, Soulard Station, St. Louis, 63157.

Tickets will be sold for \$2.50 on tour day at the Lemp Mansion, 1016 Geyer and 1126 Sidney.

Of special interest this year will be the Crafts Fair in Pontiac Square under the Ralston Purina Tent. Sheila Stuckwish, Director of the Crafts Fair, has gathered a wide variety of artists and artisans to display and sell their crafts. Restroom facilities will also be situated in the park.

Refreshments will be available at Trinity Lutheran Church and at the 1016 Geyer storefront where the Other Mother Restaurant will serve sandwiches and drinks. The housing information booth will also be in the storefront to dispense housing lists and other literature to prospective buyers.

NEEDED: Muscles and sledge hammers to erect Ralston Purina Tent on Saturday, May 15. Also Needed: Campers willing to sleep under the tent as Security Guards. Bring your own sleeping bag. Please contact Jim Felling 771-3866 or Sheila Stuckwish 241-8406.

NEW DAY CARE CENTER TO OPEN

St. Agatha Day Care Center, 3221 South 9th Street, operated by the Soulard Association for Family Services, Inc., will open Tuesday, June 1, 1976. A summer program for 30 school age children 6 through 10 years, will offer cultural enrichment, crafts, sports activities and field trips. Hours of operation will be 6:45 A.M. until 5:30 P.M. Breakfast, lunch and snacks will be provided.

In September, 1976, a preschool program will be added for 60 children 2 years 10 months through 5 years. This will include a child-centered program designed to provide basic concepts and the socialization level necessary to prepare the child for the formal school setting. Before and after-school care will be provided for the school age children.

The Center will meet city and state licensing requirements, Federal Inter-agency Day Care Requirements and Standards of the Child Day Care Association of St. Louis. Funding is provided by a grant from the Community Development Agency, Title XX of the Social Security Act and a sliding fee scale.

The Center is intended to be a community-based program and the active support and involvement of parents and residents of the Soulard-St. Agatha Community will be encouraged.

If you wish to enroll a child, learn more about the program, or volunteer time to the Center, please contact Judith Shehan, Executive Director, at 664-3497.

NEW FACES IN SOULARD

Why does a person move to Soulard? Larry Hollenberg, who recently purchased the four family structure at 2416-2418 S. 13th Street states, "This area offers an exciting, alive atmosphere filled with friendly faces and offers of assistance. The spirit is one of American pioneerism. A great place to be!"

Larry's intentions for the building are to convert one side (2 apartments) into a stylish townhouse for himself in a 1930's style and restore the remaining two apartments in character with the original architectural design. Two side entrances with carved staircases and front parlors with marble mantles are highlights of this well-maintained structure.

A collection of early phonographs and records will be displayed in a second floor studio, along with a player piano and a sizeable assemblage of piano rolls. As a service to collectors of accoustical phonographs, Larry sells steel needles to individuals in many states of the Union.

Due to his flair for cooking, a strong buying point was the Market itself with its fresh vegetables and fruits. The use of a 1939 "New Perfection Porcelain Kerosene Range" has helped Larry develop quick timing and a keen sense for correct oven temperatures.

Bob Hughes is the owner of 2349 South 10th Street, a four family dwelling which is approximately 100 years old. He describes his interior decorating as a "free-lance style". One of the notable features of his home is the restoration of a century-old Ben Franklin Fireplace.

Bob came to Soulard because he felt the neighborhood had a tremendous potential. "Image America" is the name of the advertising firm which Bob owns and operates from his home. Image America is a national concern and its advertising and public relations work reach into many areas. At present he is doing some rather unique Limited Edition work for the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. Bob's home will be on tour Sunday, May 16.

At 2412 S. 11th Street is a one story home owned by Mary Ann Keitel. Mary Ann is a "mixologist" at a local lounge. Mary Ann's house is a shell and renovating it fulfills a dream which Mary Ann has had for a long time - owning a home in Soulard. She finds Soulard a practical, economical and convenient place to live.

The historic nature and the challenge of Soulard also play a part in her love of the neighborhood. Mary Ann has inherited all of her furniture from past generations of her family. She feels that 2412 will complement her antiques nicely. One of her plans for the old house is to build a greenhouse in the rear of the structure.

Karen and Tom Farmer are the proud new owners of the outstanding Victorian townhouse at 3306 South 9th Street, under the shadow of St. Agatha Church. They are also enthusiastic new members of the Soulard Restoration Group.

Their house, rated most architecturally significant by Heritage St. Louis, boasts a continuous three story bannister, tear drop windows in the storm doors, and a side bay window in the dining room. The Farmers' immediate plans include modernizing the large, light-filled kitchen as well as basic roof work, a new furnace, and redecoration of the second floor master bedroom suite.

Tom, a dentistry student at Washington University, and Karen, who teaches school, first came to Soulard many months ago when they sponsored and coordinated a Mormon Church Youth Service Project in Soulard. The Saturday project involved cleaning the alleys throughout a large area of the neighborhood.

Since that fateful Saturday, the Farmers found themselves intrigued with the architecture and élan of Soulard and decided to find an affordable home that they could move into without prior renovation. After one discouraging false start, they wandered over to St. Agatha, fell in love with 3306 and knocked on the door to ask if it was for sale.

You can meet the Farmers and view their home on tour, May 16.

JUNIOR RESTORATIONIST ARRIVES

On March 29th at 6:16 A.M. Jamie and Bob Lewis became the parents of Joel Robert Lewis. Joel weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz. A newly decorated nursery awaited Joel on his arrival home. Joel's mother is a staff member of our newsletter. Congratulations, Jamie and Bob.

HERITAGE TREES

As part of the Missouri State Conservation Commission's program to commemorate our nation's two hundredth birthday, the Soulard Restoration Group was awarded 14 Heritage Trees. A drawing was held at the last Restoration Meeting with the lucky winners as follows: Greg Bales, Don Bennett, Hilary Clements, Ruth Day, Darlene Gattermann, Skip Gattermann, Randy Hulsebusch, Ray Hughes, John Kelly, Eleanor Latal, Dave Lewis, Bob Printz, Mike Smith and Clark Rowley. Trees included in the 14 were yellow poplar, hawthorne (state flower), flowering dogwood (state tree), red oak, and walnut. All of these trees are native to our state.

SPEAKERS BUREAU FORMED

On Saturday, April 17, and Sunday, April 18, Judy Shehan and Ruth Day participated in the "Women in the Arts" program at Washington University. The event, sponsored by the Women's Resource Center, included afternoon workshops on subjects of particular interest to single women.

Judy and Ruth, representing the Soulard Restoration Group, presented a workshop on "Single Women in Inner City Restoration." Their presentation included color slides illustrating the variety of architectural styles indigenous to Soulard, followed by discussions on housing information, the Restoration Group, mortgage and insurance information, and personal testimonials about what they feel Soulard as a neighborhood has to offer single women.

It is expected that opportunities to present information on Soulard as an inner city restoration neighborhood to other groups and organizations will be forthcoming and the Speakers Bureau will be expanded to accommodate these invitations.

WHAT YOU DON'T DO HURTS - by Jim Felling

Failure to maintain the exterior of your brick building properly is perhaps the one thing which can cause structural consequences. A check list includes tuckpointing, roofing, flashing, guttering and caulking of window frames. This month's article focuses specifically on masonry.

Our houses, obviously are built basically of brick, stone, and mortar. These components should be understood in their dynamic relationship. Mortar is the most vulnerable part of this integral network. Mortar is composed of sharp, clean sand, lime, and portland cement. By adding water the process of hydration begins bonding the cement and lime around the sand and into the brick. When hydration, not evaporation, is complete the mortar network is unified through a system of hydrogen bonds formed in the process of hydration.

Weathering is the primary cause of the deterioration of mortar. Buildings breathe water vapor constantly in relation to temperature and humidity. Any moisture on or in masonry when frozen will expand and break those hydrogen bonds it contacts. What remains is unusable hydrated lime, dust, and sand of no structural integrity.

With the exception of dye, any paint, stucco or other coating will inhibit or stop building breathing. This results in a higher moisture content in the structure which, when frozen, further exaggerates effects of weathering. The consequences of painting and stuccoing masonry are crumbling stone, mortar joints and even crumbling bricks.

If your masonry is already coated, leave it on until the moisture causes it to begin flaking and peeling - one to two years from application. Then spray it off with a high pressure water hose - sand blasting is excessive. The Restoration Group is aware of people with hot water pressure spraying service at prices substantially less than sandblasting.

If your masonry is not covered, merely see that all brick and foundation joints are raked to a depth of approximately 3/4" or more if loose. Then tuckpoint with either a concave or a weather-joint finish. If your contractor doesn't know what you are talking about, don't hire him, as he probably doesn't know what he's talking about. Tops of brick walls should be finished with either cement or coping tiles to prevent the accumulation of water between thicknesses of brick. Properly performed, this work should be functional for at least 15 years. The durability of our neighborhood depends on the durability of our work.

NOT JUST A HOUSE

Want to learn the basics of tuckpointing, window and door refinishing, interior studwalls, dry walls, floor refinishing, landscaping, wallpapering, plastering and much more? A course is being offered under the sponsorship of the Junior League and the Landmarks Association to teach you how. The classes are being conveniently held in Soulard at 2004 South 11th Street. The classes are held on Saturdays once each month. The instructor is a resident of Soulard, Mr. Tucker Stark. For more information call Betsy O'Herin at 361-1463. Openings are limited.

SOULARD HAS IT ALL FROM A TO Z

With all the publicity about St. Louis having it all from A to Z, Darlene Gatermann decided to find out how well Soulard compared to the city as a whole. She found that Soulard does pretty well. See if you don't agree.

- A - Antique shops
- B - Balconies
- C - Carriage steps
- D - DeMenil Mansion
- E - Ethnic heritage
- F - Farmer's Market
- G - Gothic churches
- H - Half (flounder) houses
- I - Ice house
- J - Jackpot of architecture
- K - Kaleidoscopic neighborhood
- L - Lemp Mansion
- M - Mansard roofs
- N - New people
- O - Old alley houses
- P - Pontiac Square
- Q - Quaint store fronts
- R - Restorationists
- S - St. Agatha
- T - Townhouses
- U - Underground caves
- V - Victorian homes
- W - Wrought iron fences
- X - X-citing future
- Y - You
- Z - Zip codes 63104 and 63118

EDITORIAL

We want our contributors to be aware of "The Restorationist's" editorial policy. It must be understood that any material submitted to the newsletter may be edited at the Committee's discretion. Editing is often necessary to correct spelling and grammar errors or to clarify a point. Sometimes technical problems of space and placement make editing necessary.

We are certain the membership expects "The Restorationist" to be the best we can produce; editing is essential to that goal. We try to retain the integrity of every article submitted, but must have the freedom to incorporate it into a polished, cohesive whole.

ADLETS

Classified ad rates: \$1.00 up to the first ten words. Each additional word is 10¢. Ads are due on the first Wednesday of each month. Call Skip at 771-4191 for ad placement.

Let's talk alarms, fire, flood, intrusion, freeze - Dave Lewis, 664-0284.

Distributor of all wood cabinets - has stock ready made cabinets at contractor prices for individuals remodeling older homes - Free estimates and designing - Free delivery. Cabinet Craft, 10566 Page - 428-3265 or 8419 Gravois 351-9972.

Do you need an extra hand? Restorations and repairs of all kinds. Reasonable rates - by the hour or job. Don Bennett, 865-3583.