



# The REEDER

Visit us on the Internet at  
[www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org](http://www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org)

## NEWS & VIEWS by Mary Ann Love

### GET WELL

Henry Gerfen has been implanted with a defibrillator and is reported doing fine. Henry has been one of the strong ones of the club for many years, playing bass and chord and serving as sound equipment expert. Wally DeShon is recovering from eye surgery. Lillian Krueger is hospitalized with complications from surgery. Peg Davis is undergoing a series of tests. We wish them all the best.

### CONDOLENCES

Stanley Swoboda passed away on July 23, 2005. Stan was introduced to the club by his friend and neighbor, Christine Pondo, and became a member in early 2005. A \$50 memorial donation was made by the club to the Wings of Hope. Our condolences to his family and friends.

#### Memorial to Stanley Swoboda

*by Christine Pondo*

Stanley Swoboda and I shared a love of our Polish heritage. As members of the Pol-Am Cultural Society we enjoyed learning about history, traditions and music of Poland. He loved playing the harmonica and even at age 77 wanted to learn the chromatic and was so happy to be a new member of the GHC.

Stan was a machinist at McDonnell Douglas and Emerson Electric. He and his wife, Marcella, had three children and four grandchildren. He served in the Korean War – Army Signal Core.

When he retired, it was not to a rocking chair. He volunteered at Wings of Hope to rebuild airplanes for medical missions and was a fund raiser for St. Vincent DePaul orphanage in North County. He was past president of the Jennings Senior Fun Club and member of Mac/Douglas Radio Club where he learned morse code and enjoyed his hobby of amateur radio operator, contacting people all over the world.

### VISITORS

On August 23 former member Calvin Lanich and his brother, Frank, visited the rehearsal and open mike session. Cal played several lively tunes on the chord while Frank plunked the melody on the mandolin. They were both quite

the relaxed and confident showmen. Cal is now living in Eureka and Frank was visiting from Pittsburgh. Welcome to Cal as an Associate Member.

Other visitors that same evening were Jerry Lange, his mother and father, Greg; wife, Dee, and daughter, Ann. At an earlier date, Jerry Lange had tried to hire the Club to play at his father's 80th birthday party. Due to timing we were unable to meet his needs. His father loves the harmonica and plays the instrument often. Charlie Pratte then invited him and his father to come and listen to our practice. Jerry called this evening and said that he, his mother and father would come Tuesday night to hear us play. Daughter, Ann, stepped up at the open mike session and played a little ditty on her own harp. She was a fourth-grader and her selection was about going to school. She was very cute and charming and got a big round of applause for her brave performance. We are always happy to welcome any visitors.

Bob Davis has been a visitor to the club practice several times lately and we are hoping Bob can return to the club as a regular member. Bob is a resident of Illinois. Bob is very talented on many types of harmonicas and was a player with some of the old professional-type groups. Bob has put his harmonicas down for too long and it's time to get back into the swing! Welcome back, Bob!

### JENNINGS BASEBALL FIELD IS NAMED FOR MUSIAL

*St. Louis Post-Dispatch, June 29, 2005*

"The first ballfield in Missouri named for Cardinals great Stan Musial was dedicated Tuesday (June 28) in Jennings, MO. Stan Musial Field, completed last year, was a donation from Cardinals Care, and it is the home to Redbird Rookies, a youth baseball program. It is the third field in the world named for Musial, according to the Cardinals. The others are in Poland and in Musial's hometown of Donora, PA."

Chris Pondo, GHC member, attended the dedication. Of course, Stan played Take Me Out To The Ballgame on his harmonica, and had a conversation with Chris. He expressed his kind thoughts toward the Gateway Harmonica Club (of which he is a Lifetime Member). Stan is well renowned in St. Louis and around the country for his philanthropic donations.

This link will take you to many harmonica related links - Enjoy! *Michael LaRue*

<http://www.harplinks.com>

THE GHC REEDER is a bimonthly publication of the Gateway Harmonica Club, Inc. of St. Louis, Missouri, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of the harmonica. The club meets weekly on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM at the Rock Hill Baptist Church, 9125 Manchester, Brentwood, MO.

Inquiries about membership should be directed to:

Buddy Hirsch, Treasurer  
47 Orchard Lane  
Kirkwood, MO 63122  
(314) 821-8651  
e-mail: BuddyHarmonica@aol.com

For information about club activities and performances, contact:

Charles Pratte, President  
1547 Azalea Dr.  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
(314) 961-7764  
email: CAPJR68@aol.com

All other correspondence should be directed to:

Mary Ann Love  
Recording & Corresponding Secretary  
1162 Villa Flora Dr.  
O'Fallon, MO 63366-4443  
(636)-379-7707  
e-mail: maryannlove@charter.net

Information about the club's activities is also available on the World Wide Web at:

[www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org](http://www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org)

# Happy Birthday!!!

Birthday greetings are extended to the following members of the GHC family who are celebrating birthdays in September and October.

## September

Greg Hommert 9/1  
Rose Mary Nesslein 9/7  
Charlie Pratte 9/9  
Jim Melchers 9/17  
Wayne Stennett 9/19  
Frank Davis 9/25  
Geza Dombi 9/25  
Julie Melchers 9/29  
Jerry Bonfiglio 9/29

## October

Norma Uhl 10/6  
Jim Bricker 10/6  
Bob Reynolds 10/8  
Ron Beer 10/18  
Bill Boal 10/24  
Bill Dulin 10/30

The importance of things can be measured by how much time we are willing to invest in them.

The more time you give to something, the more you reveal its importance and value to you. If you want to know a person's priorities, just look at how they use their time.

Time is your most precious gift because you only have a set amount of it.

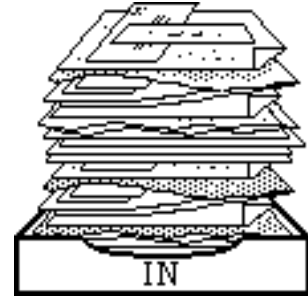
You can make more money, but you can't make more time.

When you give someone your time, you are giving them a portion of your life that you'll never get back.

Your time is your life. That is why the greatest gift you can give someone is your time.

*Author Unknown – Submitted by Frank Davis*

# WE GET LETTERS . . .



August 28, 2005

Joseph Fey  
14650 Baratton Drive  
Florissant, MO 63034-2302

Dear Joe:

I am Bill Mann's daughter writing you this long overdue letter. Dad came to live with us around 2002 and he did O.K., except last August we took him to the ER for a near heart attack. He underwent an angioplasty and had balloons and stents placed, plus a pacemaker. He came home for recovery but apparently contracted C. Difficile, a toxic condition caused by antibiotics, affecting the intestines. He was placed in the nursing home for a few months until the C. Difficile cleared, because Jerry and I could not take care of him properly, no matter how hard we tried. He became very weak with this toxic condition and so gets around by walker for short distances, but is mostly confined to a wheelchair. He was in the hospital with a blockage in his small intestines a few months ago, and the C. Difficile has returned. He is still in isolation until the Difficile is gone.

He mentioned how he missed you guys at Gateway Harmonica Club. It would be great if a group of you could

come to his nursing home and give a program. Recently a new female resident also plays harmonica, so they are supposed to get together and play.

Mae Morton is the person to contact at the home: Heritage Manor, 628 S. Illinois, Litchfield, IL 62056, (217) 324-2153

If you want to contact me, feel free to do so. I know dad would love to see you. He will be 90 in December!

I am sorry I did not write sooner. I got your letter concerning the 2005 membership dues, but I didn't know what to do. Obviously, he will not be able to enjoy playing with you all. He has a lot of great memories.

Sincerely,

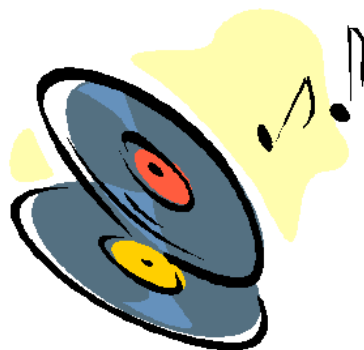
*Joyce Patch*

Joyce Patch  
923 W. Buchanan  
Litchfield, IL 62056  
(217) 324-9264  
cell 326-3636

## **GATEWAY HARMONICA CLUB CD LIBRARY**

The Gateway Harmonica Club CD library (consisting of over 65 CDs) is available for use by all Club members. CDs by some of your favorite players and groups (for example: Leo Diamond, the Harmonica Rascals, the Harmonicats, Richard Hayman, Charles Leighton, Eddie Manson, Staggy McMann, The Mulcays, Pete Pedersen, Johnny Puleo and Toots Thielemans) are included in the library.

In addition, we have recently added special compilations by a couple of our own members, Joe Fey and Frank Muriel. Musical styles include the big band



sound, pop, blues, jazz, country and hymns. Something for everyone.

The checkout notebook with the CDs contains a listing of all the CD albums, as well as a list of all the songs included on the CDs. If you recall a song you liked or want to hear someone else's version of an old favorite, see Ernie for assistance.

Members may check out two CDs for two weeks.

Happy Trails to You!  
Ernie Roberts

*Thanks, Ernie. Ernie is the caretaker for the CD library and we thank him for his time and effort toward this project.*

# HARMONICA BIOGRAPHY - ED CENATIEMPO

My paternal grandparents came to this country from Italy. My grandfather loved music. He often played Enrico Caruso singing “La Donna E Mobile”, “Pagliaci”, etc. on a windup console victrola.

My maternal grandparents were second generation in America from Germany. My mother and her mother played the Marine Band “mouth harp.”

On summer evenings in my maternal grandmother’s yard Mom and Grandma played a little harmonica, with Dad playing his violin, some aunts and uncles playing accordions and banjos. A custom I haven’t seen since, was to pour about three bottles of beer in a bucket and pass it around as they sang and played. They never got drunk, but the music flowed freely.

When I was about twelve I asked my Mother to teach me a song on the “mouth harp.” She taught me “Home Sweet Home.” And that’s what I played whenever asked to play the harp for the next fifty two years.

About thirty years ago I bought a two-manual Wurlitzer organ which really thrilled my wife. Then I took a few lessons. My most attentive audience was my Great Dane and my cat. The cat sat on the bench by me and the dog sat

at attention next to the bench. That’s loyalty. I think they liked the vibrations.

Well, about two years ago I saw an item in the “Webster Kirkwood Times” on the Gateway Harmonica Club and thought finally I could learn to play. I sat in on two whole class sessions, but my mind has trouble getting those notes off the paper and out of the chromatic. Joe Fey is a very patient teacher and honorable man.

So now I play a little better on the diatonic (by ear) and attend the diatonic/blues sessions regularly. Then listening to the real band rehearsal, followed by the open mike talent just soothes the soul and makes for a perfect Tuesday evening.

Hobbies and fun stuff include sketching, photography, walking, Tai Chi yoga, music, etc. Before retiring from the photo industry (30 years) I worked at many jobs including hair stylist at Charles of the Ritz at Saks Fifth Ave. and a couple years as a police officer in the St. Louis District.

My wife, Kathy, and I are happy to have each day of life God grants us to appreciate our family and friends. We have three children and six grandchildren ranging in age from seven to twenty-five.

\* \* \* \* \*

Invitation is made to any club member who has not yet had their harmonica biography published! At some time, it is our intention to make a booklet of all the past bios and it will surely be a great remembrance of our fellow club members. Please contact the editor for instructions or assistance.

## FRANK MURIEL COACHES AND INSPIRES CHRIS

Frank Muriel invited me to his house in Florissant to help me with my playing and WOW – what an amazing life he has had! Fought in the Korean War and kept from freezing by using hypnosis to bring warmth to his body. Has lots of medals on display from military service and target shooting hobby. His office is a small electronic wonder with computers, T.V., recording equipment, lights, camera – Action!

He played tapes of his two “rock star” sons who have their own bands; one daughter is an actress in New York and the

other daughter is a TV producer in Florida. In his basement, he has every musical instrument imaginable including drums, piano, marimba, guitars and brass horns; and mics and speakers all around. He worked as a TV cameraman and played in many bands including a Latin Band now. We both agreed that we should play more Cole Porter, Andrew Loyd Webber, Manilow or Beatles tunes.

I thank GHC for allowing me to meet interesting musical people who have been inspirational to me in so many ways.

*Chris Ponda*

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN HARMONICA FESTIVAL

October 6-8, 2005 — Denver, Colorado

The entertainment lineup for the 2nd annual Rocky Mountain Harmonica Festival has been set and it is a dandy. Scheduled for this year's festival are some of the best players in the business.

### THE HARMONICA MASTERS

This trio is composed of Bud Boblink, Frank Warner, and Chris Bauer.

Bud began playing at 13 when he and two friends formed the trio, Harmonica Bobcats. Within six years, they were touring Europe, entertaining the Armed Forces and performing on Radio Free Europe. They also toured the Far East, Japan, and Korea. Bud plays all types of harmonicas, but specializes in the chord harmonicas when playing with groups. Harmonica groups that he has played with includes The Mike Hanley Trio, Jammerncats, Harmonica Classics, The Yellow Pine Trio, John Puleo's Harmonica Gang, and the Harmonicats. Bud feels honored to have worked with Jerry Murad's, Don Les', and Al Fiore's Harmonicats.

Frank Warner also has roots in old harmonica trios. He first learned to play at age five on a "diatonic," which he happily played for years.

Inspired by hearing The Harmonicats' recording of "Gallop of the Comedians" on the radio while still a teen-ager, he learned to play the "chromatic" so he could play "like them."

Frank has played with The Harmonica Rascals, the Electric-Monicas, The Original Harmonica Sounds, The Harmonica Masters, The Jammerncats, and others.

Chris Bauer began playing harmonica at the age of nine. By thirteen, he was playing with his father's trio, The Harmonikings, appearing in many New York area venues. Chris has been playing for nearly thirty-five years. Inspiration came from Toots Thielemans, Jerry Murad and music giants like Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Chet Baker, Miles Davis, Frank Sinatra, and Tony Bennett. Many have said that since Chris' improvisations never lose sight of the melody line, his music is easy to listen to and always recognizable. "A great song is known by its melody," he says, "so rather than re-invent the song; the improv should be an extension of the melodic line." These outstanding musicians combine their talents to make sweet music.

### THE TROUBADOURS RETURN

The best lobby players around will be back this year. Roger, Marv and Mark Monroe will be strolling the halls backing up players and providing their own brand of fun and talent. When Jack Ely joins the Monroes, they become "Harpers Bizarre." They will be playing a set on the main stage.

### COUNTRY, JAZZ AND BLUES —

Country and jazz aficionados will have a great time at the festival. P. T. Gazell is returning to the music scene after a long hiatus. In his former life, P.T. played with greats like Johnny Paycheck and Ricky Skaggs. We met P.T. at the Buckeye Festival in April and invited him to come to

Denver for the Rocky Mountain Festival. He has accepted and now you will get to listen to and jam with P.T. Gazell. Madcat Ruth's music started in the Chicago area in the early 1960s, with Madcat playing folk/blues on guitar and harmonica. By the late 60's he had immersed himself in the Chicago Blues and was studying harmonica with Big Walter Horton. Madcat was a key presence in two of Ann Arbor's finest progressive rock bands and by the mid-70's he was touring with Dave Brubeck. In 1990, Madcat teamed up with guitarist/singer Shari Kane to form the duo Madcat & Kane. They have been touring nationally and internationally since then. You will get caught up in his infectious love of the music.

### LOCAL DENVER ENTERTAINERS

Denver's local musical community will also be a part of these 3-day activities. Al Chesis and Ken "Mojo Red" Mergentime are two of the best blues players in the area. Paul Davies will be there to add his virtuosity to the event. Harpin' Harmonica, the Rocky Mountain Harmonica Club's ensemble will take their turn on the main stage.

### DAY ADDED TO FESTIVAL

Please take note that we have expanded Thursday to a full day of workshops, socializing, jamming and shopping in the club store and Harp Depot. Be sure to schedule that extra day in your planning. More information will be available later as we get to registration time. Check the website at [www.spah.org](http://www.spah.org) and then click on Events to see the latest information on the Festival

### HOTEL

The Sheraton Denver Tech Center Hotel, 7007 S Clinton St., Englewood, will once again be our host for the three days. We have a special room rate of \$64. Be sure to ask for the Rocky Mountain Harmonica Festival rate.

### TOURS

Denver is a fascinating city with a history going back to the gold and silver rush times. First Americans made their own history here and there are outstanding geological features. Is someone coming with you that might like to take a tour while you are immersed in the Festival? If there is enough interest, we will plan a tour of some of Denver's historic areas such as the Molly Brown House, the Governor's Mansion, or the Denver Mint. There is a variety of shopping malls in town including Cherry Creek with Saks and Neiman Marcus and Park Meadows that includes Nordstrom and Nordstrom Rack. There are neighborhoods with neat little shops. Send an email to Nancy Bale at [nhbale@msn.com](mailto:nhbale@msn.com) to let her know if we should set up a tour.

### FESTIVAL REGISTRATION

Registration for the 3 days is \$85. Registration forms can be downloaded from the SPAH website: [www.spah.org](http://www.spah.org). (Go to the Events Page, select Rocky Mountain Harmonica Festival, and click on the Download Link.) Or you can call Roger Bale at 303-973-5418 to have a form mailed to you.



### TEST YOUR CLASSICAL MUSIC KNOWLEDGE

1. What did the composer write for Santa Claus?  
A Christmas **Liszt**.
2. Why did the composer have a nervous breakdown?  
He was too **Bizet**. (Busy)
3. What game did the composer play with his kids?  
**Hayden** Seek.
4. How did the composer finish at Olympics?  
He won a **Brahms** medal.
5. What did the composer eat at Oriental Salad Bar?  
**Bach** Choy.
6. Where did the composer go to buy new clothes?  
A **Chopin** Mall.
7. What did the composer write on his parcel post?  
**Handel** with care.
8. What did the composer write for the church choir?  
**Massenet**. (Mass in A)
9. What did the composer name his landscape business?  
**Mozart**. (Mows yard)
10. Why did the restaurant like the composer?  
He was **Offenbach**. (Often back)

Thanks to Chris Pondo for submitting the above quiz.

### SENIOR ALPHABET

The majority of our club belongs to the senior set and will perhaps get a chuckle from the senior alphabet. The junior crowd may read what they have to look forward to. Enjoy!

A for arthritis,

B for bad back,

C is for chest pains. Perhaps cardiac?

D is for dental decay and decline,

E is for eyesight—can't read that top line.

F is for fissures and fluid retention

G is for gas (which I'd rather not mention)

H high blood pressure (I'd rather have low)

I for incisions with scars you can show.

J is for joints that now fail to flex

L is for libido—what happened to sex?

Wait! I forgot about K!

K is for my knees that crack when they're bent

(Please forgive me; my Memory ain't worth a cent)

N for neurosis, pinched nerves and stiff neck

O is for osteo-and all bones that crack

P for prescriptions, I have quite a few

Give me another pill; I'll be good as new!

Q is for queasiness. Fatal or flu?

R is for reflux—one meal turns into two

S is for sleepless nights, counting my fears

T for tinnitus—I hear bells in my ears

U is for urinary: difficulties with flow

V is for vertigo, that's "dizzy," you know.

W is worry, now what's going 'round?

X is for Xray—and what might be found

Y for another year I've left behind

Z is for zest that I still have my mind,

Have survived all the symptoms my body's deployed,

And kept twenty-six doctors gainfully employed!!!

## Test Your Harmonica Repair Knowledge

*The following quiz was obtained from Sissy Jones of Hohner, Inc. at the SPAH convention.*

1. Lubricating the slide on my chromatic may ultimately cause more harm than good.  
TRUE                      FALSE
2. Rinsing the reed plates and comb of my chromatic may damage the valves and comb.  
TRUE                      FALSE
3. Increasing the gap between the reed and reed plate will make the harmonica play easier and increase response.  
TRUE                      FALSE
4. The reed plates on my harmonica should have a slightly bowed shape so they sit tightly on the comb and discourage air leakage.  
TRUE                      FALSE
5. The screws of my harmonica should be tightened as much as possible to prevent air leakage.  
TRUE                      FALSE
6. Filing down the tip of the reed will flatten the pitch.  
TRUE                      FALSE
7. Playing a chromatic for a few minutes to warm it up will often free a stuck slide.  
TRUE                      FALSE
8. The only adhesive that should be used to glue your windsavers to the reed plate is PLIOBOND.  
TRUE                      FALSE
9. Kinking the top layer of the windsaver valve will sometimes correct minor popping and rattling sounds.  
TRUE                      FALSE
10. Lower draw notes are often the most difficult to play strongly and clearly.  
TRUE                      FALSE
11. The new Marine Band Deluxe is a customized version of the traditional Marine Band.  
TRUE                      FALSE
12. Wood combs are better than plastic combs.  
TRUE                      FALSE
13. You can play all the notes of Amazing Grace on a standard 10-hole diatonic harmonica.  
TRUE                      FALSE
14. Veteran harmonica players are able to play all harmonicas with ease, regardless of the model or type.  
TRUE                      FALSE

Answers to Quiz: 1-T; 2-F; 3-F; 4-T; 5-F; 6-F; 7-T; 8-F; 9-T; 10-T; 11-F; 12-F; 13-T; 14-F

## GHC EVENTS CALENDAR

### WEEKLY EVENTS

Tuesday evening meetings at Rock Hill Baptist Church, 9125 Manchester, St. Louis, MO 63144:

6:30 PM - Blues Group, led by Louise Cook — Everyone welcome

7:00 PM - First Tuesday of month: Business Meeting — Everyone welcome

All other Tuesdays: Band Rehearsal — Everyone welcome

8:15 PM - Open Mic — Everyone welcome

### GIGS AND OTHER EVENTS

- 9/9/2005 (Fri) 7:30 PM — West County Assembly Of God Church ( Seniors): Highway 40 and Maryville Drive  
 9/17/2005 (Sat) 2:00 PM — St. Richard's Picnic: Going North on Lindbergh Blvd., pass Olive St. Rd., go to the red light at Schuetz Rd.; take a left at Schuetz Rd. and go to 11223 Schuetz; turn left into the church grounds.  
 9/22/2005 (Thu) 3:00 PM — Lake St. Charles Retirement Community: 45 Honey Locust Ln, St. Charles, MO 63303 -- Go west on I-70 over the bridge past Fifth St. Turn off at Hwy 94. Turn left at top of ramp heading South. You will pass the first light at Sherman, a second light at Zumbuhl and at the light at Pralle Ln you will turn left.

*(Continued on p. 8)*

*(from p. 7)*

At the corner is Phillips gas station and a White Castle. Follow this Rd. to Honey Locust. Turn left and follow to the Retirement Community. We will be playing in the Social Center on the third floor.

- 9/24/2005 (Sat) 6:00 PM — Cornerstone Methodist Church: 1151 Tom Gennerver Ave., O' Fallon, MO 63366
- 10/6/2005 (Thu) 7:00 PM — Gambrill Gardens: #1 Strecker Rd. -- Ellisville, MO 63011 -- Take Manchester Rd. West from I-270 (or Hwy. 141 South to Manchester) about 1 mile beyond Clarkson Rd. ( hwy 340) and it is the large Building on the corner of Strecker and Manchester.
- 10/27/2005 (Thu) 7:30 PM — St. Bernadette 50+ Club: 68 Sherman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63125 (Take I-270 South--Get off at Telegraph Rd. -- Go left toward the City--Turn right on Sherman Rd--Go about 2 miles to 68 Sherman Rd. and the Church)
- 11/13/2005 (Sun) 2:30 PM — Garden Villas South: 13457 Tesson Ferry (Hwy 21)
- 12/3/2005 (Sat) 11:00 AM — Pevely Flea Market: From I-270 take I-55 South past Arnold and get off at exit 180 at Pevely. At the end of the ramp turn left. Proceed past two stop lights. At the third light you should be at Hwy 61/67. Turn right and you are there.
- 12/8/2005 (Thu) 2:15 PM — Florissant Valley Community College: 3400 Pershall Road -- Performing in Student Center --Multipurpose room off of Highway I-270 at West Florissant Rd.
- 12/16/2005 (Fri) 8:00 PM — St. Albans Senior Golf: St. Albans Country Club--Go west on Manchester Rd. pass Clarkson Rd and pass Highway 109. Continue until you reach Highway T. At that point turn right and go about 2 miles. You will see the Club.
- 12/19/2005 (Mon) 6:00 PM — Parkside Meadows: 59 Randolph Dr. St Charles MO 63301
- 3/15/2006 (Wed) 8:00 PM — The Claymont Assosiation Inc.: Ballwin Golf Course--333 Holloway Rd. --Ballwin MO. 63011:
- 4/19/2006 (Wed) 1:30 PM — Weber Road Branch, St. Louis County Library: From hwy I-270, go East on Hwy 21 (Gravois Rd.), pass Sappington, pass Tesson Ferry Rd. and Weber Rd. is about a mile farther on your right. Turn right and go another mile or so. The library is on your right.
- 5/7/2006 (Sun) 12:30 PM — Seniors' Celebration: Parkway Baptist Church--12465 Olive St. Blvd.

