

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 39, No. 2

Summer. 2009

www.stlouis.missouri.org/skinkerdebaliviere/sd_times

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

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Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

Dedicating Four Corners Park at National Night Out

by Lana Stein

National Night Out will be held on August 4, 2009, from 5:30-9:00 p.m. at the Four Corners, Des Peres and Kingsbury. Despite the heat of August, this is always a well-attended event where neighbors come together to share the camaraderie of standing up against crime. This year, it will be even more special, as the neighborhood will officially rename the park "Greg Freeman Park at Four Corners."

On the last day of 2002, we received the news that Greg Freeman had passed away. Greg was a very popular columnist at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and hosted a radio program. He was beloved in the community. He spent his adult life living in Skinker-DeBaliviere with his wife, Elizabeth, and son, Will. The neighborhood was very important to him and he watched its revival closely. He participated in various neighborhood events and became a member of the Community Council in about 1994. He was vice president for much of the time that he served. He worked very hard on the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration

and gave the keynote address one year. He was a booster and a friend to many of us.

In the summer following his death, several of us met to think of an appropriate way to remember him in our neighborhood. We decided on naming the park at Four Corners in his memory. The name -- Greg Freeman Park at Four Corners -- began to be used in correspondence and flyers. Now, Andy Cross, who helped select the memorial, has built a sign to name the park in Greg's memory for all to see.

During the National Night Out celebration, the sign will be unveiled. Cross plans to ask family and friends if they care to attend. As the Post-Dispatch titled a selection of his columns, Greg was a "gentleman" and "a gentleman." He exemplified the spirit of our neighborhood and I wish everyone could have known him. He suffered from a number of illnesses and died too young. But, his spirit and his vision touched many of us. Let's join together at National Night Out.

Summer 2009

Annual Breakfast Garden Tour

The 11th Annual Breakfast Garden Tour will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. til noon. Tour participants check in at the award-winning McPherson Community Garden, 5900 McPherson. A generous continental breakfast is served starting at 8:30 a.m., with a selection of fresh coffee and goodies. The self-guided walking tour of participating private gardens starts at 9:00 a.m. Homes in the Skinker DeBaliviere-Parkview-Catlin Tract Historic District are situated on quiet, tree-lined streets, with shaded, private backyards that permit gardeners to create intimate settings full of surprises. Tour participants report that they can satisfy their curiosity and learn a gardening tip or two at the same time.

The tour benefits the Skinker



Gwen LaZard and Roni Halliburton manned the breakfast tour desk for customers Betty Burke and friends.

DeBaliviere Community Council and is a project of its Beautification Committee. Under the leadership of Andy and Linda Cross, the tour has become a significant marketing as well as fund-raising event, providing attendees with the opportunity to learn more about this vibrant and diverse city neighborhood.

Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 on the day of the tour. Children's tickets are \$5. Children under ten are admitted free. For further information, and to place an advance ticket order, call 862-5122.

2009 Ivory Perry Park Concert Series

Our Seventh Season of Free Jazz & Blues 4th Sunday of the Summer Months, 6-8 p.m.

Join jazz, blues, and gospel icon Kim Massie on Sunday June 28, as she kicks off the seventh season of free summer concerts in Ivory Perry Park. July 26 will bring "Public Entertainer Number One" Ralph Butler and the Ralph Butler Band. R&B diva Coco Soul will conclude the series on Sunday August 23.

Ivory Perry Park, formerly Visitation Park, is located at 800 Belt Avenue. Off of Delmar, turn north on Belt Avenue at Connect Care Hospital. (Belt Avenue is one stoplight east of DeBaliviere or one light west of Union.) Grab your lawn chair, blanket, food and head over to Ivory Perry Park the 4th Sunday of each summer month to hear wonderful talent on the Commerce Bank Stage. Food and beverages will be available for purchase as well.

Each concert will feature special activities for children and families, prize raffles, and a variety of excellent food and beverage options for purchase. Thanks to the efforts of many community and school groups, local businesses and churches, and St. Louis City



Kim Massie sings June 28.

officials, these free concerts will be a great place to hear wonderful St. Louis talent this summer. Special thanks to the Whitaker Foundation for their generous support, as well as Commerce Bank. For more information, call Archilla Buford at 314-3627-2112.

Coming August 14 from the Missouri Historical Society and the *TIMES* of SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE:

Celebrating Skinker DeBaliviere – History and Comeback

Our new 100+ page book is finally going to the printer! Designed by Angie Dietz of the Missouri Historical Society, it covers the neighborhood's rich history and includes "The Neighborhood" A History of Skinker-DeBaliviere by Gee Stuart, Sue Tepas, and Kathy Harleman (yellow book), written in 1973; dozens of photographs from the Missouri History Museum, THE *TIMES* OF SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE, and private donations from neighborhood residents; the "Neighborhood Chronicles" about the 70's written by Jo Ann Vatcha; and selected articles from the archives of THE *TIMES* OF SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE; The book has an accompanying DVD, produced by Marj Weir and Jo Ann Vatcha, with interviews conducted by Jody Sowell of the Missouri Historical Society.

If you would like to receive an invitation to the party or to pre-order this new book, contact Jo Ann Vatcha at jvatcha@gmail.com or Marj Weir at weir.marj@charter.net. A special party, co-sponsored by the *TIMES* and the Missouri Historical Society, will unveil the book and DVD on August 14, 5:30-7:00. For more information, call Jo Ann at 629-2505 or Marj at 863-7558 or SDCC at 862-5122.

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

Our neighborhood has become stronger and more vibrant as the years have passed. Yet, we should not be too sanguine. We have to continue to protect ourselves against crime, block by block. Keep eyes open, watch the street traffic, watch where you are headed. If an incident should ever occur, work with neighbors, the SDCC, and the police so that order can be properly restored. Never leave anything of value in your vehicle. Be alert. By these remarks, I do not mean to infer that we are experiencing a rash of crime; we are not. But, it's never too late to work with your neighbors to make our environment even safer.

One thing that helps to demonstrate Skinker DeBaliviere's vibrancy is the number of walkers on the streets--during the day and the evening. There seem to be more families with babies and lots of people with their best canine friend. University students also add to the mix. This kind of presence is a deterrent to crime and has certainly increased over the last 20 years.

Don't forget the Garden Tour, Dog Show, National Night Out and our own Times Party! Happy summer.

Skinker-DeBaliviere Centennial House Plaques



Designed by artist Andy Cross and executed by tile painter Madeleine Laura, these handsome, weatherproof tiles will be customized with the year a house was built.

Name: _____

House Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Year Requested on Plaque: _____

We have a map of the Historic District with building dates. Price: \$55 Checks made payable to West End Publishing Company. Please mail to: Katie Kurtz, 6178 Kingsbury, St. Louis, MO 63112. Call 727-6377 or 496-5083.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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The writer is responsible for the accuracy of the data, including times, dates, location, and particularly the spelling of names. The editor retains the right to omit or alter any material.

Deadline for next issue: August 15, 2009. Please send copy by e-mail to jvatcha@gmail.com or by disc to 6008 Kingsbury, St. Louis, MO 63112.

Readers are welcome to send us e-mail or letters commenting on any of our content. Send to jvatcha@gmail.com or maxlana@sbcglobal.net.

Calendar

Save these Dates and call 862-5122 with questions.

June 6: Breakfast Garden Tour

June 9: Dog Show

June 8, July 13, August 10: Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council Meetings

June 23: Dining Out

August 4: National Night Out

August 14: Neighborhood History party -- contact Jo Ann Vatcha, jvatcha@gmail.com



At the special preview of the Moonrise Hotel, neighbors Dee Schoenfeld, Marj Weir, Neville Vatcha, Brad Weir, Jo Ann Vatcha, Joe Edwards, and Lois Schoemehl were photographed by King Schoenfeld, special to the TIMES. Congratulations to Joe on this newest accomplishment.

Times Archives On-line!

By Marj Weir

For many years we have wanted to be able both to preserve the old issues of The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere and its predecessor, The Paper, and to provide easy access to those issues for everyone who wants it. We have finally realized that goal. As part of the Centennial celebration fundraising, we were able to afford to have all the issues of The Paper and The Times scanned to digital format. After the expenses of the Centennial Celebration, we had enough to commit to completing the task for the 1990's and the early 2000's. After 2003, the production of The Times has been done in a digital form, so those issues are already available on-line. By the time this issue reaches you, all the issues from the 70's and 80's should be available for your viewing at:

http://stlouis.missouri.org/skinkerdebaliviere/sd_times.html

You'll need a computer, however. These issues are in PDF format, which most computers can read. This format allows you to enlarge a page for on-line reading. It also makes it relatively easy to print an issue on standard letter paper if you wish.

We are working on an index to the headlines, pictures, and ads in these issues, so that finding things will be easier. I am also working on an extract of all Vicissitudes, Window on Washington Heights, and Parkview Perspective columns with a name index. Although it's a lot of work, it's really fun to read and to remember all the great people who have worked so hard to make this a great place to live.

Dining Out for SDCC – Tuesday, June 23rd

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, June 23rd and make plans to visit one of your favorite neighborhood restaurants! A percentage of your bill will be donated back to the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood at participating restaurants that evening. The fundraiser is being headed by Kate Nash and Vincent Flewellen. Details on which restaurants are participating will be available soon. For more information, call the SDCC office at 314-863-5122.

News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Get your calendars out and mark down these important dates:

Tuesday, June 23rd is **Dining Out for SDCC**. **Sarah Cross' Neighborhood Dog Show** is Tuesday, June 9th. **National Night Out** is Tuesday, August 4th and will also serve as the official renaming and dedication of **Four Corners Park** to "Greg Freeman Park". The neighborhood concert series will be happening again in September on the 12th and 19th and in addition to great music will again offer wonderful barbecue prepared by the **Lodholtz brothers!** Phil and Dan's barbecue became legendary during the 2008 concerts and the Centennial celebrations. And finally, the neighborhood "Homecoming" party will be held at **The Pageant** on Saturday, September 26th! It promises to be a fun event old, new, and current neighbors. For more information on any of these events, call the SDCC office at 314-862-5122.

Neighbors on 5900 Pershing were saddened by the loss of **Joan Davenport** who will be missed by her many friends and family. She was 68.

The popular story of "*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*," based on the book by C.S. Lewis, will be on stage at the



Operation Brightside was once again a great neighborhood event. Shown here in the Westminster/Kingsbury alley are **Anne Posega and Chris Rappleye** with their children **Emma and Henry**.

Washington University South Campus Theater on Clayton Road on June 5-14, 2009, with Friday and Saturday evening and Sunday matinee performances. **Tom Snyder** of the 6100 block of Westminster is a featured player in this production by the Clayton Community Theatre. It's close by for our neighborhood families. For ticket information, go to www.placeseveryone.org

Best wishes go out to **Brittany Hogan** who just graduated from Washington University with her

masters degree in Social Work. Brittany interned in the SDCC office since last fall and is from the Chicago area.

The Opening Reception for eARTHworks 2009: art for an endangered planet -- featuring art from more than 60 regional painters, sculptors, woodworkers, photographers and other artists -- was held on Friday, May 8 at the Gallery at the Regional Arts Commission (RAC), 6128 Delmar Boulevard in the East Loop.

Among the contributing artists are several Neighbors: painter **Andy Cross**, photographer **Hilary Hitchcock** (who, like Andy, grew up on the 6100 block of Kingsbury), photographer and portraitist **Tim Smith**, and the estate of esteemed colorist **Bill Kohn**. Parkview is represented by photographer **Susan Hacker Stang**. Long-time Skinker DeBaliviere resident **Peggy Hermes** is the volunteer coordinator of the exhibition.

The Regional Arts Commission, headed by our own **Jill McGuire**, is one of the sponsors of eARTHworks. All proceeds from the sale of art will benefit the Missouri Coalition for the Environment. The event is free and open to the public.

Carla Mash Duncan, of the 6100 block of McPherson, is a creator of beautiful jewelry, as well as a great 4th grade teacher at New City School. Check out what's happening with her jewelry and down at the gallery: www.Duncan-Designs.com and www.soulardartmarket.com.

Do you have some news to share? Please send your items to Rachel Boxdorfer at rboxdorfer@prudentialalliance.com with the subject line "News of Neighbors". Thank you!

A Neighborhood Homecoming – A Celebration Like No Other

Saturday, September 26th at The Pageant

"Homecoming"... according to Webster's Dictionary, a homecoming is "a coming or returning to one's home. In many schools, colleges, and universities, an annual celebration attending by alumni." Well - Skinker DeBaliviere is planning for exactly that – a celebration of our home/neighborhood and an opportunity for people to return home. Old and new neighbors, friends of the neighborhood, and people who just love this neighborhood, will celebrate the Skinker DeBaliviere Homecoming on Saturday, September 26th at The Pageant. The festivities will be a large party with music and a mix of generations, neighbors old and new, celebrating our unique neighborhood and all that we love about it. The dress for the occasion is 'creative formal' which will be entertaining in itself!

The idea came from a brain storming session of some neighbors who were trying to think of a fund raiser that would be as unique and enjoyable as Skinker DeBaliviere. There are already plenty of golf tournaments and auctions around town, we needed to find something different, something fun, something special. When the idea of a sock hop came up, it brought back memories and stories of a Skinker DeBaliviere 'Prom' that had been held many years ago. The brain storming continued and now, our "Homecoming" event has evolved.

Funds raised will help continue many neighborhood programs offered throughout the year by the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. Money will be raised through ticket sales, and also by donations made on behalf of the "Homecoming Court". 'Want to be kings and queens' can help raise money in order to be on the court. More information will be out soon and the homecoming committee plans to be out and about selling tickets and raising awareness of the event throughout the summer months. In the mean time, mark September 26th on your calendar, for a very unique Homecoming celebration!

For more information or to purchase your tickets, call the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council at 314-862-5122.

Clifford Westbrook Inducted in Boxing Hall of Fame

At their 15th Annual Boxing Hall of Fame Awards Dinner on April 18, 2009, the St. Louis Gateway Classic Sports Foundation inducted one of our neighborhood's own, Clifford Westbrook, into the St. Louis Boxing Hall of Fame. Cliff, who lives in the 6100 block of Westminster, started boxing in 1968 at the Caprice Recreational Center, under the guidance of Coach Jim Merrel. In 1968, he won sub-novice city championship, weight class 112. In 1969, he won the Springfield Tournament of Champions at 112 novice weight class. Through his 8-year boxing career, he fought in weight classes 112, 118, 126, 139, and 147, all open. Along with his championship trophies, he has received Most Outstanding trophy and the Most Improved trophy through the City of St. Louis Tournament. He previously received the Team Leadership Trophy. Cliff especially enjoyed the time training and sparring with professional fighters.



Cliff and his wife Linda are the proud parents of five children, Maricia, Tommy Michael, LaShanda, and Clifford, Jr. Cliff worked in construction for eight years and has 20 years of food service and restaurant management experience at BJC and Crown Plaza. He says that presently his gloves have been replaced with his King James Bible as he enjoys living his Christian lifestyle. Congratulations to Cliff from all his neighbors, friends and admirers!

The Building Corner

By Katie Kurtz

This issue's subject: Beware the Window Salesman!!



There have been several companies operating in our neighborhood who promise sellers that they are getting the required permits for windows or door replacements. Unfortunately, they have not gotten what was

necessary. City inspectors issue stop-work orders and there is a delay while necessary permits are obtained. Or if the work does not meet historic district standards, the seller has to change what has been installed, incurring extra expense.

Worse case scenario, owners end up in housing court, where they may be fined.

With the energy tax credits, there is an increase in advertisements for companies selling new windows and doors. The Skinker-DeBaliviere Historic District Review Committee wants to make certain building owners know what is required, so no one is taken advantage of. Any replacement windows and doors visible from the street must have a permit from the city's Cultural Resource Office, 314-622-3400 or stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/planning/heritage. The photo which accompanies this article shows the contrast between inappropriate, non-historic windows installed alongside original windows. (This building is not in our district, but close by. Showing neighborhood examples might embarrass or anger property owners. While it is owned currently by Washington University, the work was done prior to their ownership.) Replacements need to follow the same size and design as the historic windows and use an acceptable method of installation; almost all of the doors in the area have a clear glass panel, often with side lights or a transom.

Please make certain that,

before any work is begun, you as the owner see the appropriate permit if you were not the person who applied for it. The owner is ultimately responsible for following the law; please be careful not to take anyone's word that either permits are not necessary or that they have what is required.

Historic windows which are in good condition, with solid glazing and wood frames in sound shape, can be as efficient as new windows provided there are well-fitting storm windows. The energy savings payback with replacement windows may be longer than often expected. Large windows, which most of our buildings have, are hard to replace with vinyl frames as the material often cannot support the weight of the glass, and they become inoperable in a relatively short time. For examples of a building with quality, wood replacement windows see 5911 De Giverville or 6178 McPherson. 5782 Waterman is an excellent example of original windows which have been restored.

In addition to the Cultural Resources Office, please call the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council 314-862-5122.



Joe Edwards and the most recent inductee into the Walk of Fame on Delmar, legendary St. Louis Hawks basketball star Bob Pettet, whose star is directly across from the new Moonrise Hotel in the 6100 block of Delmar.

Pumpkin Contest

by Becky Homan

June is not too late to think about direct-sowing the pumpkin seeds that, next fall, could win you fabulous prizes from Bowood Farms garden center, 4605 Olive Street in the Central West End!

Bowood announces its first-annual, pumpkin-growing contest! It is open to home gardeners, community gardeners, children, school groups – to anyone who's growing their own pumpkins for private use. The six categories in this contest are: (1) Best Overall Pumpkin; (2) Largest Pumpkin; (3) Smallest Pumpkin (at maturity); (4) Best Pumpkin Grown by a Child (12 and under); (5) Best Pumpkin Relative (melon, squash or gourd); (6) Goofiest Pumpkin ("pumpkins with possibilities" – such as celebrity look-a-likes, or spooky faces, or just supremely odd and wacky shapes).

Find an entry form and contest guidelines at www.bowoodfarms.com by going to Calendar of Events and scrolling down to Oct. (when prizes will be awarded). Or visit the store for an entry form, or call Bowood at 314-454-6868 with any questions.

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Skinker-D Gastronomy

Turkey Burgers, Quinoa and Leafy Greens is a Meara Family Favorite

by Ligaya Figueras

Our newest Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council president Sean Meara (59XX Pershing) enjoys cooking, but the real chef of the family is his wife Angie. Angie grew up with a mother who always cooked from scratch, but it wasn't until she moved out of the house that Angie appreciated whole food cooking.

"I learned a lot of basic tools while I was living on my own and hundreds of miles away from my mother," said Angie. "When I lived in Portland, Oregon, everyone in my apartment building either went to the culinary institute, film school or art school. The culinary students would bring me their experiments. This is where the fresh and whole foods entered my palate both as a consumer and as the one preparing the foods."

Angie regularly prepares healthy meals for Sean and their two-and-a-half-year-old daughter Olive. "I'm particular about the foods I eat, meaning where they are from and how they got to my plate. Plus, I try to make meals that are beneficial to me and my family's needs."

She was inspired to create turkey burgers during her pregnancy with Olive. "My midwife helped me understand how my nutrition was affecting my body. I tracked everything I put into my body for six-plus months and this helped me find a balance with intake and well



caption to come?

being," she explained.

Angie noted that the burgers are delicious when eaten plain, even without a bun, although the Meara family enjoys them with warm garlic Naan bread that is sliced into small triangles. Her recipe allows for plenty of leftovers.

Normally, Angie serves the

burgers with two vegan dishes: a quinoa-vegetable dish and sautéed greens. "The leafy green recipe was borrowed from a vendor at the Spirit Seeker Expo in '08, but the quinoa recipe was made up from veggies that were abundant in our garden: zucchini, summer squash, thyme, oregano and basil," said Angie, who added that the best part about the quinoa dish is that it can be served chilled or warm. In addition, the combination of the turkey burgers and two side dishes make for a nutritious meal, "full of protein, whole grain and leafy greens."

Sean mentioned that he and his wife typically send this meal to neighbors who have just had a baby or who are in transition and

don't have the time or energy to cook. Considering that the couple is expecting the birth of their second child in late June, it will soon be time for some kind-hearted S-D neighbors to cook up some turkey burgers, grains and greens and send them Angie's way.

Turkey Burgers

Servings: 15 burgers

- 1 medium yellow onion, finely chopped (or substitute a handful of fresh chives, chopped)
- 1/4 bell pepper (preferably orange, red or yellow), finely chopped
- 1-2 cloves crushed garlic
- 3 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce or soy sauce
- 1 tsp. fresh or dried thyme
- 1 tsp. fresh or dried oregano (or dried marjoram)
- 1 handful of fresh parsley, chopped (or 15 fresh basil leaves, chopped)
- 2/3 cup fresh parmesan cheese, grated
- 2 Tbsp. flour
- 1-2 medium eggs
- 2/3 cup bread crumbs
- 1.5 lbs of ground dark meat turkey

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl, adding the ground turkey last. Shape into patties, place on a plate, cover in plastic wrap and refrigerate for about 1 hour. Cook the patties, a few at a time, in a cast-iron skillet, covered, on med-low temperature for 8-10 minutes per side.

Quinoa and Mixed Vegetables

Serves 4-6

- 1 cup quinoa
- 2 cups water
- 2 Tbsp. sesame oil
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 stalks carrot, shredded
- 1 small zucchini, shredded
- 1 small yellow (summer) squash, shredded

- 2 stalks asparagus, chopped
- 10-15 basil leaves, chopped with scissors (may substitute flat leaf parsley or cilantro)
- 1 tsp. fresh or dried thyme
- 2 cloves of pressed garlic
- 1 handful of fresh chives, chopped
- 2 Tbsp. salt
- 2-3 pinches of ground pepper

Bring quinoa and water to a boil in a saucepan. Simmer for 20 minutes and set aside to cool. Meanwhile, heat the sesame oil in a wok. Saute the celery, carrot, zucchini, squash, asparagus, basil, thyme, garlic and chives in the wok for about 10 minutes. Stir in quinoa then add salt and pepper to taste. Serve chilled or warm.

Swiss chard with raisins and pine nuts

Serves 4-6

- 1/4 cup raisins
- 4 cups water
- 1 T. salt
- 2 lbs. Swiss chard, rinsed and chopped
- 1/8 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup pine nuts (may substitute sunflower seeds)

Soak raisins in hot water for 1 hour. Drain raisins, press out excess water and set aside. Meanwhile, bring water to a boil, add salt, then add Swiss chard and cook, covered, for 15 minutes or until tender. Drain the chard, press out excess water and set aside. Heat olive oil in a medium-sized saute pan. Add the pine nuts and saute pine nuts for about 5 minutes, stirring often. Add the Swiss chard and raisins to the pan, and stir to mix. Serve hot.

- 28th Ward Regular Democrats -

Alderman Lyda Krewson
367-9765
lyda.krewson@pgav.com

Our 28th Ward organization welcomes everyone to attend our regular meetings held at John's Town Hall, 665 South Skinker, 7:30 p.m. the third Thursday evening of most months. The next meeting will be held June 18. For up to date information on programs and other news of politics, go to the 28th Ward website: <http://ward28.citywestend.org/index.html>.

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New Trees on Waterman at Laurel and DeGiverville

By Andy Cross

For many years, the triangle-shaped greenspace at Waterman, Laurel, and DeGiverville was cared for by neighbors Ronnie Haliburton, Michael Butler, and the dedicated gardeners of the Block Unit 1035 Community Garden, who planted, mowed and watered the area there. Last summer, the large tree in the center of the greenspace fell in a heavy storm. After the fallen tree was cleared away, all that remained was a magnolia tree, also the sculpture known as "Flight," and a few traces of the plantings from the Block Unit 1035 volunteers. The fall of the big tree was not a loss, but rather an opportunity, as the old tree was a "weed tree," and with it being removed there now is room to plant a healthy selection of choice trees which will grow to create a cool canopy of shade trees, understory trees, and flowering trees.

The St. Roch sixth grade Girl Scout Troop 268 recently helped the Skinker DeBaliviere beautification committee create something that will have a long lasting effect on our neighborhood. The girls helped plant a parcel of trees on the triangle shaped greenspace on Waterman at Laurel and DeGiverville. The oaks, birches,

cypress, and redbuds which the girls planted were awarded through a grant which the beautification committee obtained with the help of Gateway Greening, from Forest ReLeaf of Missouri. Forest ReLeaf's "Project Communitree" provides trees to groups who qualify and present a solid plan for care of trees to

enhance our community's natural environments. After the scouts dug holes, planted, watered, and mulched the trees, they each gave their tree an original name: "Rusty English Scissors," "Harry Marlborough," "Pepe Napoon," "Baby Joe," "Belinda," "No Parking," "Emmett Kellen Lynn," and "Tall Strawberry Banana Mango Smoothie"

Before planting, the plan was approved by the Department of Forestry. Chris McCarthy of Forestry visited the location and consulted on the layout of the site and selection of the trees. She also



Rachel Boxdorfer, Girl Scout Leader, Mary Rater, Katie Manneback, Gretchen Boxdorfer, Tierra Griffen, Rachel Bundstein, and Sarah Jane Cross.

provided top grade mulch for the trees and gave us a beautiful bur oak tree. Most of the trees selected are native to Missouri, including a fine serviceberry which was purchased with a prize voucher from Missouri Grow Native, awarded to the McPherson Community Garden for best use of native plants in a contest from Gateway Greening last year. The goal of Missouri Grow Native is to guide Missourians to select native plants and trees for our landscapes and gardens. Planting natives creates a healthy, natural environment for wildlife and people

as well. The serviceberry was purchased from nearby BoWood Farms Nursery, which participates in the Grow Native program and can help you select native plants for your garden. Along with the trees, a variety of shrubs and flowers have been planted, including an oakleaf hydrangea from Gateway Greening, an Arbor Day redbud seedling provided by Joe Reed, daylilies, iris, black-eyed susans, lambsears, and more from the McPherson Community Garden and the S.D. Plant exchange. Of course a large collection of Operation Brightside's marigolds and dianthus grace this project along with many other planting projects throughout our neighborhood. Funding for some of the trees was provided by the late Arlan Schlosser, which were planted for Linda Cross in memory of her father, an avid outdoorsman.

Planting trees is only one part of the equation. For the next two or three years the beautification committee will care for the trees until they are established. The trees will be mulched, weeded, trimmed, and watered. When these trees are mature they will create a shade island, as they cast a cool shadow on the big expanse of asphalt that surrounds their turf. This careful selection of trees will provide color and beauty in every season.

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<i>Parent or guardian (to contact in case of emergency)</i>	
Parent Phone	
Grade entering in fall, 2009	
Computer experience	
Student's Name	
<i>has permission to participate in the summer program at Grace UMC in conjunction with Computer Village.</i>	
Signature	
<i>Signature of parent or guardian</i>	

Applications and \$25 program fee (check made payable to Breitmayer Community Ministry) are due by **Friday June 19th.**

Mail applications to:
Grace UMC, Computer Village Training, 6199 Waterman, St. Louis, MO 63112 3-25-09

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All training sessions and lunch will be held at Grace United Methodist Church, 6199 Waterman (at Skinker).

Call Sandy Marsh (314) 726-6737 or Sig and Ed Renner (314) 727-2547 for details and scholarship info. Applications are due by Friday, June 19. Mail applications to Grace UMC, Computer Village Training, 4199 Waterman, St. Louis, MO 63112.

Spots available on first come, first served basis.

Thank You, Donors!

The SDCC Friends Fundraising Committee, chaired by Andy and Linda Cross, wish to thank the following donors, who have contributed \$4,755 to date in this year's campaign. It is never too late to contribute at any level. We still have those great -looking 23 oz. colorful water bottles with the Skinker DeBaliviere logo, and stainless steel accents. (We ordered extras because they are so classy.) The Friends campaign helps us with activities, meetings, and events in our neighborhood. For more information on how to contribute or get involved with one of our committees call the SDCC office at 862-5122. And thank you for supporting this great neighborhood.

Sidewalk Friends

Gene & Delores Hoefel
Cindy and Mike Ormsby
Karen and Jerry McClure
Elouise Miller Goodum

Nicole and Rob Whitesell
Pat McLafferty
Rheba Symeonoglou
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John Sprague and Caro Kohfeld
Jerry and Jerie Rhode
Matt and Rachel Boxdorfer
Jon and Shelly Parker

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board of Directors Meeting, April 13, 2009 ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present Beth Bender, Bob Mahon, Sean Meara, Nicole Blumner, Arline Webb, Vincent Flewelen, Mike Taylor, Dan Hudspeth, Cheryl Adelstein

Staff Present: Bethany Everett - SDCC, Darcell Braylock - SDCC Executive Director, Gary Boehnke - SDHC Executive Director

Alderpersons: Lyda Krewson, 28th Ward Alderman

Police Department: Officer Green, 7th District

Other Guests/Visitors: Andy Cross, Katie Kurtz, Jen Swanson, Wash U Coop, Board Members Absent: Liz Johnson, Ruth Johnson, Gerard Hutchison, Alex Lowenstein, Rachel Boxdorfer, Karin Hagiman, William Humphrey, Gene Hoefel, David Rothschild

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting called to order by President Sean Meara at 7:10 p.m. President Sean Meara welcomed everyone.

Go St. Louis! - Brian Lyons made a brief presentation regarding the marathon route for Sunday, April 19th. The marathon will not actually go through the neighborhood this year; it has been rerouted to avoid DeBaliviere and the Forest Park Parkway. Wash U Coop - Jen Swanson discussed the Wash U Coop's Monday night potluck and live music at 6021 Pershing. All are welcome.

Minutes - made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded that motion. Not a quorum.

Financials - No quorum. Discussion about issues will take place in the Executive Sessions.

Security - Officer Phillip Green took questions from the Board regarding any security concerns in the neighborhood. Brief discussion of the Volvo in question on Washington - car was stopped but nothing was found. Devon Strickland incidents; his PO officer was contacted regarding the issues, and he may be put under GPS surveillance. Homicide is down 100 percent from last year, as is rape, property crime is down 38 percent. Sean asked about foot patrols which will begin next week. The department will work on foot patrol with

the U City police on Friday and Saturday nights. There were two Metrolink incidents, both were minor - nonviolent.

NSO Report-

Larry Isom 26th Ward - Not present.

Les Mason 28th Ward - Not present.

Aldermanic Update - 28th Ward

Alderman Lyda Krewson gave an update regarding the Moonrise Hotel, which will open on Friday. Andy asked about the wrought iron fence along the alley, and who was responsible for maintaining the alley. Lyda stated the homeowners along the alley are responsible for their alleys generally, but the forestry department could be called in to make some improvements along Forest Park Parkway. The Delmar Bridge should be open at the end of the month. Nicole asked about the use of the Des Peres school and school board's ruling about allowing properties to be purchased. Lyda is uncertain, believes it will depend on when the state returns the school board's power. Andy asked about the pole that is knocked down on the embankment at Kingsbury and Rosedale.

Executive Director's Report - Darcell gave updates regarding the 6000 Westminster property, the case was dismissed without prejudice. Nicole asked what the meant exactly. Lyda stated that she could possibly refile the case, but she has only 30 days to file. Darcell would like the Board to approve the writing of a letter in support of keeping Todd Williams at Hamilton School. Bob made a motion to approve, Cheryl seconded it.

Fundraising Committee - Dine Out for Skinker DeBaliviere will have a date set in May.

i. Brick Campaign: Currently at \$1850, need \$2,000 to get going. Spoke with Ellen Blau about connecting the dog park to the fundraising, which might illicit more donations.

ii. Homecoming: Everyone save the date for September 26th! The contract was signed and returned to the Pageant along with the deposit check on Saturday, April 11th.

Committee Reports

ii. Friends Campaign - Andy discussed the friends campaign; letters, incentives, business solicitations, etc. The incentives are in; the water bottles look great and will be delivered in the next week.

iii. Beautification Committee - Andy said he and the Girl Scouts had planted the trees at triangle park. He intends to plant more trees along the perimeter. Blitz Day and Planting Day are coming up, Andy is getting ready to order the plants.

Historic District Review Committee - The Historic District Review Board is meeting the second Wednesday of each month at the SDCC office at 7:00 pm. Are concerned about the vacant properties in the neighborhood, would like the Council to send out a letter informing the property owners/brokers that they are in a historic district. Beth made a motion to approve the letter, Arline seconded it. The committee is currently working on a new pamphlet explaining historic district standards. Also, would like new neighbors to attend the committee meetings. The committee plans to publish more articles in the SD Times. Gary asked about sending the letter to new listings as well.

Washington University - Move out begins May 2-5 for undergrads, seniors move out the week after. Wash U is encouraging recycling instead of dumping. They have excellent ways of communicating with students living in University housing, not so good with the students living in the neighborhood in privately held dwellings. Wash U is putting up PODs for students to leave recyclable items at Grace United lot. Anyone in the neighborhood will be able to leave goods at the POD as well. Operation Food Search will accept the donated goods and distribute them. The odds for getting another trash/bulk pick up are unlikely since the trash collectors are already over booked due to Blitz day and holidays. It may be helpful next year to get Blitz day moved further into the month.

SDHC - Project report and notes are included. Bob asked about Delmar Express Market, mentioned Joe Edwards possibly purchasing it. Gary stated that it was unlikely that anyone would purchase it at \$1.3 million. Nicole asked about the burned out house on DeGiverville. It's in the SDHC notes. It is a nuisance property, but it is a very slow process and there is little to be done about it.

Adjournment - Beth made a motion for adjournment, Arline seconded it at 8:25 p.m.



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IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

What do you collect? No, I am not asking about what you have. Having something might imply a need or function. All of us have a toaster, an ash tray (even though smoking is verboten!), a pair of shoes, a keychain, and an accordion. (OK, most of us for the accordion.) Collecting is different than having. As we've seen, having something simply means that, well, that you have one, maybe two. How's that for redundant?

Maybe you tend not to throw things away. Do your relatives call you el rat de pack? When did you last move to a new home and purge the detritus in your closets and basement? If you never pitch, then chances are you have multiples. I have four coffee makers, for example. I like caffeine as much as the next guy, but four coffee makers? How is that?

One coffee maker I bought on sale. It was such a good deal – it came with free coffee and a set of filters too – that I purchased it even though the coffee maker I had was making coffee just fine, thank you. I remember thinking that my coffee maker would wear out some day and I'd have this brand, spanking-new one ready to replace it. How smart am I? Indeed, that good thinking was six or seven years ago, and I still have that brand, spanking-new coffee maker. The old guy is still going strong each morning. (By "old guy," I refer to the coffee maker, not me. The title certainly applies to me but whether or not I'm still going strong is open to debate.)

Another coffee pot appeared even earlier, a decade or so ago, when the coffee maker I was using (the one I'm still using today, in fact) was broken.

Ever the handy guy, I tried to fix it but had no luck. I bought a new coffee pot, plugged the puppy in and brewed away. The new pot didn't make coffee that was as good however – beats me why this could be the case, but it was – and I missed the old one. Ever the intrepid tinkerer, I pulled the old pot out of the trash to try it once more, and eureka, it worked! I'm not sure what happened here but I suspect it may have worked better the time that I plugged it in. Anyway, that meant that the replacement pot was destined to the basement where it hibernates still today.

That accounts for three of my four coffee makers. I'm not sure how I got the fourth one. Like a birthmark, it seems to have always been there. But I don't collect coffee pots; I don't admire them, don't seek them, don't look for this feature or that gizmo. I just have them.

Indeed, and it's probably just a function of late middle-age but I have lots of STUFF. If you name it, I have it.

It's not new and probably is missing a piece or has a heavy wrinkle, but it's here somewhere. Just give me a minute and I'll find it. But I don't collect stuff. I just have it, lots of it. I've got the plural of stuff.

I have been a collector, though. As a kid, I collected baseball cards. I collected them even before I was a baseball fan. A native St. Louisan, I always bought the packages of gum and searched for the elusive Stan Musial card. We all did. Stan's cards were much rarer than his strikeouts, though, and I never came across one. In my youth I used to think that the bubble-gum companies had fewer Musial cards available in St. Louis in order to encourage us to buy more "flips," as we called them. Today, much older and a little wiser, I am sure that there were fewer Musial cards available in St. Louis than in Chicago or Pittsburgh. And it worked. I can't believe I chewed that much bubble gum.

Today, I no longer look for Musial but I still collect things. My number one collection is clocks. I probably have between 200 and 300 clocks. Most of them don't work, or at least I don't know if they work. I didn't get them to tell the time. I got them because they're fanciful and attractive.

Their actual value isn't all that much but they're valuable to me. I have clocks just about everywhere. I have old metal clocks with horses and soldiers that gong through the night. I have wooden clocks in which the pendulum rocks back and forth, visible behind the glass on which is painted a picture of the State of Liberty or of a turkey. I have a couple of grandfather clocks and a grandmother clock. It looks like a grandfather clock but is a bit smaller (and makes better apple pies).

I have more mantle clocks than mantles. I have a cuckoo clock, and metal and wooden clocks that I carried home from Italy, Switzerland, England, and China. (This was back in the days when you could haul just about anything that you could carry on to the plane. Once I flew back from London holding a clock in my lap throughout the flight.) Some of my clocks make noises on the hour. Typically the clocks gong but occasionally you can hear dogs barking or birds chirping on the hour (three barks means that it's 3:00!). And when they're wound, a lot of my clocks gong on the 15, 30, 45, and hour.

This is not a good house if you're a light sleeper.

My favorite clocks are my

novelty electric statue clocks. My study overflows with these clocks. (I think there are books behind the clocks.) Statues of famous people are often displayed on these clocks. I have several clocks with FDR (he's standing behind the wheel of a ship, steering the country), one with Washington, Lincoln, and Jefferson (they look a bit like a singing group, in costume of course), one with pirates (looking pirate-like), another with Lincoln (still at the wheel but painted), one with McKinley (looking presidential), and two with Will Rogers (complete with microphone).

Then there are the clocks that feature non-descript folks: majorettes, ice skaters, baseball players, cowboys, and bowlers. Yep, I have all of them.

Clocks often have statues of animals, and I have quite a few with horses in different poses. I also have clocks with pheasants, bulls, eagles, dragons, and frogs. Then there are statue clocks that show things: windmill, cross, steamship, train, fireplace, cowboy boot, covered wagon, lighthouse, and girl in a swing. Did I say that I collected clocks?

I used to prowl flea markets and antique stores for clocks, and then along came E-bay and my job was much easier. Unfortunately, even this big old house has finite space so there is no more room for clocks. So much for growing the collection, eh? (If, however, you have a Joe Lewis clock, he's posed with his fists clinched, that is looking for a good home, please let me know. That's one that I don't have!)

But I have even more ties than clocks so I suspect that I collect ties too. Unlike clocks, I never consciously set out to accumulate ties. It started because I wore some ties that were pretty outrageous in other people's minds (I always feel that my ties reflect sophisticated taste. What do they know?) Since I wore ties that no one else liked because people started giving me ties that they wouldn't wear. Or that their dad wouldn't wear. Or perhaps a spouse or significant other wouldn't wear the tie. Who knows?

My tie collection grew and grew. Like some feral animal living under

the bridge, the pack of ties seemed to have a life of its own. It continued to get larger and larger, gaining sustenance from where I know not. One day I had half a dozen ties and then a score of years later I have hundreds, really, of ties. The beauty of my taste is that I don't concern myself with whether the tie matches a shirt or coat, so the mix & match possibilities are endless. Best, I never have to worry about someone taking any of my ties because most people wouldn't be caught dead in them.

You'll find me wearing the usual holiday ties – proclaiming Christmas, Chanukah, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and the Fourth of July, and sometimes I'm even wearing them on the right holidays. Actually, it's fun to wear a Santa tie in July; he doesn't mind. And I have Disney ties, Warner Brothers ties, Dr. Seuss ties, Marx Brothers ties, a Toy Story tie, and a tie of "

Starry, Starry Night." I have ties for the Three Musketeers, the Lone Ranger, a world map, and dancing ladies. Ties of mine feature cigars, birds, frogs, dinosaurs, panda bears, snakes, wild animals, fish, I-HOP food, dragons, the virus for the common cold, cowboys, guitars, baseball players, and smile-faces. I even have a tie with the painting of the dogs sitting around the table and playing cards. Of course, I have ties that are striped, checked, plaid, polka-dot, paisley, and some that are all of the above.

The good news is that ties take up a lot less space than clocks (and unlike clocks, they're never wrong). I have hundreds of ties, all crammed on a tie rack that was designed for 50 ties. I try not to wear the same tie twice in a year but I'm not organized enough to keep track of what day it is, much less what I wore when. Getting dressed is a bit of a crapshoot each morning, and that is good: It adds to the mirth of the day.

Finally, smaller in quantity but no less distinct is my collection of salt & pepper steamships. Oops, I'm running out of space! Tell me, dear reader, what do you collect? I'd like to know. Zap me at trhoerr@AOL.com (mailto:trhoerr@AOL.com) with news of your collection.

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