

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 39, No. 4

Nov. - Dec. 2009

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The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

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Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

New State Senator for our area

by Lana Stein

On November 3, residents of the 4th Senatorial District will select the person to fill out the existing term of State Senator Jeff Smith, who resigned. Only one name will be on the ballot, the Democratic nominee, Joe Keaveny. Keaveny was selected by those in the city's Democratic Central Committee that have precincts in the 4th. Keaveny has served as Democratic Committeeman for the 28th ward since 2002 and since 2004 has been treasurer of the Democratic Central Committee.



Joe is a lifelong resident of Parkview/Skinker DeBaliviere. He grew up on 62xx Westminster Pl., one of six children. His grandparents lived there as well. Joe and his wife Karen have raised their 4 children in this home as well. At least two generations attended St. Roch School.

Joe received a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He majored in business. He went on to Saint Louis University where he received an MBA in finance. In 1996, while working and with a sizeable family, he received his Juris Doctor from Saint University Law School and was admitted to the bar.

Joe worked at a brokerage for 15 years and then was in banking for 10. Corporate restructuring gave him a chance to consider alternatives and public service was top among them. Although saddened by Sen. Smith's resignation, he decided to try to be the replacement. One of his key

attributes is his ability to get along with many different people.

Joe also has served Skinker DeBaliviere well. He has had two stints on the Community Council and served as its president. He has also been a member of the Housing Corporation and is currently its head.

Initially there are two areas on which Keaveny wishes to concentrate: education and historic tax credits.

Keaveny wishes to do what is possible to strengthen the St. Louis Public Schools. At the same time, he supports charter schools to provide more alternatives for city students. Sen. Smith did a great deal this spring to keep historic tax credits alive and Joe wishes to continue that effort, so important to renewal in St. Louis.

Keaveny will take his seat in January and will then run for re-election in the August primary.

Wintermarkt is Saturday, December 5th, 2009



Join the West End Arts Council for this annual outdoor festival featuring carriage rides, a blacksmith demo, live singers and musicians, and great food and drinks. Vendors from Skinker DeBaliviere and other locals offer a wide variety of artwork and crafts for sale in time for the holidays. Proceeds from these sales and from our wonderful food booth benefit the West End Arts Council so that we can continue to bring SD great projects and events such as our Bar-B-Que Concert Series. Neighbors who wish to volunteer to work in our warm and friendly food booth can call the SDCC at 862-5122 to sign up. We also appreciate the many baked goods which are donated to the sale each year. Baked goods can be dropped off at the SDCC office at 6008 Kingsbury between 8:00 am and 9:00 am on December 5th.

For more information or to reserve a vendor space, you can call the SDCC at 314.862.5122 or email beverett@skinker-debaliviere.com or wintermarkt@gmail.com.

House History 101

Are you interested in discovering the history of your house and its former residents?

Get started at the Missouri History Museum Library and Research Center. Associate archivist Dennis Northcott will introduce you to our valuable holdings, including directories, maps and atlases, and newspapers. Participants will have the opportunity to begin research immediately after the program. Maximum 20 participants.

When: Saturday, November 14, 2009, 9:30 am

Where: Library and Research Center (225 South Skinker, across from Forest Park)

How much: \$10 per person; \$7 for Genealogy Series cardholders; \$5 for Missouri History Museum members

Reservations: To reserve a spot in this workshop, please call (314) 361-9017.



Crossroads College Prep on DeBaliviere has expanded recently with a new building and renovation project which incorporated the old radio station into their campus. With a new L-shaped Library and Science Wing, the school is now poised to be the first LEED Certified K-12 School Building in the St. Louis metropolitan region and only the second in the state of Missouri.

A neighborhood-wide food drive will be held on **Saturday, November 7**, from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

All donations will go to re-stock food pantries for the winter at our four neighborhood churches: St. Roch Catholic Church, Grace Methodist Church, New Cote Brillante Church of God, and Grace and Peace Fellowship. Put your non-perishable food donations on your front porch by 10:00 a.m., or drop off your contribution to SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury.

Call 862-5122 for more information. Items needed: canned goods, cereal, pasta, rice, soups, etc., and personal hygiene items like toothpaste, disposable razors, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, diapers, etc. The SDCC social services committee is the sponsor for this event.

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

A New Year and Changes at St. Roch School

A conversation with St. Roch principal Gloria Openlander introduced me to innovations at St. Roch, continuing the new approaches of previous years. Openlander is very proud of the St. Roch Middle School Math Project. This project is guided by Dr. Riuchard Lodholz, a math consultant and author of numerous papers, journal articles and textbooks. The project stresses the early teaching of algebra. Each 8th grader will study algebra for a full year. This will enable many students to take an accelerated math program in high school. Dr. Lodholz will team-teach some of the lessons with Paul Shaver of the St. Roch faculty.

Mr. Shaver is also a participant in Mathematicians in Residence Teachers and Mentors Working with Grade 6.

St. Roch School continues to use SMART board technology. This year, the preschool room has its own board. St. Roch computer teacher (and neighborhood resident) received her SMART board certification. She is the only certified teacher in St. Louis's Catholic schools. In addition, St. Roch was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Innovative Technology Education Fund of Missouri for professional development target to non-public schools.

Thanks to the generosity of Father Vince Bommarito at St. Ambrose, the pre-school play area is now covered in astro-turf, making it easier on little knees. Princeton Partnership performed this work. There is also brand new furniture in the computer room and new ceiling tiles in the older of the two buildings. There is new tile in four classroom floors, laid by Steve Schiller at Colonial Rug Co.

Even in these difficult times, St. Roch's student body has grown by 12 to a total of 228. The school is now accepting kindergarten and preschool registration for the 2010-11 school year.

Christmas Caroling

December 20, join the McPherson Carolers for their annual Caroling on the 6000 and 6100 blocks of McPherson. Meet at 4:30 on the Rosedale barrier, and after caroling is done, the group will go to Boxdorfers for hot chocolate and treats. All are welcome, but if others want to organize and need pointers or sheet music, call Dave Schmidt at 863-4512.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere is published by the West End Publishing Co., a not-for profit, independent, community organization. Members of the Board of Directors are:

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Guidelines for Submitting Copy

The Times welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of the Times has always depended in large part on submissions from non-staff area residents. Calendar listings should be phoned in to the editor at 721-7532, or mailed to 5953 Pershing Ave., 63112.

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: January 15, 2010. 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

The Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the council's office at 6008 Kingsbury. The Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. at 6008 Kingsbury.

November 6 - 2-4 p.m., Open House and ribbon-cutting at 2:30, 6197 Delmar, "The Corner Building," Washington University's newest improvement in the neighborhood. Tour the model unit and enjoy refreshments in the newly rehabbed unique retail spaces.

November 7 - Food Drive throughout the neighborhood. Call 862-5122 for more information or to volunteer. Leave your donation on your porch by 10:00 a.m.

November 8 - Hispanic Diversity Career and Resource Fair, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 1115 S. Florissant Rd. at Highway 70, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more information, call 837-5746 or 452-6139 or visit www.diversitycareernetworkstl.com.

November 14 - House History 101, 9:30 a.m., MOHIS Library and Research Center, 225 S. Skinker. Are you interested in discovering the history of your house and its former residents? Get started at the Missouri History Museum Library and Research Center. Associate archivist Dennis Northcott will introduce you to our valuable holdings, including directories, maps and atlases, and newspapers. Participants will have the opportunity to begin research immediately after the program. Maximum 20 participants. \$10 per person; \$7 for Genealogy Series cardholders; \$5 for Missouri History Museum members. To reserve a spot in this workshop, call (314) 361-9017.

November 12-22 -- St. Louis International Film Festival at the Tivoli, 6350 Delmar.

December 5 - Wintermarkt. For more information, call 862-5122.

December 5 - "Light up the Loop," a window decorating contest, special events hosted by Loop merchants, and the ceremonial lighting of the holiday street lights. Go to visithelooop.com or call 727-8000.

January 15, 2010 - Deadline for next issue of *THE TIMES OF SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE*. Send articles, news and photos to jvatcha@gmail.com.

Strip Mall News

McCormack Baron, a development company with projects nationally, has applied for federal funds to create a new, mixed use, transit-oriented development at the site of the DeBaliviere strip mall. Their plans call for a 5 story building with the top four used for residential and the bottom for commercial. There would be approximately 144 one and two bedroom units and the development would be mixed income; half of the units would be for lower income tenants. This development is in a very preliminary stage, and there will be meetings held in the neighborhood before decisions are made.

The Times will keep you posted. In the meantime, you may wish to view the Six North Building at Sarah and Laclede for an idea of the type building that is thought to be a model for DeBaliviere.



Jo Ann Vatcha is holding the new book, *Skinker-DeBaliviere: History and Comeback*, now available at the Missouri History Museum Gift Shop. The book may also be ordered directly (at a discount) by emailing Marj Weir at marj.weir@charter.net, or Jo Ann at jvatcha@gmail.com. A link to our online publisher is at <http://centennial.citywestend.org>.

While you're online, don't miss the full index, through which you can search someone's name and find out on what page they're featured in the book. Makes a great holiday gift!

News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

We'll start with baby news this issue. I'm happy to report that **Kim & Roo Yawitz** of the 61XX block of Westminster (and owners of the **Gramophone** at 4243 Manchester in the Grove) announced the "big



debut" of their first child, **Eliza June**, on July 3rd.

A big neighborhood welcome goes out to **Len and Joyce Banaszak** who just moved to the 61XX block of McPherson. The Banaszaks lived in Ames Place many years ago and are now returning to St. Louis from Minnesota. Len and Joyce are the parents of **Mark Banaszak** and will no doubt enjoy living on the same street as their son and his family!

Over the summer we touched on the travels of many of our neighbors, and it seems these worldly trips have continued. **Krister Knapp** and **Corinna Treitel** of the 59xx block of Pershing and

their daughter, **Isabella**, spent six weeks in Berlin and Switzerland this summer. Corinna is a German historian and was tenured and promoted at Washington University this spring.

Beth Horner, daughter of **Lisa and Bill Horner** of the 61XX block of Westminster, is a math teacher at Pius X High School in Festus and now lives in Arnold, but grew up in the neighborhood and went to St. Roch. This summer, after raising her own funding, Beth took a trip to Ghana. A service trip sponsored by the Sisters of Loretto, she found out about it as an alum of Nerinx Hall (a Loretto school). The group flew to Accra, the capital, traveled to Kumasi and lived with host families while doing service work at a couple of schools there. They did painting, construction and gave other assistance at the schools. They learned much about the culture of Ghanaian people. Before coming home, they did some sightseeing, spent some time in Cape Coast and toured the "Slave Castle", an historic site which had been a holding center for captives sold into slavery. They were excited to be there at the same time as President Obama.

Cristina McGroarty of the 61XX block of McPherson announced that she is an "oddy". It seems that Cristina had appeared in the old "Our Own Oddities" column in the Post-Dispatch. Cristina Fleener's (her maiden name) parents were born at the extreme ends of Highway I-55 (New Orleans and Chicago) They married at the eastern extreme of I-70 (Washington DC) and Cristina was born on I-270 which unites I-70 and I-55. It is titled "Interstate Baby" It appeared on December 14, 1975. Cristina was almost two when it appeared. Her dad (the late Charlie Fleener) was so proud of that column that the clipping hung in his office until he died in 2005. Cristina's oddity is enjoying a second printing in the recent book.

Another neighborhood oddity in the book was originally sent in by **Sue Santen** and ran October 9, 1977. At the time, her dad, **Art Santen**, of the 61XX block of McPherson had over 2000 different bottle openers. **Scott Santen** wrote in to the new book that Art is still collecting and was recognized by the *Guinness Book of World Records* for having collected 32,411 since 1966.

Times contributing writer, **Ligaya Figueras** is now the food columnist for the *Ladue News* with a weekly column called "Spicy Bits". Ligaya also continues to write for *Sauce Magazine* and is a contributing editor for *Art Calendar*. You can find Ligaya's articles in many other magazines as well, including *St. Louis Magazine* and *The Writer*. Her interview with St. Louis Cardinal manager Tony LaRussa appeared in the September issues of *Vegetarian Times*.

Dan and Molly Rater of Kingsbury Square both began new jobs in October, too. Dan is a radiographer at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Molly is a Nurse Practitioner in Cardiology for Washington University.

Many neighborhood residents remember the Eberle family from the 62XX block of Waterman in Parkview. Sadly, **Tina Eberle Gerard**, who also lived on the 6000 block of Pershing with her



Randy and Lauren Vines, residents of the Forest Park Condos on Washington, had their first baby on August 11. Randy and his identical twin brother brought baby **Benjamin** to the Westminster Block Party on October 10.

husband **Bryan**, passed away in October. Our condolences go to Tina's entire family.

And the 6000 block of Westminster is very sad about the recent passing of **Rose Shapiro**. Rose was a professor of English and writing at Fontbonne University and had studied, lived and worked in St. Louis for many years. She fought a long illness with grace and great strength and her many friends, many of whom were also neighbors, will miss her dearly.

Congratulations to **Bob Rice and Anne Faber** on their beautiful wedding at St. Roch's Church. Bob is the son of **Rich and Nancy Rice** of the 6100 block of Westminster. And best wishes as well to **Rachelle L'Ecuyer** on her recent marriage to **Skip Joseph**.

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!



The Westminster Block Party was on a great cool October day. Neighbor **Tim Smith** drew amusing caricatures, and everyone enjoyed the great BBQ and potluck dishes.

The Breakfast Club

By Rachel Boxdorfer



For the majority of schools in the St. Louis area, summer seems to be getting shorter every year. Happily, that is not so for the students and families of St. Roch School who still enjoy a start date every year the day after Labor Day. It does lead to the challenge of getting up and getting going every morning come September, having enjoyed a leisurely month in August though.

In order to get a head start and adjust to rising early - Skinker DeBaliviere families have begun a practice run that has turned into a fun end of summer tradition. Towards the end of the summer of 2008, St. Roch mom and McPherson resident **Pattie Voss** came up with the idea to have a casual breakfast parties the week before school started. Other mothers jumped at the idea, and the Breakfast Club was born.

The summer of 2009 brought

together even more families and breakfast was served at a different house in the neighborhood for five full days, giving everyone a reason to roll out of bed (even if they showed up in pajamas) and to share breakfast and some fun with neighbors. Participants came from both sides of Skinker (Parkview and Ames Place) and had children ages two to 13 sharing in the fun. Moms (and even a dad) enjoyed the chance to visit over coffee while children enjoyed breakfast and playing in the neighborhood. Some of the many families who participated were; the Vosses, McGroarty's, Ebelings, Boxdorfers, Banaszaks, Websters, Kramers, Hogans, Gudiswitz, and the Friesens. The breakfasts lead to final summer days playing in the neighborhood and more fond memories of another great summer.



Former neighbor **Sam Green** chatted with **Mary Powell**, Alderman **Lyda Krewson** and her husband **Mike Owens**.

Jan Scott Honored

Congratulations to Jan Scott, longtime resident of Parkview, who has recently received the "Owen Miller Award." The Owen Miller awards are named for the founding president of the Musicians' Union in St. Louis. These awards recognize the years of loyalty, dedication, fellowship, and fairness towards Local 2-197 and its members, as well as for action and deeds by which the stature of all musicians everywhere is embraced.

Jan began her musical career as 2nd flutist in the St. Louis Symphony when still at student at Washington University, at the age of 21. She went on to have a 23 year career on the faculty of SIUE, and is now Professor



Emerita. She also teaches a Financial Stress Reduction Workshop and still finds time to play Principal flute in the Gateway Festival Orchestra which plays in the WU Quadrangle in July. She serves on the board of the Musician's Association of St. Louis, Local 2-197.

Longtime Delmar Business Departs

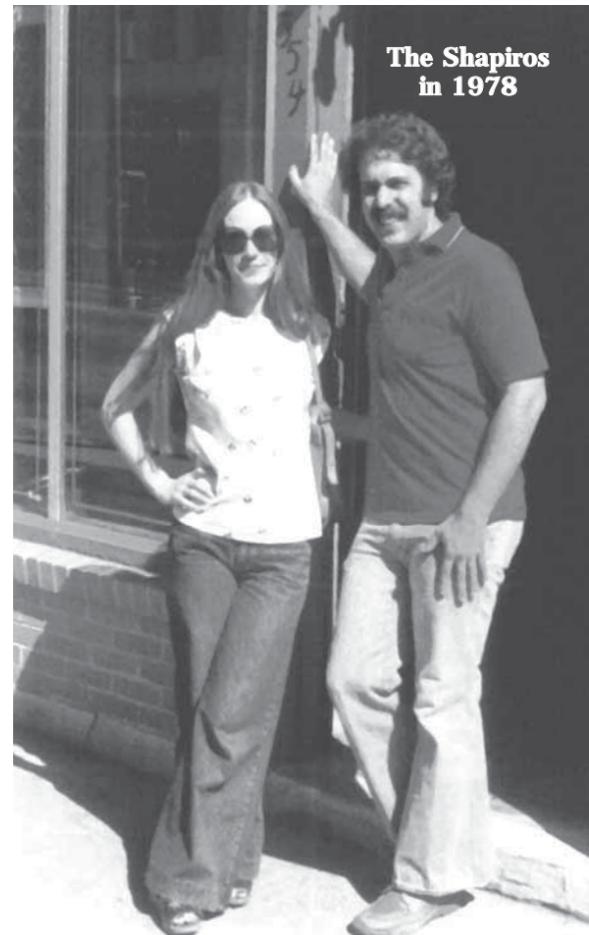
by Lana Stein

After 36 years in our neighborhood, Neal Shapiro and Original Cast Lighting are moving to much more spacious quarters in Westport. Shapiro is excited about the opportunity for his firm but also sad to leave an area that he had worked in and worked for. Because he will continue to own properties here, he intends to be in touch on a frequent basis. He will be looking for the best possible uses for his properties, located on both sides of 61xx Delmar.

In 1973, Neal and his wife Linda opened an antique business on Skinker between Waterman and McPherson. His business moved to its Delmar location in 1978. The business evolved to lighting and commercial interior design. OCL did work for Anheuser-Busch, McDonalds, and work overseas. They reproduced antique bar fixtures and lighting and eventually settled on lighting. Linda Shapiro has contributed a great deal to the company. She is also a highly recognized artist, a metalsmith.

OCL's Delmar home had originally been a tire place. The lighting company has expanded to become a national business from its humble beginnings on Delmar. Shapiro always enjoyed being here and will continue to be active. There is some interest

in developing both his properties. Housing with retail on the first floor could be a possibility on the north side (on the site of the old



Best wishes to Neal and Linda Shapiro. We look forward to hearing from them with plans for their properties on Delmar, as they relocate their expanded lighting business to Westport.

Yellow Cab Co.), while a restaurant or deli might find a home on the south side of Delmar in the current OCL building. Oct. 22 or 23 will be the day they start moving to Westport. It's a success story with a touch of bittersweet.

Upper Kingsbury Poker Club Celebrates its 25th Anniversary

by Roy Bell

I have tried to read Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* twice and even saw the Gregory Peck movie and have come to the conclusion that it really isn't about whaling. In the same way, our poker club isn't about poker; it's about a lot more important things. First of all, it has always been about cheap entertainment. When we started the Gambles would bring their daughters over and play with our girls and we could forego the cost of a babysitter. And, while the cost of movie tickets and popcorn have soared in the last 25 years, we kept our betting limits constant, nickel, dime, quarter games. I doubt that anyone has ever lost, or won, the amount of money it would have cost to take their mate to the movies. It has also been about the food. When we first started you made a point to eat before the game but we quickly evolved from the typical fare of chips and dips, peanuts and pretzels to the point where we wouldn't think of eating beforehand because we know we will have a great meal; no fried foods, it makes the cards hard to shuffle and deal.

Three of us studied for the ministry but we seldom indulge in

theological discourse. Our prayerfulness is usually confined to invoking the card gods when drawing to an inside straight or blaspheming when that fifth card is a heart and the other four are diamonds.

With two closet conservatives and an occasional third we have had some robust, even heated, discussions about politics, politicians and current events but neighborhood news, especially gossip, always trumps whatever is happening in Washington or City Hall.

The club has been a support group in dealing with issues our parents have faced in their health, their living arrangements and some of their deaths. And it has also been about other funerals, tragedies and too many friends and neighbors burying their children before their appointed time.

And of course it has been about our own attempts to age gracefully



From left, Sue Gamble, Cal Stuart, Jim Gamble, Roy Bell, Gee Stuart, Pat McLafferty, Claudia and Jerry Lawrenz.

and deal with our own frailties. Jim Gamble is our OEM, the original equipment man.

Of the eight of us, he is only one with all of the parts God gave him, the rest of us have all had something removed or replaced.

Most importantly, the club has been about our children. We take a tribal approach to our children. When Pat discovered that one of the surgery residents she knows from the hospital was dating Genevieve Gamble she let him know, in no

uncertain terms, that he better treat Genevieve right or she could make his life miserable. At last word, they are still dating. We have watched our children grow up, graduate from their various schools, establish careers, develop relationships, marry, and, for the more fortunate of us, deliver grandchildren.

No, the poker club has never been about gambling. It simply provided the structure for living life at its best—all the highs, all the lows and all the humdrum in between. I don't know how much longer it will continue. I hope it will reach the point where we all need a cheat sheet to remind us that, no, a straight does not beat a flush but if it gets to the point where we all have to re-introduce ourselves on the second Friday of the month, it will be time to quit.

Skinker-D Gastronomy

Autumn is Ripe for Apple Cake

by Ligaya Figueras

You made the annual trek to Eckert's Orchard and the kids picked enough Granny Smith's to feed every neighbor on the block. Now what? If it were up to Sally Boggeman (61XX Washington), you'd make a fresh apple cake.

"I grew up in Vermont where apples are a staple. There was always fresh applesauce in the fridge and an apple crisp or pie for dessert in the fall and early winter," said Sally, who has lived in Skinker-DeBaliviere for 25 years.

From childhood, Sally's parents instilled on her the importance of home-cooked meals. "Cooking was an important part of the daily routine, as was sharing the evening meal at 6:00 p.m.! The only time we went out for a meal was when we were traveling, and usually we packed picnics to eat the first day along the way," she recalls.

As the mother of two children, Sally adopted the same home cooking routine. Even though her children are now grown (Timothy, 35, lives with his family in Charlotte, NC. Sarah, 32, resides in St. Louis and works the emergency room at a hospital in Belleville, IL.), Sally and her husband Jim still love to cook for family and friends. She especially enjoys

spending time in the kitchen with her grandchildren or when Sarah drops by for dinner. Sally is also a first-grade teacher at New City School. She and Jim have lived on the 6100 block of Washington for many years.

Following in her father's footsteps, Sally has developed a particular fondness for baking. "Dad, at age 91, bakes bread and muffins weekly. I come by it naturally."

Among her cooking mantra: use fresh ingredients, real butter and real vanilla.

The recipe she uses to bake apple cake comes from Bakery Lane, a small restaurant in Middlebury, Vermont.

"Their cookbook is the one I use most often for soups and desserts. Though the restaurant is no longer in business, the recipe lives on."

Though autumn may be apple season,

Sally makes apple cake year round. When she is visiting her parents in Vermont, she bakes with Macintosh apples, but notes that that variety is hard to find in St. Louis. "A tart apple is best but I have used Delicious or anything I have on-hand." In Sally's estimation, it is the frosting that is so amazing. "The caramel and apples are a perfect combination."



photo by King Schoenfeld

Fresh Apple Cake

makes 1 9 X 13-inch cake

- 2 1/3 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. cloves
- 1/4 tsp. nutmeg
- 4 cups apples, peeled and chopped
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 cup walnuts, chopped
- 2 eggs
- Caramel frosting (see recipe)

Preheat oven to 325°. Combine flour, sugar, baking soda, salt and spices in a large mixing bowl. Mix until well blended. Add apples, butter, nuts and eggs to bowl. Beat at medium speed until well blended. Pour batter into a greased 9 X 13 inch baking pan. Bake for 45 minutes, or until cake springs back when touched. Remove from oven and leave in pan to cool completely on wire rack. Frost with caramel frosting.

Caramel frosting

makes about 1 cup

- 1/3 cup butter
- 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- Dash of salt
- 3 Tbsp. milk
- 1 1/2 cups confectioner's sugar
- 1/4 tsp vanilla

Melt butter in small saucepan. Add brown sugar and salt. Stir over medium heat until sugar dissolves. Add milk and bring to a boil. Pour into mixing bowl and cool 10 minutes. Add confectioner's sugar and vanilla. Beat to spreading consistency, adding additional confectioner's sugar if necessary. Spread on apple cake.

from The Bakery Lane Soup Bowl Cook Book by Marge Mitchell & Joan Sedgwick (P.S. Eriksson, 1993).

New City Celebrates 40 Years with Story Time

by Thomas R. Hoerr

New City School is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. When the School was founded in 1969, the Central West End was struggling – businesses were leaving, schools were closing and property values were declining. An intrepid group of neighbors dreamed of a unique school that would educate children in new and exciting ways, reflect the diversity of the neighborhood and stabilize this beautiful historic neighborhood. From their many conversations, hours of volunteer time, contributions of money and expertise, New City School was founded and is fulfilling their vision.

One of the ways New City continues to demonstrate its commitment to the Central West End is to host Story Time for neighbors of the School. The New City School library hosts neighborhood children and their parents for stories designed for children from infant/toddler through second grade. Story time is free and snacks will be provided.

Story time at New City has been generously sponsored by Central West End neighbors Julie and William Shearburn.

There is adult



supervision, but parents are required to stay with their children, and although there will be time to explore the library and read, books cannot be taken home.

If you have questions, or to RSVP to Debbie Nausley at 361-6411 or dnausley@newcityschool.org. New City School is located

at 5209 Waterman, at the corner of Waterman and Lake. For more information about New City School, visit www.newcityschool.org

We look forward to seeing you at New City School!

"Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm" (Churchill).

2009-10 Saturday Story Times at New City School
 (9:30 - 11:00 am)
 September 26
 October 17
 November 7
 December 12
 January 23
 February 20
 March 13
 April 17
 May 22

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 - 28th Ward Regular Democrats -

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

Meet Joe Keaveny, our new State Senator Nov. 19.

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.
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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Homecoming Dance Delivers Memorable Evening to All

By Rachel Boxdorfer

They walked over in old bridesmaid dresses and thrift store finds. Their escorts wore tux tops with plaid shorts, or leisure suits. Some sported tennis shoes and cowboy boots, while others wore heels. There were flappers, there was sequins in short lengths and long. There were couples, singles, old and new neighbors. There was dancing, eating, and some drinking, and lots of laughter and old stories. And in the end, there was a king and a queen.

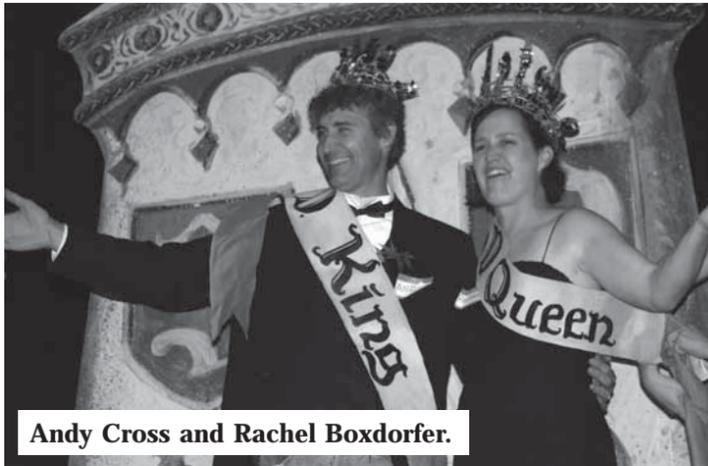
It was the big Homecoming dance at The Pageant, decorated with twinkling lights all around. The night of September 26th had finally arrived. The party was well attended, well fed, and well received. Party goers walked through the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood and The Loop in their 'creative formal' attire; many remarking that no one even looks at you funny if you are dressed this way in our neighborhood!

Some folks fit in old prom dresses and some wore their (or their husbands) high school letter jackets. Marj Weir, one of the winners of the 'best dressed' category even wore a curtain and rod, reminiscent of the old Carol Burnett skit. Taking the prize for the best dressed man was Jamie Kenyon, sporting a denim and suede 70's style pant suit. All of the creative formal contestants paraded across the stage while judges Mike Holohan, Peggy Hermes, and Bill Christman judged and shared commentary and the party goers cheered on their favorite outfits.

The evening went on with lots of dancing and what became a very competitive race for the crowning

raise even more money for the neighborhood. In the end, second generation residents, who grew up across the street from each other on Kingsbury and who now live two doors away from each other on McPherson; Andy Cross and Rachel Boxdorfer won the coveted crowns made of plastic ware and glitter glue!

Residents from all over the neighborhood and from several generations enjoyed the evening. Many old neighbors who no longer live here came back to share in the new memories. Safe to say, as the evening ended and party goers began talking about 'next year', the event was a huge success. And a success it was, raising over \$7,000 for the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. But the best part of this 'fund'raiser was that it clearly was a 'fun'raiser and was another wonderful celebration of our neighborhood and it's residents, both past and present.

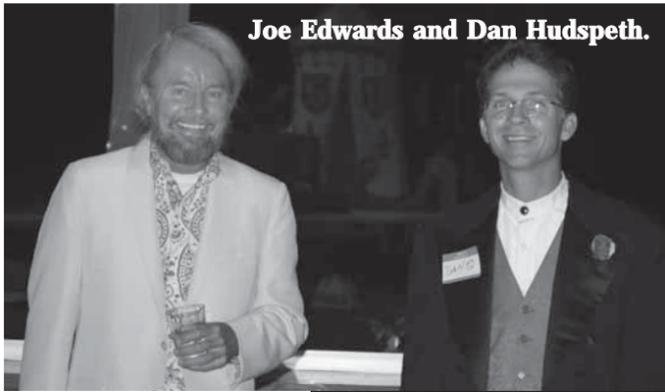


Andy Cross and Rachel Boxdorfer.

of a Skinker DeBaliviere king and queen. The competition for the crowns became intense as the night went on. Those in the running included; Cristina and Sean McGroarty, Katrina Stierholz, Joe Hogan, Matt and Rachel Boxdorfer, Beth Bender, Bill Christman, Andy Cross, and Lynn Tiede. All won prizes for their pursuit of the crown, and all were good sports, helping



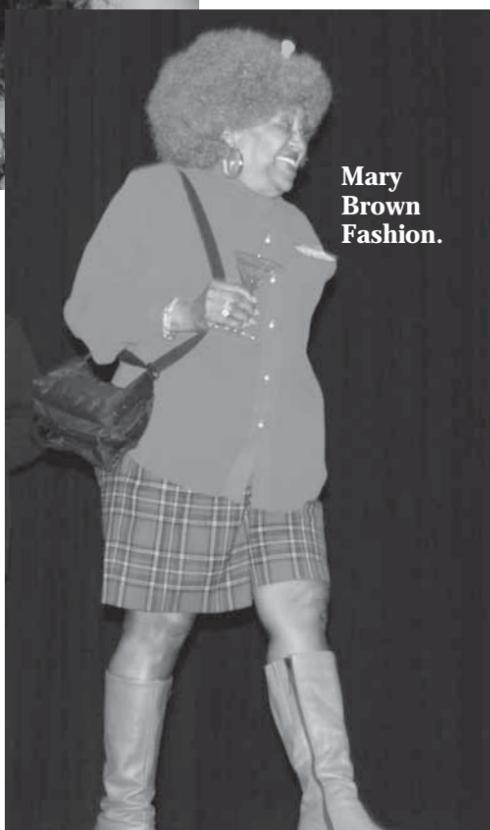
Leonard Cervantes and Rachel Storch.



Joe Edwards and Dan Hudspeth.



Bethany Everett.



Mary Brown Fashion.



Marj and Jaimie, Creative Formal Winners

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The League of American Bicyclists Recognizes Velocity

The League of American Bicyclists is proud to announce Velocity Cafe & Cyclery as a Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Business. "We're delighted to highlight Velocity Cafe & Cyclery and the ways in which they are getting more people on bikes," stated League President Andy Clark. "In today's challenging economic climate, businesses with healthy, happy and productive employees are going to be the most competitive and the most sustainable - the Bicycle Friendly Business program recognizes some of the best examples of this in practice."

Velocity makes bicycling an easy option for transportation and provides amenities such as Guaranteed Ride Home Program through Citizens for Modern Transit and incentives such as significant discounts on all bike parts and accessories.

The BFB program recognizes socially responsible businesses that promote healthy, happy, and green workplaces and provides a road map to become even more bicycle-friendly in the years to come. "Businesses across the nation are rising to the challenge of reducing their carbon footprint and improving the health of their employees - we are excited to be able to provide a road map to help achieve both these goals, and to recognize those companies that are leading the way," said Clark.

The League of American Bicyclists represents the interests of America's 57 million bicyclists, including its 300,000 members and affiliates. For more information or to support the League, visit www.bikeleague.org. Velocity Cafe & Cyclery is located at 286 DeBaliviere, (314) 361-RIDE <http://www.velocitycafeandcyclery.com/>

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Tips On How Winterizing Your Historic Home

By David Rothschild, Historic District Review Committee

The Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood has many wonderful beautiful historic buildings, these homes, condominiums, and apartments can be much more difficult to heat than modern buildings. There are also considerations with preserving historic architectural elements. Please consider these tips as you try to conserve energy in your home this winter.

- Make sure to properly service your boiler system if your residence still uses radiant heat, also make sure you let the extra air out of the radiators. Malfunctioning boilers can cause higher utility bills.
- Make sure the dampers on your fireplaces are working properly

and that they have a tight seal. Having a damper that is working correctly can prevent heat from escaping. Also make sure that your chimney has been cleaned and is ready for use.

- Install storm windows over single pane windows, or make sure existing storms are fully closed and that they have been properly caulked.
- Install weather stripping around all of your exterior doors, this will prevent cold air from entering the home.

We hope that you have found these tips helpful and that they reduce your utility costs. Have a wonderful cozy winter!

Concert Series Gets a New Flavor

by Andy Cross

In preparation for the Centennial Celebration in October 2009, the West End Arts Council encouraged Dan and Phil Lodholz to bring the concert series regular bar-b-que up a notch. The Centennial Committee wanted to offer something better than the standard burgers, brats, and hot dogs. Thinking back to concert series' just a few years ago, the WEAC had offered different bar-b-que items on different concert nights, like chicken wings, larger burgers, fresh vegetables, and other side dishes. Knowing the Lodholz's superior bar-b-que talent we told them to do whatever they thought would be good. We were using the 2008 concert series as a test market and to work out productions kinks so we could deliver the goods at the big centennial party.

Dan and Phil first introduced their smoked ribs with their own special blend of seasonings, and amazed the concert crowd. The next concert they floored us all again with their incredible smoked/steamed chicken. Their bratwurst formula is also a winner, along with the most tender and sweet corn on the cob steamed on the grill. When the October 11th centennial party arrived, their foods were so fine that they sold all of their food in less than one half hour and sent out for more supplies throughout the event.

Keeping up the momentum that the centennial events created, we continued the concert series this summer despite funding challenges. Our outdoor concert series is a great place for neighbors to gather together. As a tip of the hat to Phil and Dan and their dedicated volunteers, we renamed the concert series as the "Bar-B-Que Concert Series". This year Phil and Dan introduced their latest creations - recently perfected pulled pork, and later pulled chicken recipe. We decided to use this year's concert series as a launching pad to build up momentum for the newly reinvented neighborhood homecoming. Fashion shows and sales pitches helped inform and encourage folks to get involved in this great new event. Great food, great neighbors, and great live music make our concert series a highlight of SD activities.

Members of all of the bands commented on what a nice crowd of friendly people we have, and how much they enjoy performing for Skinker DeBaliviere. Thanks again to all who volunteered for our concerts and to all who attended. We hope to see you next year.

Home repair & improvement grown locally.

By Norb Hart

Wondering what to do with that window sash needing a new cord or chain? Contemplating a restoration or home improvement job? We have resources right here to make it easy for you. This issue we feature 3 businesses that can help you (and hopefully more to follow).

Earnest Riggins has operated Matriarch Home Repair & Remodeling for several years. You may have noticed his van on 6000 Kingsbury where he resides. Mr. Riggins does general home repair and improvement, including bath and kitchen work. Other work includes tile, drywall, framing, painting, plumbing and plastering. He recently changed the name of his operation to Best Bid Home Repair to reflect his commitment to challenge other bids for work. His new number with this venture is 314-920-5696.

Also visible in the neighborhood is Jon Dahl's "The Carriage House Shop" whose card conveniently reads "home repair and improvements; no job too small." Even more convenient is his website: www.carriagehouseshop.com. His number is 314-863-4821. Most of us are familiar with his lofty carriage house, one of the few East of Skinker (I'd have to brag that I can include mine too, although I barely make the cut!).

Also in this picture is Dan Lodholz of 5700 DeBaliviere who operates Re-Birth Development, "Sustainable Restoration." Dan does home improvement and remodeling, with some jobs featuring his own cabinetry (he utilizes Amish manufacturers from Bowling Green when he does not do his own). Dan's experience ranges from complete gut rehabs to concrete, tile, and hardwood floors, all with a view of sustainable and environmentally considerate work. Dan can be reached at 314-495-1386.



The Historic Home plaque makes a perfect holiday gift – and Katie Kurtz will be ordering some soon. Call or email her for details.

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IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

"Look, that young girl is pushing the older lady off the rolling log and into the water! And over there, behind the guy in a tuxedo, is a vat of 1,000 roaches about to be tipped into the river where the lady will land! Ha!

But it's getting better because the catapult was triggered and now the young girl is being hoisted to the top of the ramp by her ankle. Check it out:

She's going to be dropped down a water chute where she'll land in a vat of sour milk. Her partner, the muscular guy in the fish-net jersey who's wearing a helmet, can save her but my guess is he ignores her so he can open Secret Door #2 and see if he has a take-home prize! God, this is exciting - what fun!" No, that wasn't a closed-doors U.S. senate subcommittee meeting on health care, it was a segment of a reality tv show, "The Big Kahuna." I'll talk to you during the commercial - it seems that there is always a commercial - because I don't want to miss an exciting moment.

Reality television shows are a big thing. Why be lured into a fantasy plot or enter a dream world when you can see - touch, it seems - the baser and lower instincts of person after person? Whether it's "Survivor," "American Idol," "Fear Factor," "The Amazing Race," "Eat Another Baloney Sandwich," "Dancing with the Stars," or "Mission Impossible," or "Star Search," the participants never fail us by never failing to fail us. Avarice, deception, prevarication, misogyny, live roaches, and chocolate all come together to enthrall us. "Hill Street Blues," "E.R.," "L.A. Law," and "Lassie" simply cannot compare. (OK, Lassie comes close. Arf!)

And then there's Susan Boyle, the star of "Britain's Got Talent." How can we not like, not identify with, someone who has so much raw talent and yet, um, and yet, er, how to say this, but someone who isn't as photogenic as the norm? I mean, her looks shouldn't matter; she won for her singing and she can really suspend a tune. Perhaps the fact that we are so astounded by her success is the best evidence of how superficial we've become. (If you doubt this, watch the weather portion of your local news. Indeed, just watch the local news! Why

should the news readers all look as if they have come from a Lands End catalogue?)

Speaking of reality tv, if you're into the game shows and live heartache, you must be a fan of "News At Five" and Six and Ten. After all, that 30 minutes is about as real as it gets. "If it bleeds, it leads" is certainly the mantra of the local news. I mean, must we hear about every altercation and shooting? I am not much interested in reading about Wyatt Earp, so why would I be fascinated by the goings-on in Cahokia, Carondelet, and Clayton?

And then there is this notion that if someone is grief-stricken and crying, that person needs to be on the air. Best, we can show them live while they sob and deteriorate in front of the cameras. Please! Where is our dignity - where is theirs? Yep, that's reality tv. In this entire community, some people must be doing good things, there have to be successes, why aren't those stories told? (Honest answer: We'd be bored! Ho-hum, another good Samaritan does a nice deed.)

But back to the real reality tv - or maybe it's the unreal reality tv.

That's a bit like jumbo shrimp or military intelligence. The shows that have been created thus far have obviously resonated with folks, but I think they've only begun to scratch the surface. Reality shows are designed to show our worst side, so why not get really base and show the worst of the worst?

Here then, Hollywood, are you listening? Are Hawkeye's scenarios for reality tv shows that would bring out the Republican in all of us:

1. Do you want to mail that first-class? In this show, people are plucked off the street and taken to a post office with a package to be mailed.

The cameras roll as they wait in line while the workers move s-l-o-w-l-y and while they take a break once the line reaches nine people. It shouldn't be that hard to buy stamps, but it is. Then, when they finally get to the head of the line, it's apparent that the contestants' box has something loose inside that jiggles when the box is tipped. Can you imagine the mirth and frustration that are captured on film? The winner is the person who endures the line in order to mail the package and has their package

received within six working days.

2. My cable is out. For this show, cameras were placed in homes long enough ago that their presence is forgotten. In fact, sometimes a resident moves away and a new homeowner is living there without any knowledge of the cameras. (Carefully now, look up at the corner where the walls and ceiling meet. Do you see a tiny silver object with a shiny end?) Anyway, about 20 months after the cameras are placed, the homeowner's cable is surreptitiously sliced. Yep, you've guessed it: The unwitting resident calmly calls Charter Cable to get it fixed. Ha! This scenario is consistently bad, so much so in fact that there was consideration to turn the footage into two shows: One dealing with trying to talk to a live human being and the other trying to resolve the problem. Believe me, tis catches us at our worst. It's still another example that monopolies are not a good thing.

3. I'll take a shortcut and use the Forest Park Expressway. No explanation is necessary for this puppy other than to say that there was a hidden camera in your car the last time that you tried this.

4. Let's go downtown and enjoy the St. Louis Riverfront. Hidden cameras capture the discussions among visitors who have come enjoy themselves on the shores of our Mississippi. We natives accept the river for what it is - a slightly larger version of River Des Peres - but out-of-town folks are always dismayed to see that there are no recreational areas, touring boats, water play areas, sand areas for beach volleyball, nice restaurants, or an aquarium. It's such a treat to watch the tourists go through the predictable stages: disbelief, puzzlement, frustration, anger, and vowing to find a more exciting vacation spot next year. (Cincinnati, even Cincinnati, has capitalized on its riverfront. Go figure.)

5. I owe how much for my medical test? And which test was this??? Yes, dear reader, Hawkeye resisted the temptation to do an easy column on the shortcomings of our health care system. It would have been a

bit too much like catching fish in a barrel; dead fish at that. Sure, I understand that 85% of us are satisfied with our health care system; why shouldn't we be? Most of us are healthy so don't really use it, and for most of us, it's free.

After all, if we pay for our health insurance or even if our employer does, we generally don't know what the actual services cost us. In this show, people with an illness (not a deathly illness, although that might raise the ratings, come to think of it!) are followed as they try to figure out for what they're being billed and what the co-pay is and to whom they should send a check and why didn't their doctor tell them this? Most of these shows end with the contestants taking medicine for high blood-pressure, whether or not it was an issue when they began their health journey.

OK, tv buffs, there you have it. Think of the white and black metal Scotty dogs that were magnets. These are Hawkeye's scenarios for reality shows that are bound to attract and repel. Next month I'll offer some suggestions for who the moderators for these shows might be. (Hint: Unlike the local news, I'm seeking folks with gravitas, definition, credibility, and natural hair. I wonder what Jerry Lewis is doing these days? Stay tuned!)

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