

# The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 39, No. 5

Feb. - March 2010

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## Prominent Developer Eyes Project on DeBaliviere

by Lana Stein

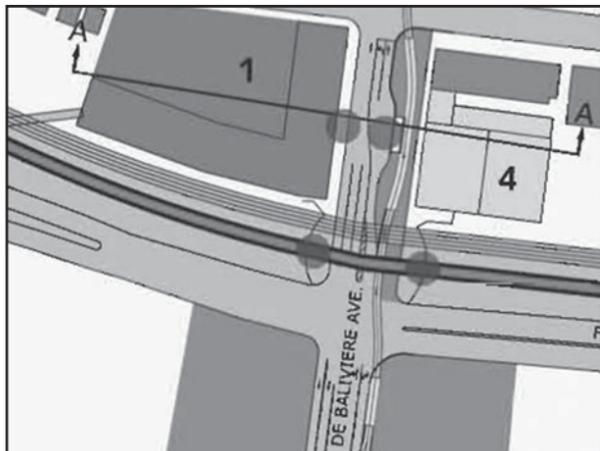


6 North at Laclede and Sarah is one of McCormack Baron's developments for mixed-income tenants, with emphasis on universal design.

On January 14, Richard Baron, CEO of McCormackBaron Salazar, presented a proposal for a mixed-use development on DeBaliviere and Pershing to a group of Skinker DeBaliviere and DeBaliviere Place residents at Crossroads College Preparatory School. Baron was assisted by Cady Scott and architect Andy Trivers. Baron first discussed his company's track record. It has developed over 15,000 units of housing in St. Louis and across the United States. It also played a prominent role in Crossroads' recent green expansion.

Metro's current parking lot is the proposed site for a development that would include retail at the ground level and one and two bedroom rental apartments as well as a parking structure for residents and MetroLink patrons. Rents would range from \$700 to \$1,200 and 40% of the units would be affordable housing and 60% market rate. The development would be four stories.

McCormack Baron Salazar has submitted an application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for stimulus funds for this project and other sources of capital would be sought. Developers across the nation have sought stimulus funds, projects totaling many times over the sum available. Baron indicated that his firm would pursue the



# 1 indicates the Metro-owned site on DeBaliviere.

project even if stimulus funds were not forthcoming.

The original concept for this project included the strip mall just to the north. Baron is continuing to talk to the mall owners and hopes development can be expanded northward.

The design of the project will be compatible with the area. The retail would cover 10,000 square feet and could include a restaurant or facilities useful to transit users. In addition, certain traffic-related issues would be addressed.

Pedestrian crossings would be redesigned and Pershing would receive direct access to the MetroLink station. The development's apartments would have universal design. Such design standards permit those with disabilities to live independently.

McCormack Baron Salazar has site control now. The decision about DOT funding will be announced by February 15. The audience asked a number of questions but no open opposition developed.

At its January meeting, the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council elected the following new officers:

President - Katrina Stierholz  
Vice President - Michael Noble  
Treasurer- Dan Hudspeth  
Secretary - Rachel Boxdorfer

## Valentine's Day Shopping Along the Loop

By Ann Dollimore

Lovers of properly brewed tea would die for the glazed/unglazed teapot and "boat cups" by Paul Eshelman at **Craft Alliance**, while Sam Stang's Blue and Yellow Murrini bottles will appeal to every collector of America's finest hand blown glass. Very understated small wooden cutting/cheese board sets are made from selectively harvested lumber and lightly etched with designs from nature; the non-schmaltzy greeting cards from Plant Me, (several have whimsical love birds), all are embedded with herb seeds to bury when frosts have ended. Prices: \$6.00 to \$450

With just a hint at a corseted bodice, the deceptively demure little black cocktail dress at **Tantrum** achieves its real edge with an inset of heavy black cotton lace at the back to show off shoulders; also, for a good deal more than sheer comfort there are sassy plaid flannel shirts with studs by JAK, and the "collars" necklaces with flounces of gauzy petals in either hot pink or aquamarine, to dress up a simple V-neck top. Prices: \$25-\$60

Staff at **Vintage Vinyl**, where it's mostly the vinyl that's vintage, suggested a large selection from compilations named For Lovers (Verve label), performed by Louis Armstrong, Billy Holiday, Sarah Vaughan, John Coltrane, Charlie Parker, Ella Fitzgerald and many others. Price: roughly \$12

According to some, it is Madagascar's only export, and rarely found in shops -- the Ocean Jasper at **Silver Lady** is dreamy. Made from another somewhat rare mineral, the Variscite pendant has been beautifully polished and cut to reveal its thick, rich apple-green vein. Prices: \$80-120

There's a lingering misperception among shoppers that **Subterranean Books** deals in used books -- not so! Staff recommends Us: Americans Talk About Love, edited by John Bowe and the unusual notebooks, journals and paper hand-made by local artists. Prices: \$10-\$16

At **MacroSun** find an unassuming little shadow box from Bali. It frames a hand-carved, gently abstract "loving couple" entwined to form a heart. There are also long silk skirts and slippers, all produced through fair trade. Prices: \$20-\$50

Very enticing at **Plowsharing** are gloves, mittens, and scarves in solids, variegated jewel colors and bold stripes made from Alpaca -- softer and warmer than cashmere and hypo-allergenic. Look for baskets of plump, vibrant red heart-shaped "worry stones" that fit perfectly and feel wonderful in the palm of your hand. At another table the Trunk Scrub Shea soaps -- naturally moisturizing in Lavender, Tea Tree and Rosemary, are made by Global Mamas, a non-profit organization helping women in Africa develop businesses. Prices: \$3-\$30

Especially for men and designed to go almost anywhere, the Samuel boot by Bronx at **Sole and Blues** gives extra comfort with its generous leather in-sole; the slender waterproof bags made by Urban Oxide Village with recycled material are rated indispensable by men who travel. Made by Toms, the "classic slip-ons" (and you wouldn't mind living in these) look like a quirky spin-off of the French espadrille. They are made from recycled, materials, some in leather and others with a vegan option. For every pair of shoes sold, Toms gives a pair to a child in need. Prices: \$60-\$170

Just as the label says, the citrus soy votives at **Good Works** are truly lemony. They come in other fragrances and are found close to boxes of festive beeswax tapers. You might want to investigate the Climbing Tendril wine rack mobiles, made of entwined metal vines that hold six bottles. Prices: \$3-\$40.

As to Valentine's Day offerings from **Ben & Jerry's** -- think of hot fudge sundaes and small ice cream cakes, made to order! Prices: \$6-\$21

With a little notice, and for flowers that are fragrant you may order a dozen single pale roses, or a combination of roses, star gazers (which come in plum as well as white) and stock, in a classic, long white box tied with ribbon, from **Blooms in the Loop**. Prices: \$60-\$70/dozen

# Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

As I write this the snow is still on the ground and the temperature is well below freezing. This weather imparts a type of gloom I used to experience in Michigan, a desolation to be truthful. This mood will affect what I write today. Frankly, political coverage is giving me – a true junky – dyspepsia. It's all about scoring points and not serving the people. Careful analysis cannot stand in the way of careless rhetoric. Case in point: the underpants bomber. This is a perfect case of the inherent nature of bureaucracy. Bureaus often do not get along with what they see as rival bureaus and do not easily share information. In addition, so much information may be coming in so that that which is most salient is overlooked. Bureaucracies operate in patterns and change is difficult. Not long ago, I told an editor that government is not the problem, bureaucracy is. And, bureaucratic maladies affect the private sector as well.

What frightens me is that many in the general populace are influenced by media frenzy and do not understand the complexities of policy or governance. Our great recession leads to hardship, fear, and choosing a simple answer to contemporary woes. Hence, tea parties. This movement will play an important role in this election year, which to some of us is as dreaded as the tundra-like conditions outside our windows.

Dear Readers,

Due to a technical glitch, the name of the smart boards coordinator at St. Roch School was omitted from my piece in the last issue. Nancy De Bettencourt is that coordinator and has done a fine job. Sincere apologies,

- Lana Stein

# Calendar

Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the office at 6008 Kingsbury. The Skinker-DeBaliviere Housing Corporation meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at 6008 Kingsbury. Other committees and event-planning groups meet at other times. For information, call Bethany Everett at 862-5122.

**February 20, 2009**, Memorial Service for Bruce Smith at SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury. Call 862-5122 for time.

**February 23, 2009**, Special event at Washington University's Kemper Art Museum, "Women and the Kemper." Women and the Kemper is a membership special interest group open to all Museum members. Participants in Women and the Kemper enjoy opportunities to learn about and encourage women's participation in the visual arts through engagement with the programs and resources at the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum. The group offers a range of educational and social activities, such as study groups on art-related topics and an annual fall luncheon in the Museum's Saligman Family Atrium. Annual dues are \$ 25. For more information, call or go online. Washington University-Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, 1 Brookings Dr., (Steinberg Hall) .314-935-4523. The Kemper Art Museum's collection encompasses some 3,000 objects, with the strongest holdings in 19th-, 20th- and 21st-century European and American art. Go to kemperartmuseum.wustl.edu.

**February 25, 2010**, 7th District Community Partnership presents 5th Annual Police "Officer of the Year" Luncheon 11:30-1:00, Pageant Theatre. Tickets are \$20 or \$200 for table of 10. MC is Ed Goodman of KEZK Radio, and speaker will be Blues Right Winger Cam Janssen. For more info, call Kathleen Suarez, Community Outreach Officer, 444-0047, or email kmsuarez@slmpd.org.

**March Gardening Gurus, spring series (Cost: Free!):**

- Sat. March 6, 2 p.m., Stewart Clark on moles
  - Wed. March 10, 6 p.m., Alan Branhagen on fruiting trees, shrubs
  - Sat. March 20, 2 p.m., Mimo Davis on cut flowers
- Where: Bowood Farms garden center, 4605 Olive Street, 63108

**Skinker-DeBaliviere: History and Comeback**, is 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 gift!

## The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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 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: March 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.



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**Katie Kurtz for details.**

The Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council Board of Directors, on December 14, voted to terminate Darcell Braylock as Executive Director based on a performance evaluation. SDCC wishes Darcell well in the future. A diligent search for a new Executive Director will begin this Spring. Bethany Everett is now serving as Administrative Director for SDCC and will be handling all administrative duties for the SDCC office.

# News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Is it really February already? That is hard to believe. We'll start off this Valentine month then with news of a wedding! **Robert Rice** married **Anne Faber** at St. Roch Church on October



24th. **Monsignor Sal Polizzi** performed the ceremony which was followed by a reception at the Probst Clubhouse in Forest Park. Bob's best man was his son **Brian**. Bob Rice is the son of **Richard and Nancy Rice** of the 6100 block of Westminster. Bob and Anne reside in St. Louis.

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, if you are looking for a fun way to celebrate with your sweetie, **Dan Elze** of the 6000 block of McPherson has a great suggestion. Why not head out on Saturday, February 13th for dinner in The Loop followed by a concert at Blueberry Hill? Dan's band, the very popular "That 80's Band" will be playing all your favorite 80's music. Or, just grab your friends and neighbors and see the show for a fun night out! You won't be disappointed.

Welcoming new neighbors is something we like to do in this column as well. So a belated welcome to the neighborhood goes out to **Todd and Alise Schwartzlow** of the 5700 block of DeGiverville. Todd is from the Milwaukee area and Alise is from New Orleans. They moved here after living in England for three years. Todd is in the Air Force and is currently working at Scott Air Force Base.

In the last issue of the *Times*, we shared news of some of the exciting trips neighbors had taken over the summer. Well, we've got one more that may top all the other stories. **Janice Wang** accompanied her husband **Herman Pontzer** on the trip of a lifetime to Tanzania.



Herman spent a total of two months there, while Janice met up with him and enjoyed a two and a half week visit, beginning with a 30 hour flight from St. Louis to the capital of Dar Es Salaam. Highlights of the trip included the exotic island of Zanzibar (known as the Spice Island for its historic plantations) and a safari on the mainland through the Selous Game Reserve where they saw lions, elephants, zebras, giraffes, impala, wildebeests, and more! Janice and Herman live on the 6100 block of Washington and highly recommend a trip like this to all of us!

As always – I am pleased to share some baby news. It seems the male population is growing in Skinker DeBaliviere! The month of November brought two new playmates to the 6100 block of McPherson, a street that is quickly becoming the place for little boys. The family of **Zellie and John McLelland** welcomed their third child, Christopher on November 2nd. Proud siblings are **Jack and Claire**. And **Heather Corcoran and Greg Thompson** had another boy, **Oscar James**. Oscar was born on November 30th and is proud to be the little brother of **Sam** and big sister **Margaret**! Over on the 5700 block of DeGiverville, **Morgan Cole and Ryan Moore** welcomed their second child, **Simon Thomas**.



Simon was born on November 23rd. There is no doubt that big sister **Maggie** is thrilled!

A couple of our neighbors are on the mend after some health issues. **Joe Schoemehl** had a tonsillectomy on December 29th and **Dave Schmidt** spent two months recovering in Chicago from heart surgery that he had in November. Dave is back home now on the 6100 block of McPherson. We send best wishes for speedy recoveries to everyone!

Sadly, we lost a couple of neighbors this winter as well. **Bruce Smith**, shown here with longtime friend Dave Schmidt, lived on

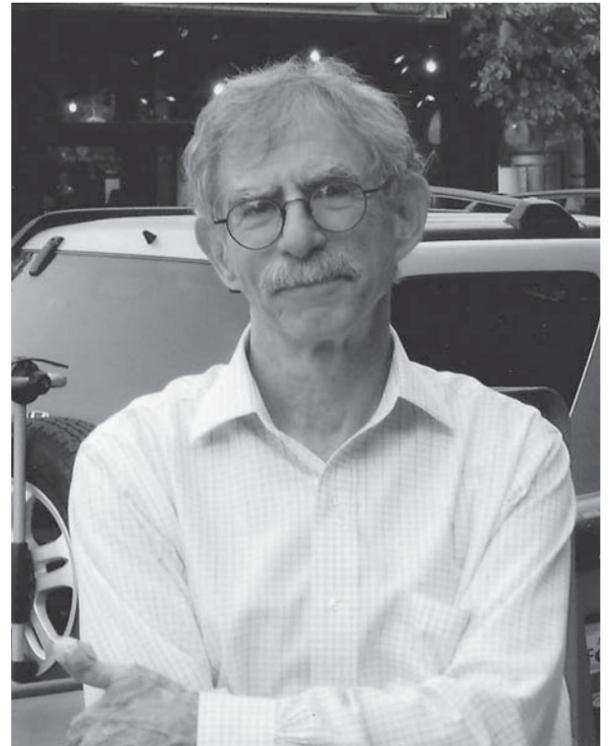


the 5800 block of Pershing for over 40 years passed on after a long illness on December 1. Bruce was very involved for many decades

with the 28th Ward Democrats, helped with St. Louis Police Community Relations for the 7th District, the 100 Neediest Cases, Scouting for Food, and taught hunter education for the Missouri Department of Conservation. Bruce also spent a lot of his time repairing and rebuilding bikes for neighborhood kids, and supplying bike helmets to them. He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, **Dee and Tom LeRoy**. A memorial service for Bruce will be held at the SDCC office on February 20. Call SDCC at 862-5122 for more information.

**Sara Newton**, a long time Parkview resident on the 6200 block of Waterman passed away on December 8th. Sara was the wife of **Talmage** and mother of **Talmage and Rohan**. Sara served for seven years as a Parkview agent and was also heavily involved in Girl Scouts and Boys Scouts, even receiving several awards from the Greater St. Louis area Boy Scout Council. Sara was also an accomplished poet.

Time for a new chapter ... As many of you are probably already aware, our neighbor **Barry Leibman** of the 6000 block of Westminster, retired recently after over 30 years of owning Left Bank Books. His departure from the store was well documented in both the *West End Word* and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. For those who have had the pleasure of knowing Barry, and for everyone who has enjoyed shopping at Left Bank Books, it's not a surprise that local news took such an interest. Barry's



partnership and presence in the business is a big part of what makes the Left Bank Book experience so wonderful. Barry's last day at the store was December 31st. He and his wife **Caroline** are looking forward to beginning a new chapter of their lives this year. They are planning to move to Whidby Island in Puget Sound near Seattle. We will miss both Barry and Caroline here in the neighborhood. They are often seen out on their many walks and both always have a big smile and a kind word for their neighbors. For book lovers, Left Bank Books is still available for your shopping pleasure (with two locations, one in the CWE and one in downtown St. Louis).

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

### Friends of Skinker-DeBaliviere Campaign

January 16, 2010

Dear Neighbor:

When working on events at the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office, it is always a pleasure to hear people say "I am new to this neighborhood, and I'm so impressed with the events and friendly neighbors here!" The dedication and involvement from neighbors long ago and today has held our neighborhood together in good times and in bad. This is apparent in the beautifully revised and updated book "Celebrating Skinker DeBaliviere: History and Comeback" which was released this year.

We are all proud of what our neighborhood has accomplished and the SDCC looks forward to working with you as our history continues to develop. The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council is an important part of our history. From interesting traffic challenges, to entertaining events at Greg Freeman Park, new buildings on Delmar, and colorful community gardens, the SDCC has been an integral resource. Its purpose, as stated in the bylaws SDCC works to promote the welfare of the community, creating and establishing a medium of cooperation among its residents, businesses, institutions, and the organizations serving them, and by fostering and encouraging measures conducive to the improvement of the community and its resources.

The Council office is maintained from Institutional Supporters, grants when available, fundraisers, and donations (which are tax deductible). Your support of the Friends of Skinker DeBaliviere Campaign will help create an exciting 2010 and beyond. Please join us in supporting this effort.

Thank you,

Andy and Linda Cross,  
Committee Co-Chairs

Katrina Stierholz  
President of the Board, SDCC



SDCC board member Ruth Johnson organized a splendid luncheon again this year for the Police and Firefighters. Neighborhood residents brought dozens of dishes for this annual December event. Bethany Everett, SDCC Administrative Assistance, and other volunteers helped make the event a successful "Thank-You" to the police and firefighters serving our area.

### Changes in City Services

The Streets Department has recently experimented with once-a-week trash pickup, which is said to be the rule in other municipalities in the region and throughout the country. Since Thanksgiving, one alley route in each city ward has been receiving this once-a-week service as a trial. According to Streets Director Todd Waelterman and Alderwoman Lyda Krewson, this has been successful. City officials hope that it will also encourage more citizens to recycle, to become more aware of what they're throwing away, and to walk a few more steps if needed to a dumpster that is not full. Some of the 300 gallon trash receptacles

will be replaced with ones that hold 600 gallons. Another "plus" would be retiring fuel-inefficient trucks, making this a part of the city's "green initiative." Recent furloughs of city employees have made it clear that the city's budget crunch is real, and going to weekly instead of bi-weekly trash pickup will help reduce the need to lay off others.

For trash problems, call the Citizens' Service Bureau, 622-4800. Electronically, you can send your messages to <http://stlc.in.missouri.org/csb/csb.cfm>. To learn more about recycling centers, visit <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle>.



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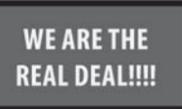
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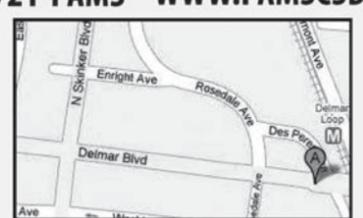
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# Skinker-D Gastronomy

## Future chef Ivy Tominack shares lessons from the kitchen

by Ligaya Figueras

Ivy Tominack (60XX Waterman) has lived in Skinker-DeBaliviere for six years.

Although the Maryland native moved to St. Louis for a job in public health education, these days, working with food dominates her waking moments. Based on her culinary studies at L'Ecole Culinaire, back-of-the-house knowledge from working at Eclipse at the Moonrise Hotel and her green thumb (she's a member of the McPherson Community Garden), we knew that Ivy would have a tasty recipe to share with neighbors. Her braised lambs don't disappoint and neither do her thoughts about the joys of cooking.

### Who inspired you to cook?

My mother is amazing. I would watch her working in the kitchen to feed all of us (I'm one of 12 children). I figured if I could make food, my mom wouldn't have to work so hard. When I was 10 or 11 years old, she said, "Anyone who can read can cook." Based on the subsequent kitchen disasters, I'd have to say that her statement was a gross oversimplification.

### What do you love about cooking?

People love to eat. Feed people and they're happy. Feed people something that looks and tastes wonderful, and they're ecstatic. I love making people feel ecstatic.

Cooking is a loving, nurturing act. It is a noble profession. When you go out to eat, know that the people preparing your food are doing so out of love for the art and science of cooking and a love for our fellow humans.

### When do you get the urge to prepare braised lamb shanks?

Frigid temperatures call for stews and braised dishes. You need to eat something warm and heavy to ward off the chill. Eating this dish should make you feel like you're wrapped in a cozy sweater or getting a hug from your favorite person.

### Any recommendations for accompaniments?

White bean cassoulet is a classic accompaniment to lamb. Roasted root vegetables like turnip, rutabaga, and parsnip also work well. To add some color to the plate, I recommend sauteed spinach and polenta.

### What is your role at Eclipse?

I have been at Eclipse since it opened last April. My title is line cook. I am the assistant to Claire, the pastry chef. I bake breads for the dinner service, quick breads for breakfast, cookies, etc. I make dessert sauces and garnishes. When not doing pastry, I work on the "cold" side making salads, appetizers, and desserts. Sometimes I work the broiler on the "hot" side. I also work as a dish steward; that's one of the most important jobs in the kitchen. Without dishes, no one can do his or her job, including the front of the house. Seriously, the whole place would shut down.

### What are your plans after you graduate from L'Ecole Culinaire this summer?

I plan to continue working at Eclipse and glean as much knowledge and experience as I can from executive chef Maurice Reed, pastry chef Claire Robberson, sous chef Brendan Noonan, late-night chef Tony Baker and chef de cuisine Wes Johnson.

To see them at work is humbling and awe inspiring. I am so grateful to work with so many skilled and talented people.



photo by King Schoenfeld

Ivy Tominack (right) is shown at Eclipse Restaurant at the Moonrise Hotel with another neighborhood staffer, Alex Birch, who lives on Pershing.

## One of Our Treasures

by Lana Stein

I recently spoke with a longtime resident of the neighborhood, Ilene McGinn. She lived on 60xx Pershing for over 40 years. She went to first grade at St. Roch School and was married at that church. Her life clearly involved the neighborhood which she calls "friendly and kind." Although she now resides in Webster, she returns here frequently because of Charing Cross Library on Skinker. The librarian, Charles Lampkin, to her epitomizes the friendliness and kindness of Skinker DeBaliviere.

McGinn wanted to recognize Charles' special qualities. She said that "he treats everybody exactly the same." He gives his undivided attention to the patrons. In fact, "he makes you feel like the only patron of the library. No request is out of bounds. If it's in print, he'll get it." She has never been disappointed after a visit to the library. Sometimes he will get a book for her she did not request because he thought it was something she'd like. He is able to relate to each person and that



person's reading tastes.

McGinn helped to campaign to get a bookmobile for the neighborhood years ago and helped to move books to Charing Cross from the Kingsbury kiosk. Our library remains very special to her as does an exceptional librarian whom many adore.

## Braised Lamb Shanks

Courtesy of Ivy Tominack. Serves 6

- 1 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- 6 lamb shanks, trimmed of excess fat salt and ground black pepper
- 1 large onion, sliced thick
- 4 shallots, cut in half
- 6 cloves of garlic, peeled
- 3 medium carrots, cut into 2-inch pieces
- 2 celery stalks, cut into 2-inch pieces
- 2 Tbsp. tomato paste
- 1 Tbsp fresh rosemary, chopped
- 2 tsp. fresh thyme leaves
- 2 cups dry red wine
- 3 cups chicken broth

Adjust oven rack to the lower middle position and preheat the oven to 350°. In a Dutch oven, or heavy bottomed pot, heat the olive oil over medium high heat until it shimmers.

Generously season the lamb shanks with salt and pepper and cook them on all sides. To get a really nice brown color, cook each side for about 3 to 4 minutes. (You may have to brown the shanks in batches of two or three. You do not want to crowd the pan, because that will cause them to steam, not brown.)

Once browned, transfer to a plate and cover with aluminum foil.

Drain all but 2 tablespoons of fat from the pot. Add the onion, shallots, garlic, carrots, celery, tomato paste, herbs, and a sprinkle of salt. Cook until the vegetables are slightly softened, about 4 minutes. Do not brown the vegetables.

Add the wine, then the chicken broth, and stir with a wooden spoon to loosen the fond, the browned bits from the bottom of the pot. Bring the liquid to a simmer, add the shanks, and season to taste with salt and pepper.

Cover the pot and transfer to the oven. Braise the shanks for 1-1/2 hours.

Uncover the pot, turn the shanks and return to the oven. Braise in the uncovered pot until the meat falls off the bone, about another hour. Let the shanks rest for 15 minutes before serving.

- - 28th Ward Regular Democrats - •••••
- Alderman Lyda •
- Krewson •
- 367-9765 •
- lyda.krewson@pgav.com •
- Next meeting: February 18 •
- 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>. •
- 

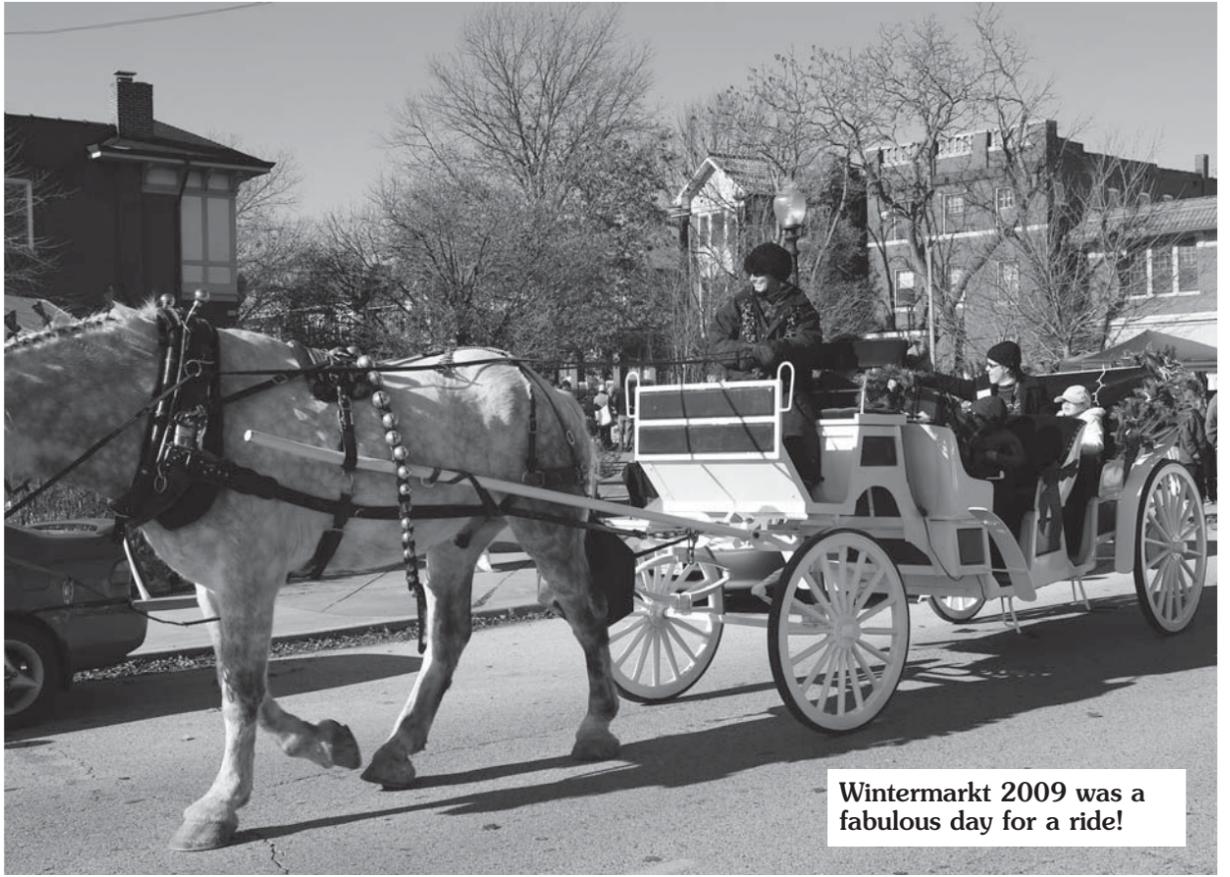
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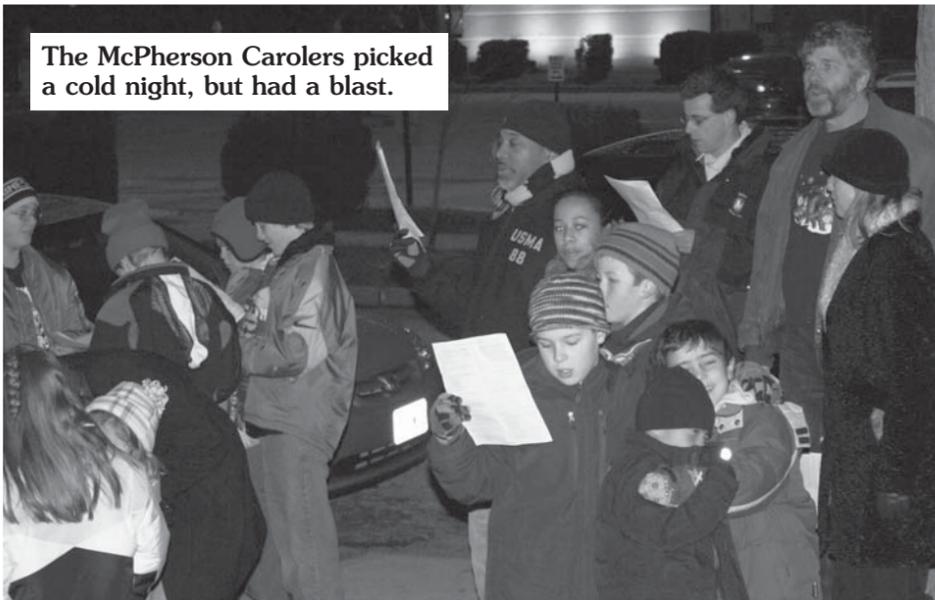
# Winter Events



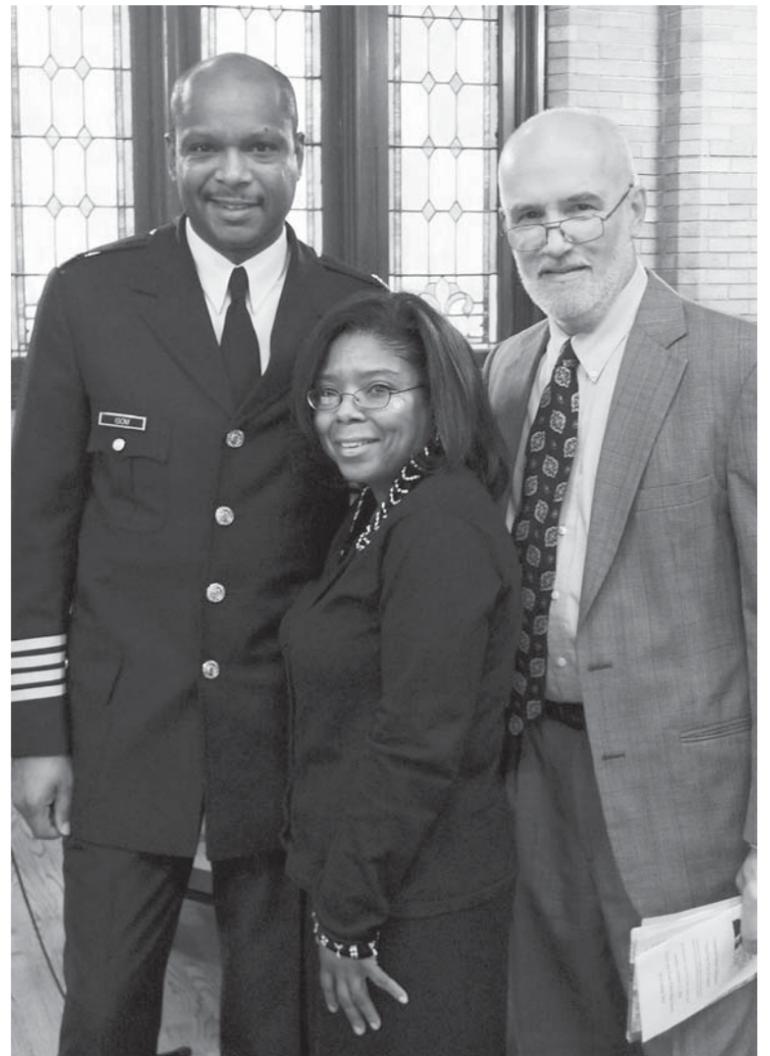
Andy and Sarah Jane Cross helped usher in the "New I-64" (or old highway 40) was reopened in December.



Wintermarkt 2009 was a fabulous day for a ride!



The McPherson Carolers picked a cold night, but had a blast.



Police Chief Dan Isom was the keynote speaker for the 2010 Martin Luther King Day event held at New Cote Brillante Church. Chief Isom was introduced by SDCC board member for the MLK Day Committee, Liz Wright Johnson, and pastor of Grace and Peace Church Kurt Lutjens.



Joe Edwards, 28th Ward Alderwoman Lyda Krewson and U City Mayor Joe Adams helped designer Stephen Walker unveil the new Planet Walk on Delmar in November, 2009. Perfectly situated for a great learning experience, it starts with the Sun at the Moonrise Hotel and continues west to the farthest planet, Neptune, located proportionately at Cicero's at Kingsland and Delmar. Go to [www.visittheloop.com](http://www.visittheloop.com) for more information on this and other Loop attractions.



The winners at St. Roch's annual Halloween Party, 2009.

**Editor's Note:** An exchange of emails recently resulted in a treasure trove of memories from former St. Roch students of Ed Martin, who retired a couple of years ago after more than 25 years of teaching. The "time capsule" Conrad Knoten describes below was indeed honored with a plaque and this Post-Dispatch article. But the Post had a couple of errors: it's Dina Vatcha, not Diana, Patricia Chavez, not Chavey, and Colleen Thomas, not Katie Gotway, although Katie was indeed a part of that class. Thanks to Conrad and all the others who responded to his emails. -- Jo Ann Vatcha

## 'Amadeus' To Ride In Capsule

By John M. McGuire  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The winners did not suggest that any nuclear weapons be included in their time capsule. They ran against a trend.

Twenty students from the fifth-grade science class at St. Roch's School, 6040 Waterman Boulevard, took their bows Thursday for submitting the winning entry in the Magic House time capsule contest.

More than 200 other schools participated in the event.

The eight items suggested by the Catholic school's fifth-graders were placed in the wall of the Magic House's 3,000-square-foot addition, which was dedicated Thursday. The addition will have new exhibit space and a special events area in the basement, with rooms set aside for birthday parties.

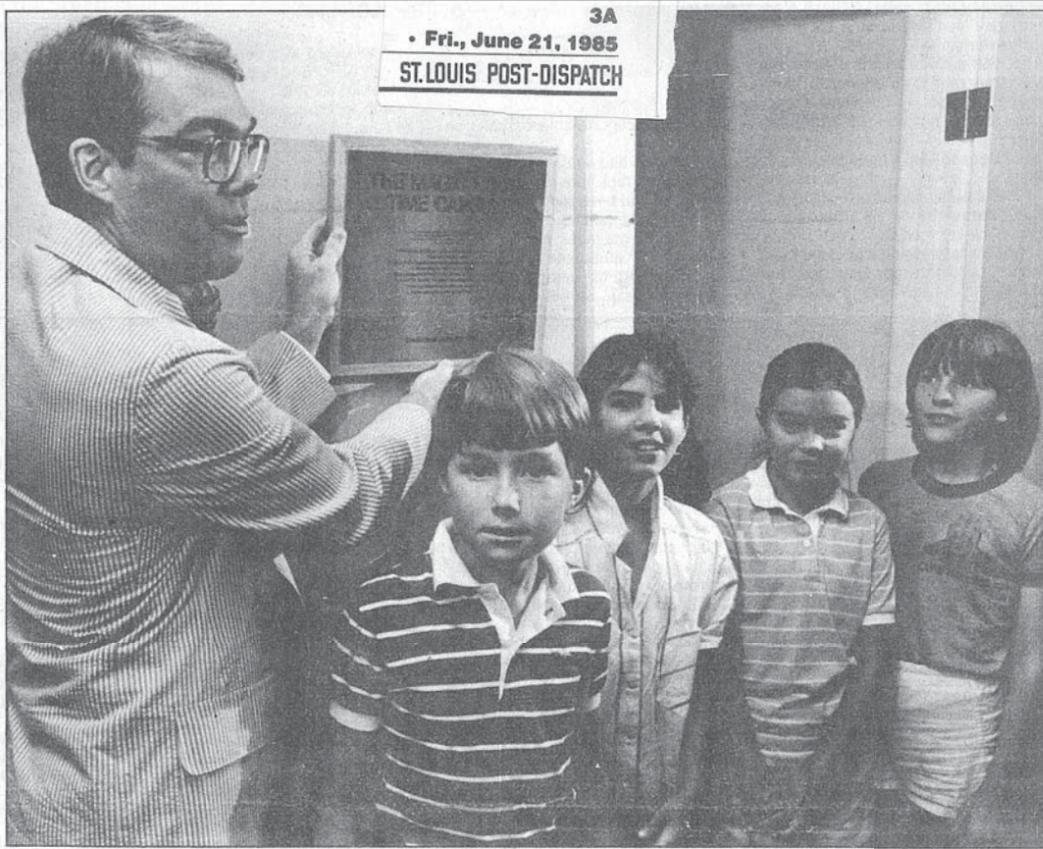
But there was a slight hitch to St. Roch's time capsule package.

One of the eight things suggested by St. Roch's students was a videotape of this year's Academy Award-winning movie, "Amadeus." That tape will not be on the market until at least November, said Beth Fitzgerald, director of the science fun house, at 516 South Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood.

"We put in a blank tape and will not seal the wall until the real VCR tape is available," she said.

Besides the "Amadeus" tape, other items suggested by Edward Martin's science class include a photograph of the students on a field trip to the Magic House; a booklet showing the renovation of the Statue of Liberty; a newspaper account of an artificial heart-transplant operation; Thursday's issues of St. Louis' daily newspapers; a photo of a student working at a desktop computer; a recording of the song "We Are the World," which was done to raise money for famine relief in Africa; and a proof set of 1985 U.S. coins.

"One unexpected trend we noticed was that quite a large percentage of the children included weapons, especially nucle-



St. Roch's School teacher Edward Martin places a plaque on the wall of the Magic House in Kirkwood. The plaque describes the items in the time capsule.

His students who submitted entries are (from left) Conrad Knoten, Diana Vatcha, Patricia Chavez and Katie Gotway.

ar weapons, as part of their list," Fitzgerald said. "Other popular items were Cabbage Patch Kids, Trivial Pursuit, the Statue of Liberty, parachute pants and computers."

Politics also appeared to catch the fancy of the grade school students. Among those suggestions were several Mondale-Ferraro photographs and a picture of President Ronald Reagan being sworn in. Students at Our Lady of Good Counsel wanted to include "Reagan's 'Star Wars'

satellite."

St. Roch's — a grade school previously known for its spirited all-kazoo band, which once played in St. Patrick's Day parades — finished ahead of 11 other finalists. Judging the final 12 entries were a newspaper reporter, a television sportscaster and a radio disc jockey.

Getting honorable mention certificates were:

- Monroe School of St. Charles.
- Two classes from Dunklin R-5

School, Herculaneum.

- Coleman School, Pacific.
- Our Lady of Good Counsel, Bellefontaine Neighbors.
- The sixth- and eighth-grade classes from the grade school in Freeburg, Ill.
- Pagnita School, St. Louis.
- The third grade of Central School, St. Charles.
- Hardin Middle School, St. Charles.
- An individual entry from Sean O'Rando of Overland.

Not many people can say they had their uncle as a teacher but I am one of seven nephews and nieces of Ed Martin whom he taught at St. Roch. I have many fond memories of those days — memorizing poems, Greek myths, Thanksgiving and Christmas plays, learning calligraphy, learning the Gettysburg Address, "happy hour" where he would read a story on Friday afternoons. But my favorite memory is of our 5th grade science class winning a contest at the Magic House in 1985. The contest was to come up with a list of 10 items to be placed in a time capsule from that time frame. The class thought up ideas and submitted a list of items to be placed in a time capsule. Our class won the contest and had our picture in the paper and were on the local tv news. There is a plaque on the wall at the Magic House that states our class won this contest and every time I go back, I make sure to look at the plaque. - Conrad Knoten, 1988

The biggest thing I can say is he is true. I have bumped into Mr. Martin a couple times. He has a true smile, and that means a lot. Maybe a little sappy, but, when I have seen him, I always knew he cares. That is when I went to St. Rochs or if I bumped into him on the street or after church. Mr. Martin Cared. With a capitol C. - Joe Stout, 1987

My memories of Ed Martin are very vivid to this day. They began when I was a small boy and we would meet at the light to cross Skinker Blvd. most mornings. He was always interested in what I was doing and I was mostly sprinting to keep up because of the brisk pace he always struck as he walked to work each day. By the time I reached 8th grade, Ed was familiar face in our lives. He knew each of us and we knew him. It made 8th grade less intimidating. Ed was also my first exposure to drama and literature. From performing plays

on the church steps with the buses and cars rolling by to reading *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn*, he opened a new world for me. He taught us all to use proper grammar and punctuation, many times against our will, but to this day, people who don't use proper grammar and mispronounce words have the same grating effect as nails on a chalk board to me. I find myself correcting my own children now, many times against their will, but I also teach them there is always another great story just around the corner and a book can take you places you never dreamed possible. The lessons of Ed Martin are still being passed along. I hope he will take pride in his accomplishments. I am certainly grateful we crossed paths many years ago. I am a better man for it. - Eric Nelsen, 1979.

I keep reflecting on what a wonderful teacher he was. I

actually think he, Mr. Shaver & Mrs. Klees were the best 3 teachers I ever had, high school and college included. The first thing that comes to mind when I think of him is how he had us memorize so many poems and the Gettysburg Address. I still remember so many of them and the other day I quoted the last stanza of "The Road Less Travelled" to someone off the top of my head. He knew how to make what we were learning a part of who we were. I also remember him reading so many books to us, and all the inflections he would put in his voice for the different characters. And the way he always said "Number NINE" like a Beatles song, although I never heard that song! Most of all, I knew that being a teacher was not just a job for him, it was a vocation and he put his whole heart into it. Hundreds of people walking around today are better off for it! - Brigid McCarthy Henke, 1987

My memories of Mr. Martin including watching his face get steaming red for [my]not participating in his class like a normal child did. I also learned about the Greeks and I believe my love for history developed as a result of having him as a teacher. - Aidan McCauley, 1988

25 years is an amazing amount of time for a teacher to share his knowledge and ability to communicate so well with students. Like Patricia, I also recall the poems we memorized. But one memory I hold with great pride is the calligraphy contest Mr. Martin held when I was in 6th grade (I think). I practiced and practiced and actually won the contest. I received a calligraphy set from Mr. Martin and often used it to make cards and notes for my family. I am proud to say that I am still able to form most of the letters correctly and often impress people with my calligraphy skills. It might seem like a little thing, but it's something I won't ever forget. I work in a school now as an occupational therapist and know how challenging students can be. I hope Mr. Martin realizes the impact he had on so many students. I wish him all the best in his retirement. - Dina Vatcha, 1988

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# IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

"Russia to Plan Deflection of Asteroid From Earth": that was a headline in the December 31, 2009 issue of the New York Times. Honest – I am not making this up. When is this going to happen, you wonder? Is it time to pack your unread copies of The New Yorker and Sports Illustrated, and head for the hills? Relax, the best projection is that we have until 2032. You can go ahead and send out your laundry.

Despite the fact that everything seems to happen more rapidly, 2032 is a long way away. Who knows if we'll have colonized the moon or Creve Coeur by then? We can be sure that while much will change, some things will remain constant: In 2032, we'll still be arguing over health care, the St. Louis riverfront will be without tourist attractions, and the Guadalajara Rams (formerly the Anaheim Rams, the Toledo Rams, and the Salt Lake City Rams) will be a poor football team.

Apophis, the asteroid – yes, someone named it (thankfully they didn't call it Rover or Fluffy) -- is 885 feet wide and composed of hard rock (how's that for redundant?). That is three times the size of the asteroid that landed in Russia in 1908 and flattened 80 million trees. Imagine the Chase Hotel or 142 Rush Limbaughs hurling through the air at you while they hold hands and you'll get a sense of what this might be like.

I have a science background, so I know that where the asteroid lands is relevant. I mean, realistically, it doesn't matter much if this rock plops into the ocean. Oh sure, there would be gigantic splash, a few fish get toasted, and surfers thousands of miles away will have some nice waves, but that's about it. File it under kerplunk.

On the other hand, if this orb hits land, it's a different story. Coming in at thousands of miles per hour, the impact would create a big crater and send dirt and dust thousands of feet into the air. How big? The technical term is "a damn big crater." If you're near there, you're in trouble. The sound of the crash would burst eardrums and ring church bells. Of course, with bursted eardrums, no one would hear the church bells.

Ca-choo, there would be a lot of dust. Dinosaurs became extinct after a slightly larger asteroid landed in Mexico sixty-five million years ago (before it was officially Mexico; I think the land was then part of Texas). That orb kicked up so much dust and pollution in the skies that the temperatures dropped precipitously; they dropped a lot too. In fact, the pollution resulted in a lack of sunlight which led to an ice-age that lasted millions of years. Dinosaurs didn't have access to winter coats or space heaters, and reptiles that they were, they were gone. If not for that asteroid, this column might be written by a Tyrannosaurus. (No comments, please!)

Presumably we'll know where Apophis is going to land before it hits, so we can be prepared. If the destination is a desert or wooded area, one lightly populated, I can see giant plastic tarps being dropped by a helicopter armada shortly after impact. The tarps would be huge, maybe two or three miles square, big enough to cover where those 240 million trees were, and would be designed to keep the debris contained. Think of helicopter after helicopter lifting giant tarp upon giant tarp, maybe all covering an area the size of Rhode Island or a hundred Super Wal-Marts! Where is Bruce Willis when we need him?

If the rock hits a major population area, even a minor population area (that would be a youth camp, right, get it?), it's all over. Certainly it's all over for everyone there, whether they're in a Starbucks, basement bomb shelter, or sitting at home watching re-runs of American Idol. Then you can begin to speculate: Would Apophis trigger the San Andreas fault? Might earthquakes rumble or Tsunami wave because of the impact? Would this cause a cable TV outage?

Of course, it's all about probability. It could be that this rock whizzes by. Close only counts in horse shoes and hand grenades, so a near miss is as good as a big miss. Or a Ms. But all of this speculation arises because, gulp, we are in the line of fire.

Thus changing the course of the asteroid seems a prudent move, and we should all hope Russia is successful. Realistically, assuming contact can be made, this doesn't seem all that difficult. I mean, how much force can it take to redirect an 885 wide piece of rock that is flying through space at thousands of miles per hour? After all, they only need to change course enough to redirect it away from Russia.

What's the likelihood? When Apophis was first discovered in 2004, it was projected to have a 1 in 37 chance of walloping us. That's not a typo: one in THIRTY-SEVEN. Would you get on an elevator if the chances of it dropping were 1 in

37? Would you drive a car if your chances of having an accident were 1 in 37?

Subsequent projections have lowered the likelihood of a hit to 1 in 45,000 or, perhaps, as low as 1 in 250,000. Lest you get too relaxed, however, remember that these projections are from a government agency – just like the one in charge of airline security. And what are a couple of decimal places among friends, anyway?

Maybe Apophis will be like H1N1, more smoke than fire. But perhaps not. Maybe it will hit us and cause pestilence, famine, world disaster, and an ice age which wipes out life as we know it. It kind of puts the Rams in perspective.

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