

# The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 40, No. 2

Summer 2010

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The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

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**12TH ANNUAL BREAKFAST GARDEN  
TOUR, SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2010**

## Eat For Your Neighborhood! Dining Out For SDCC, June 22nd

by Lana Stein

Mark your calendars, invite your friends, relatives and neighbors! Tuesday, June 22nd is the 2nd Annual Dining Out for SDCC. The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council is already lining up participating restaurants for this neighborhood fundraiser. It's easy, supports our wonderful local restaurants, and is a great excuse to go out to eat!

All you need to do is dine at one of the participating restaurants and a portion of your meal price will be donated to the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. Money raised helps to staff our community council office. The office supports the neighborhood in countless ways, including; dealing

with neighborhood issues, security, support of committees, planning and implementation of special events.

There is already a good range of food and locations, spanning from the east side of the neighborhood to the west! Restaurants already signed on include; Blueberry Hill, Eclipse, The Pin Up Bowl, Pam's Chicago Style Hot Dogs, Noodles & Co, Mi Ranchito, Market Pub House (new), and Cicero's. So make your plans and invite others to join you. More restaurants will be signing on soon and the complete list will be available at the SDCC office and will be publicized on flyers and through email too.

## GRG Moves to New Offices in Delmar Loop Historic District and Announces New URL: [www.grgstl.org](http://www.grgstl.org)

GRG moved in late March from St. Louis Union Station to 6174A Delmar Blvd., to a renovated and restored building across from the Pageant Theatre. The new space is more than 1,100 sq. ft. larger, with a more efficient floorplan, a boardroom that can easily accommodate spectators and free parking.

"Our new office not only is more centrally located to our three jurisdictions - St. Louis County, St. Louis City and St. Charles County, it is located close to a MetroLink station and between two GRG greenway projects - the St. Vincent Greenway at DeBaliviere and the Centennial Greenway at Melville," said Susan Trautman, Executive Director. Although phone number and fax number remain the same, GRG has changed its Website URL to [www.grgstl.org](http://www.grgstl.org). This affects email addresses for all staff, which now end with [grgstl.org](mailto:grgstl.org).

The Great Rivers Greenway District was established in November 2000 by the successful passage of the Clean Water, Safe Parks and Community Trails Initiative ("Proposition C") in St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County, Missouri.

The Great Rivers Greenway District is funded by a 1/10th of 1 cent sales tax.

The Great Rivers Greenway

District works for a clean, green, connected St. Louis region. To deliver its mission, the District is spearheading the development of The River Ring, an interconnected system of greenways, parks and



trails that will encircle the St. Louis region, enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors.

GRG has also welcomed a new Executive Director, Susan Trautman. Susan is a Certified Recreation Professional (CPRP). An accomplished leader who has received numerous honors

and recognition for her career accomplishments, she brings great energy and extraordinary skills to the leadership of GRG. Susan succeeds David Fisher who retired earlier this year after serving as GRG's first Executive Director since 2001.

Her professional parks and recreation experience spans local communities across GRG's jurisdictions. Prior to joining GRG, Susan was Director Parks and Recreation for the City of Des Peres since 2001. She previously served as Planner/Principal for SWT Associates (currently SWT Design) where she focused on master planning for parks, trails and open space acquisition. During her 10-year career with the City of Clayton, she held a variety of leadership positions including Executive Director of the Center of Clayton, Assistant City Manager and Director Parks and Recreation. Her earlier career included positions with the Special Recreation Council of Greater St. Louis, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, as well as Lake Metroparks in Lake County, Ohio.

She was inducted in 2007 to the American Academy of Park and Recreation Administration, where she currently serves as Treasurer

and Newsletter Editor.

She also maintains numerous professional affiliations and leadership positions with a wide variety of national, state and local park and recreation associations, and is a frequent speaker at park and recreation conferences and events. A native of St. Louis, Susan earned both her Masters in Public Administration and Bachelor of Science in Recreation and Park Administration from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She described her vision for GRG:

There is no question that the concept of the "The River Ring" is a great vision in itself. My vision is to see the plan for connectivity among our greenways, trails and rivers transform our quality of life. That the planning process becomes real in that we foster economic growth, conserve our natural resources and most importantly the people who live in our many communities recognize that they no longer live separately from their neighboring community. The connections between our greenways and trails should give us access to a great front porch in which we share and support our rich diversity. To achieve this, we will have to foster inclusion and seek partnerships and collaboration in all of our efforts to a greater extent than we have ever fostered before. To me, this effort is not just about

Continued on page 4  
GRG Moves

# Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

As a 21-year resident of the Washington Heights section of Skinker DeBaliviere, I have long been concerned about fair representation from this section on the council and in various activities. In the early 1980s, after a dispute about the future of Nina Place, Washington Heights left the council. In the early 90s, several geographic areas did receive seats on the council; otherwise, at-large seats were used to insure inclusivity. Today, for various reasons including needed skills, the at-large members are most often from the Rosedale part of the neighborhood. It's time to have an equitable solution. I have previously advocated in this column for the identical rules for representation for the whole neighborhood. We are going to stand or fall as one neighborhood. SDCC president, Katrina Stierholz, is interested in addressing this question. The vice president, Mike Noble, of 57xx McPherson will spearhead the effort. Hopefully, all residents will lend their views. It's time, after almost 3 decades, to have a unified neighborhood.

Speaking of representation, our able state representative, Rachel Storch, did not seek reelection. Four candidates are contending to replace her -- Susan Carlson, Amy Hilgemann, David Leibholtz, and Daniel Schesch. All of Skinker DeBaliviere lies in the 64th District. In order to enable residents to learn more about the 4 candidates, the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council will sponsor a forum so that we can hear and question those seeking this office. It will probably be in July and we will receive flyers about the day and time. Candidates will also attend the 28th Ward Regular Democrats meeting on June 17 at 7:30pm, at Dressel's Pub on Euclid.

**Skinker-DeBaliviere is a City Historic District. Window and door replacements require a Cultural Resource Office permit. Please call Katie Kurtz 496-5083 or CRO 622-3499.**

# 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. The SDCC Security Committee will be meeting June 16 and July 14. All meetings are held at the SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury. Call Bethany Everett or Gary Boehnke at 862-5122 for more information.

**June 5, 2010:** Breakfast Garden Tour, Join us from 8:30 to Noon for a delicious breakfast in the McPherson Community Garden and meet your neighbors as we tour ten private gardens. Tickets are \$ 10 in advance or \$ 12 day of tour; children 10-15 \$ 5.00; children under 10 are free. For questions or to order tickets, call or visit SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury, 862-5122.

**June 8, 2010:** 7:00 p.m., at 4 Corners Park, next to the playground. The Dog Show returns! Free refreshments and prizes for Fluffiest Dog, Biggest and Smallest Dog, Best Trick, Biggest Feet, Shortest and Longest Tail, Curliest Hair, Longest Hair, and more. Even if you don't have a dog, come! The Annual Dog Show is presented by Sarah Cross and Andy Cross.

**Sundays, July 11 through August 1, 2010:** Summer Concert Series at Washington University Quadrangle, 7:30 p.m. Free. The first concert, July 11, will feature a solo flute performance by Jan Scott, Foote's "A Night Piece," as well as a Phantom of the Opera medley and other pieces. July 18 will be "Gotta Dance." All neighbors are invited to attend these free concerts by members of the Gateway Festival Orchestra.

The Skinker-DeBaliviere Historic District Committee has been increasingly active this year. As the economy continues to recover and as summer approaches, more of our home and property owners are looking to make improvements to their properties. While it is not a requirement to come before the Historic District committee prior to starting work on your property, we can offer suggestions and ideas to help facilitate the permitting process with the Cultural Resources Office and the City of St. Louis.

Congratulations to the Palomino Lounge at 5876 Delmar for their property improvements. The restored storefront is beautiful and returns the building to its original character.

Quadrangle Properties of Washington University recently presented rehab plans for 6100 Pershing. Included in the improvements will be central air for all apartment units and the removal and replacement of the glass block in the basement windows on the Pershing façade with



fixed sash window with decorative metal grates.

As a reminder to all property and home owners, glass block is never an acceptable window replacement on street facing facades in the Skinker-DeBaliviere Historic District.

The Historic District committee meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm, typically at the Skinker-DeBaliviere council office at 6104 Kingsbury. The committee is always looking for residents who are interested in historic preservation within the neighborhood. The committee would particularly welcome new members from the Washington Heights portion of the neighborhood.

If you are interested in joining the committee, or if you would like to present your project to the committee, please contact committee co-chairs Katie Kurtz at 314- 496-5083 or Nancy Hohmann at 314-267-8887.

## The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

**Co-Editors:** Lana Stein and JoAnn Vatcha  
**Business Manager:** Lois Schoemehl  
**Contributors:** Norbert Hart, Nicole Blumner, Maggie Peters, Rachelle L'Ecuyer, Darcell Braylock, Rachael Boxdorfer, Tom Hoerr, Ligaya Figueras, Andy Cross, Linda Cross, King Schoenfeld

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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: August 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.

# News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

This month we start off with a bright neighborhood star, at a very young age!



**Anton Gudiswitz** recently took a trip to Moberly, Missouri to participate in the Missouri State Geography Bee. Anton is in fourth grade at St. Roch School and won the school spelling bee. He then had to pass a written exam to qualify for finals. He was one of 103

finalists and only one of two fourth graders. Anton participated in the preliminary round but did not make it to the finals (this year). He is already looking to the future and hopes to compete at the state level again! Anton is the son of **Joe Gudiswitz** and **Ligaya Figueras** of the 6000 block of Washington. Good luck Anton!

A big Skinker DeBaliviere welcome goes out to new neighbor **Karen Lynch** on the 6100 block of McPherson!

And wedding bells will be ringing this year for Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Vice President, **Michael Noble**. Michael popped the question in New Orleans on May 1st to **Angie Ranson**, and she said yes! A fall wedding is planned. Michael, a judge in the City of St. Louis, resides on the 5700 block of McPherson. A fall wedding is planned. Congratulations to Michael and Angie!

Fans of Shakespeare and theater already know that the Shakespeare Festival is presenting Hamlet this year in Forest Park. But did you know our own **Andy Cross**, of the 6000 block of McPherson, is adding his talents to the 2010 production? That's right, Andy's artwork will be part of the Shakespeare set. Andy also works on The Munny sets every summer. The Shakespeare Festival runs from May 26 to June 20 and is free in Forest Park.

The SDCC Fundraising Committee is very busy with plans for the Dining Out for SDCC event on Tuesday, June 22nd and also for our 2nd Annual Homecoming. This year the Homecoming will take place at Crossroads School on Saturday, September 25th. At press time, the committee was still working on a theme! Mark your calendars and keep your eyes open for that perfect thrift store find – it will be tough to beat some of the outfits worn last year! More information to follow.

Sadly, Skinker DeBaliviere lost an old friend in April. **Joe Botz**, who with his late wife **Bette**, raised their seven children on the 6100 block of Kingsbury, passed away on April 19th. Joe and Bette were very active members of St. Roch and were married for 59 years. Our condolences go out to the entire Botz family.

As summer approaches, many of our neighbors are already planning their vacation plans. Please keep us informed of any exciting trips, we love to hear of the adventures of our neighbors! So have save travels and be sure to share some news and pictures with us!

That's all the news for this issue. Until next time, happy spring! 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!

## Heads Up, Community and Home Gardeners!

by Becky Homan

It's not too late to plant seeds of squash, pumpkins or gourds for entering this fall's 2010 Bowood Farms Pumpkin Contest -- to be judged on Sat. Oct. 23 at the garden center, 4605 Olive Street in the Central West End. This contest is part of Bowood's third-annual "BOO-wood!" pre-Halloween event, one that's full of pumpkin carvings, prizes and free Halloween snacks.



The Pumpkin Contest is open to home gardeners, community gardeners, children, school groups – anyone who's growing their own pumpkins for private use, not for sale. Six categories in the contest are: (1) Best Overall Pumpkin; (2) Smallest Pumpkin, at maturity; (3) Biggest Pumpkin; (4) Best Pumpkin Grown by a Child (12 and under); (5) Best Pumpkin Relative (Melon, Squash or Gourd); (6) Goofiest Pumpkin, ones with supremely

odd and whacky shapes, warts or bumps or anything "scary."

Find an entry form and contest guidelines at [www.bowoodfarms.com](http://www.bowoodfarms.com), click on Calendar of Events, scroll down to Oct. 23 and find "Click here to print a copy of the guidelines and entry form." Or, visit Bowood Farms, 4605 Olive Street in the Central West End 63108, and ask for a form.

Judges this year are to be Chip Tynan, senior horticulturist and Answer-man at the Missouri Botanical Garden, and June

Hutson, senior horticulturist and supervisor of the Kemper Center for Home Gardening at the botanical garden.

Prizes to the six category winners will include gift bags of Bowood Farms gift certificates, seeds and more, plus photos of winning the pumpkins on the Bowood Farms Web site.

For more information, please email Bowood's events consultant Becky Homan, at [becky.homan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:becky.homan@sbcglobal.net), or call Bowood Farms at 314-454-6868.

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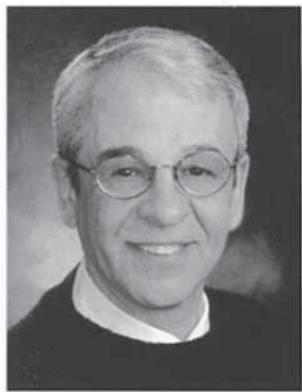
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SDCC Meeting, Monday, April 12, 2010

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members Present: Rachel Boxdorfer, Michael Noble, Dan Hudspeth, Norb Hart, Katrina Stierholz, Gene Hoefel, Mike Taylor, Paul Hales, Ron Glenn, Karin Hagaman, Liz Johnson, Cardina Johnson

Board Members Absent: Vincent Flewellen, Cheryl Adelstein, Joe Keaveny, Sean Meara, Bob Mahon, Jamie Kenyon, Dan Lodholz

Aldermen: None present

NSO: Les Mason, 28th Ward

Staff: Gary Boehnke, Housing Corp. Executive Director; Bethany Everett, SDCC Administrative Director

Visitors: Arline Webb, Andy Cross, Beth Bender, Diane Berry, Nancy Jones, Officer Greene, Jacob Stern, Mariam Keller

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Katrina Stierholz at 7:06 pm. Introductions were made. Katrina mentioned that Nicole Blummer and David Rothschild have resigned from the Board. Nicole will chair the Residential Committee; David may choose to assist her.

Minutes: Dan Hudspeth made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 8th meeting with additions, Norb seconded that motion. Katrina would like "MBE" added in addition to "WBE" in the CDA accounting issues.

Financials:

Dan noted that a letter had been drafted soliciting bids for accounting agencies. It is being revised. If anyone has any other suggestions for potential accounting firms, please give the firm's information to Bethany or Dan. Katrina noted that the City likely has a website with WBE

and MBE firms. The more bids the better. Paul made a motion to approve the financials as submitted, Rachel seconded it.

Health Protection and Education Services: Diane Berry, Executive Director of HPES, gave a brief presentation about the services her organization offers. Health screenings are available to anyone regardless of age or income; this is the 3rd Saturday of each month, except July, at the University City library. Diane is trying to get the word out about services provided. She stated that the majority of those who take advantage of the services are immigrants. Participants do not have to have insurance or prove income; the services are completely altruistic. Visitors are welcome, and even encouraged. Those considered at risk are referred to other providers. No appointments are necessary. Results are provided at the time of tests, except those that have to go to the lab at St. Anthony's. In which case, results are mailed to patients. Administrative Director's Report: See attached.

5916 Delmar Boulevard: Katrina informed the Board of the details with establishing a protest petition regarding the application of the full-drink liquor license. Gary described the requirements necessary to obtain/combat the license. Officer Greene related his previous history with this business owner. He noted that he can't offer an official statement from the 7th District. However, his personal opinion is that the applicant will not give up on the liquor license, and will continue in trying to obtain one.

Norb made a motion to oppose any and all liquor licenses for the applicant at

5916 Delmar Blvd, Paul seconded the motion. The resolution was passed. Norb asked about working with the 26th Ward NSO to oppose any permits for this location. Michael Noble asked about how to prevent this in the future. There was discussion regarding the Delmar Commercial Committee. Norb asked for greater communication between the committee and the Council. Katrina asked if Bethany could take minutes at the meetings.

Aldermanic Report: No Aldermen present.

NSO: Les Mason informed everyone that he was the contact for trash, nuisance properties, and general city issues. Mike Taylor asked about street repairs along DeBaliviere. Les got the address and said he would look into it. Gary asked if Les got reports from the Citizens Service Bureau. Les responded that he did receive said reports.

SDCHC: Report attached. Katrina thanked Gary again for his efforts with the liquor license application.

Beautification Committee: Andy announced that the Breakfast Garden Tour will be June 5, more info to come. Also, there was a Block Captain meeting last Wednesday night. Great attendance, 12 block captains present; the meeting went very well. Thanks to Bethany, Katrina, Alderman Krewson, Officer Butler, and NSO Les Mason for attending. Andy is continuing to work on the Triangle Park at Waterman and DeGiverville and Laurel, with new plants/trees and pulling weeds. He will continue to work on it as needed. Blitz Day and Planting Day flyers have been printed and distributed to block captains.

Fundraising Committee: Dine Out

for the SDCC will be Tuesday, June 22. Encourage everyone to contribute to Friends Campaign - pays for staff and facility. Homecoming Committee meeting is Monday. The ticket price will be \$40/person. The event will be held at Crossroads School this year. The committee will begin soliciting business sponsors for Homecoming.

Security Committee: Arline discussed March's Security Committee; locks for Des Peres school, images captured, etc. Police said it is legal to distribute footage of an actual crime occurring, but not just suspicious activity. The number one stolen item from cars is GPS consoles. Capt. Moran has authorized overtime, so there will be bait cars and undercover officers. Call 911 regarding problems. Detective Benz was at the last meeting, daytime burglaries have no real pattern. They are mostly committed by addicts, and the neighborhood is targeted due to high level of daytime employment. Also, the Sergeant went over incidents for last half of March.

Corporate Compliance: Paul reported that Peter and Kate are still working on the template.

Strategic Planning: Katrina is working with Betul on strategic planning. Wash U is providing a social work student who will provide 100 hours doing legwork. Paul introduced Deborah Cooper, potential board member from Washington Heights. Paul nominated Deborah, Michael seconded it.

Norb made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Michael seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

GRG Moves

Continued from page 1

constructing trails and greenways for our use, it is about leaving a legacy that impacts our children's children. Creating the expectation that walking or biking to work is the norm for our future generations would be the ultimate success.

I was born in St. Louis and have lived here most of my life. I thought I knew and understood this region, but each day my eyes are opened more, and things I looked at from one perspective, I now see completely different. The most exciting part of this job is that I am learning every day, I am challenged to consider the depth and breadth of a greenway not by what it is we are planning to construct, but by whom GRG is impacting and who is impacting us.

Where Do You Spend Leisure Time?

Spending time with my family is really important to me. I love to watch my son play baseball, traveling with my daughter and talking to my husband every night. I am truly grateful for the full life I have, and the great family and friends who are a part of it. For me, cycling is when my thoughts come together and I begin



to piece together a vision of what I need to do. I have two bikes, a hybrid and a road bike and I also have a spinning bike. One way or another I ride four or five times a week. I love the outdoors; hiking is an important part of our family life. My children have come to understand that every vacation will involve a national park in some way. Between sports and dance schedules we try to hike when we can. I am

partial to Hawn and Taum Sauk State Parks. Being in the woods recharges me. I grow vegetables and herbs and I love to cook and share food with my neighbors. Eventually, The River Ring will encompass a 600-mile web of more than 45 greenways that will crisscross the region and provide access to trail and greenway projects developed by the Metro East Park and Recreation District in Madison and St. Clair counties, Illinois.

The concept of The River Ring was the outcome of a 10-month citizen planning process completed in September 2003.

Since 2002, Great Rivers Greenway has implemented many projects across the district, often in partnership with municipal, governmental and public agencies, as well as private and nonprofit organizations. The Great Rivers Greenway District also is emerging as an inspirational model for comparable green space initiatives nationwide.



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Neal Shapiro, owner of Original Cast Lighting, which has moved to Westport Plaza area, is planning to revamp his company's buildings at 6108 Delmar. The proposal includes demolishing the non-contributing building and replacing it with a walled parking lot, as shown.

The Delmar Commercial Committee and Historic District Committee met with the owner and his architect and support the plan, with

some improvements, including: a higher wall in the rear to better screen residential dumpsters across the alley; changes to the top of the walls to discourage sitting on them; use the leftover brick from the building demolition wherever possible; reconsider lighting the lot with down lights instead of wall lights; minimize impact of sidewalk seating on Regional Arts Commission entrance; work with Historic District Review Committee and Cultural Resources on proposed

banner poles. This additional parking will be a welcome addition to the Delmar Streetscape and complement the renovation of the historic OCL Building into retail and restaurant space.

Shapiro, a long-time member of the Delmar Commercial Committee, plans to rent to both retail shops and restaurants and stay involved in the committee's work to further improve Delmar in the future.



photo by King Schoenfeld

Another great Operation Brightside Blitz led to the classic hot dog feast at Four Corners.

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# Wash U Remakes Forest Park-Skinker Entrance



A new entrance to the campus of Washington University is being built for the School of Engineering & Applied Science building, adjacent to the newly completed Stephen F. & Camilla T. Brauer Hall, near the corner of Skinker Boulevard and Forest Park Parkway, according to Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton.

The next phase in the new complex of School of Engineering buildings at the northeast corner of the Danforth Campus, the building will be named in recognition of the late Preston M. Green, an alumnus of School of Engineering & Applied Science, who gave \$8 million to support the School of Engineering and the Department of Electrical & Systems Engineering, a gift announced by Wrighton in

2006. Nancy Green, Preston's widow, lives in St. Louis and serves on the advisory board for the Preston M. Green Charitable Foundation. In 2010, the foundation committed an additional \$5 million to support the construction of Preston M. Green Hall. Green Hall will provide state-of-art engineering research facilities that are critical to the continued development of the school's strategic plan, including additional space for the Preston M. Green Department of Electrical & Systems Engineering and other programs. Green Hall will connect to Brauer Hall, whose construction recently was finished and which houses additional engineering research labs as well as instructional facilities.

Photo by Hope Edwards



Joe Edwards and Chef Wes on the Moonrise Rooftop.

Photo by Hope Edwards



The Fifth Dimension rates a star on the Delmar Loop Walk of Fame.

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# It's easy being green--just plant a tree!

by Katrina Stierholz

In the summer, whenever I walk to my sister's house in Parkview, I'm amazed at how much cooler it is in that part of Skinker DeBaliviere. It's no coincidence that when I enter Parkview and walk to her house, I am nearly always in the shade. Parkview is blessed with an abundance of old trees that form a canopy over the neighborhood. If you've ever looked at a google map of our neighborhood, you can see the difference--it's so green and dark in Parkview. In recent years, many of the old trees in Rosedale and Washington Heights have succumbed to disease or storms, and so we do not have the amount of shade that we did in past years.

The difference is a perfect example of the heat island effect. The urban heat island describes cities that are hotter than nearby rural areas--brought on by dark roofs, black pavement, brick houses, and an absence of vegetation. Heat islands generate ozone pollution, make people swelter, drive up utility bills, and change rainfall patterns. The St. Louis area is estimated to have a heat island effect of about 6°F -- in other words, our temperatures across the city are that much higher because of the urban heat island effect.

While we can't control the whole city, we can do quite a bit to make our part of the city more pleasant by adding trees. Just being in the shade in the summer can bring the temperature down 20°F and everyone can appreciate that in the St. Louis summer heat.

Planting trees is one of the best ways to mitigate the heat island effect. Lots of trees. They provide cooling shade, lower energy use, reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and they soak up groundwater runoff. So, in addition to cooling the area, they also provide many other environmental benefits.

One of the first, best places to

plant a tree is in the tree lawn--that area between the sidewalk and the street. A nice big shade tree will help keep the sun from heating up the black asphalt. In addition, deciduous trees to the south or southwest of your house will help cool it in the summer but let the sun's warmth come through in the winter. Ornamental trees around the house will also provide shade and cooler temperatures. An additional benefit is that the presence of trees has a positive impact on property values -- in other words, your house is worth more with a well-tended yard that includes trees.

If you are wondering what kind of tree to plant, the Missouri Botanical Garden provides good choices based on your preferences. You can search this website with the kinds of features you want, and the database will provide trees, flowers, and plants that fit your criteria (<http://www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder/Search.asp>). The aldermen will provide a street tree free of charge to residents who request it. Ald. Frank Williamson and Lyda Krewson both provide that service to constituents in their wards.

If you are looking for more ways to curb the heat island effect (and there's no reason we can't try to make it cooler than the surrounding rural areas), there are additional steps beyond planting trees. New roofing materials that reflect the sun's heat are coming onto the market and many of them would fit well within our historic standards. In general, lighter colored roofs are greener.

Tree planting benefits the homeowner and everyone who lives in the neighborhood. Replacing lost trees and even adding additional ones will help Skinker DeBaliviere maintain its historic and distinctive character. And, it will have effects that last for generations.



- 28th Ward Regular Democrats -

**Alderman Lyda Krewson**

**367-9765**

[lyda.krewson@pgav.com](mailto:lyda.krewson@pgav.com)

Next meeting: June 17

**Our 28th Ward organization welcomes everyone to attend our regular meetings held on 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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# IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

When the history of the human race is ultimately written, when some sage anthropologist peers through our ruins and analyzes our artifacts, there will be a rich discussion about what caused the end of our species. This is only natural. Just as we worked to discover why dinosaurs became extinct, some day the travelers from a distant planet will descend here and try to determine why humans are no more.

Their task will be easier than ours. We can speculate about the meteor that crashed into North America 65 million years ago. A rock that big would cause lots of nasty repercussions, including blocking out most of the sunlight for years and years. With no vegetation – remember, this is pre-McDonald's – even the heartiest of brontosaurus would perish. But again, that's just speculation. For all we know, something else befell the saurs. They weren't considerate enough to leave a written record, so your guess is as good as mine.

When the last descendents of Adam and Eve kick the bucket, however, there will be lots of evidence as to what happened. After all, there are really only two scenarios for the end of the human species: sooner and later.

The end coming sooner will be easy to reconstruct. Most likely, there's a nuclear holocaust. Nation A attacks Nation B. Nation B retaliates. Nation C joins the fray, and attacks Nation A (or B). At this point, the peace-monger nation, the U.S. of A., gets in the action, and threatens Nation B, or was it C? Radioactive debris will

be raining for years, so Nation B or C decides to be pre-emptive and attack the USA. They send missiles at us, and we smugly activate our anti-missile defense.

Alas, it turns out we never quite refined the anti-missile big-D, so it doesn't work. Oops. Realizing that, we retaliate ten-fold and blanket both country B and C with a-bombs. And now the fun begins. You see, it turns out that more countries had nuclear armaments than we suspected! Dick Cheney was right after all, bless his black heart; he just had the names of the countries wrong.

Anyway, countries E, F, and G also begin to fire their a-bombs. And guess what: Nations H, I, and J also had WMD and they decide to pre-empt everyone else. Hey, there's even an h-bomb or two thrown into the fray. From the moon it looks like the whole world is celebrating the fourth of July. From Earth, this is not a pretty picture.

After three days of back and forth, 43 nuclear bombs, 11 poison gas bombs, and three germ bombs have erupted. The world is glowing. Water and food sources are polluted for, oh, the next thirty or forty years, most air isn't breathable, and the sky is blackened from the smoke. What Carl Sagan called a "nuclear winter" sets in as life begins to disappear. But in this scenario the evidence is everywhere. Burned-out buildings and over-packed fall-out shelters tell the tale, as do artifacts of newspapers and blogs bouncing around forever in cyberspace.

The other sooner is an asteroid

bursting upon the scene and creating similar, maybe worse, havoc than all these bombs minus the radioactivity. If that rock is big enough – and sooner or later it will be – we're all goners. Even then, though, we'd have a week or two of warning, and the news media would be abuzz. The alien anthropologists will have an easy day of it when it's sooner.

Later, though, is more problematic – and more likely. In this scenario it's not some sudden disaster that does us in; rather, it's a long-term snuffing. What will happen, for example, when even more and more people live on a diet of glazed donuts and Cheeto-chips? Not unlike the asteroid, that's inevitable (it's already happening). As technology and transportation improve, even the poor of the third world will have ready access to junk food. They'll ply themselves with calories, gaining weight, hardening arteries, and lowering the life span. At some point we'll all become too fat to get into our cars and go shopping. Once the cans of tuna fish from the closet are depleted, we're all goners.

The other later is just as likely but will take longer: death by cable television. We've already seen signs of this now. There are, what, 80, 180, 280 cable channels? That means that each person can choose to watch 'zactly what she or he wants for hours and days, maybe weeks. There is, after all, a channel of Oprah-only. There's a channel of sports, and a channel for prospective home-buyers. There's a channel for political junkies and a channel for animal lovers. There's a golf channel and a world wrestling channel. There's a Catholic channel, a Jewish channel, a Mormon channel, a Muslim channel, and a Chocolate channel; all the major religions are

covered.

Over time, watching these channels lower the IQ. Hours upon hours upon hours make Jack and Jill dull and fat (Cheetos go well with any major religion). As technology evolves, screens become bigger and the viewer actually enters the action. You can swordfight with Zorro, eavesdrop on Ellen, ask questions on "Meet the Press," and swing with Albert Pujols. I won't even mention the possibilities with Charlie's Angels. This means that the number of hours spent watching TV increases exponentially.

Actual sporting events are rarely attended; everyone is watching on and participating in them on TV. No one goes to restaurants because you can eat from the Cooking Channel. Everyone works from home while, oh yeah, they watch TV. School is all done through the tube. Eventually eyeballs begin to become rectangular. Later, rather than sooner, we all are tethered to our TVs, the channel-changer becoming an extremity, and we devolve into potatoes on couches. Life becomes a re-run.

Later will puzzle the alien anthropologists a bit. They'll have a hard time determining how this happened. "Was there no common sense?" they'll ask, "Was the species that stupid?" they'll wonder. And then, as they begin to debate, their attention will turn to an episode of Seinfeld followed by Friends. And oh look, here's an unopened case of Cheetos.

Decades later the alien home base on Planet Urumba will wonder what happened to the research crew that went to investigate planet 3208667bq24. The last transmission was of a boy and collie dog tracking guys in masks, and they've never been heard from again.

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