

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 40, No. 4

Nov. - Dec. 2010

www.stlouis.missouri.org/skinkerdebaliviere/sd_times

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

FREE

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

11th Annual Wintermarkt: Sat Dec 4th



Join us at Greg Freeman Park at Kingsbury and Des Peres as the West End Arts Council of Skinker DeBaliviere presents **Wintermarkt**, an outdoor crafts sale in the holiday spirit of a traditional German festival. From 11:00 am to 4:00 pm craftspersons and artisans sell their original handcrafted creations which make excellent gifts for the upcoming holidays! Join your neighbors for great a capella singing, musical performances, excellent food and drink, baked goods, and other gifts for sale.

Envelope, Please

Our holiday envelope, inside this issue, is for our own special cause, *THE TIMES OF SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE*. This all-volunteer newspaper has been published continuously for over 40 years--it's the "oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis," with over 300 issues published (and now available in archives on the neighborhood website).

Did you know that all our writing and all our distribution of nearly 3,000 newspapers is done by volunteers? Regular contributors include the sometimes zany, but always thought-provoking Tom Hoerr, who has written his "In Your Ear" for 30 years; our great editor and prolific writer of resident profiles, Lana Stein; the best of timely neighborhood news from Rachel Boxdorfer; community garden and arts news and so much more from Andy Cross; historic reviews from Katie Kurtz; articles on businesses from Norb Hart, and many others. Our shoestring budget has been expertly managed for many years by Lois Schoemehl (who would welcome help) Marvin Nodiff volunteers his legal services, and Sue Rothschild (a former Editor herself) still helps with taxes. Jo Ann Vatcha organizes and writes. Delivery is done by a lot of great neighborhood volunteers, now including our new SDCC interim director David Whiteman.

We have many loyal and a few new advertisers, and continue to have ambitious plans. We have completed the scanning and archiving of all our 300 issues. Last year we branched out with publishing the history of the neighborhood in book form with *Celebrating Skinker-DeBaliviere, History and Comeback*. We'll soon be into our third printing, and if you wish to order a copy for holiday gifts or for yourself, they are available at the Missouri History Museum gift shop, or you can contact us at 726-6974 to order.

If you agree that communication among neighborhood residents is crucial to having a successful place to live and raise our families, please put a little something in the envelope for your own neighborhood newspaper this holiday season. And, if you'd like to volunteer to help, let us know. We'll be happy to have your writing, your photos, help with delivery or decision-making. Happy Holidays!

Recreating Organization in Washington Heights

by Lana Stein

When the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council was created in 1966, there were two principal resident organizations which became charter members. Rosedale Neighbors took the western half and the Washington Heights Association represented everything east of Des Peres. In the early 1980s, Washington Heights withdrew from the SDCC in a dispute over the redevelopment of Nina Place. It disbanded thereafter.

The SDCC has utilized other ways to ensure that Washington Heights residents had some representation. At-large seats on the council have been the principal means though director Nancy Farmer helped set up representation for 58-5900 DeGiverville, Nina Place, and Kingsbury Square.

Current SDCC president, Katrina Stierholz, wanted to have a more set means of representation for Washington Heights and its own association. Vice-president Mike Noble, of 57xx McPherson, has chaired 2 meetings to see if there is a desire to have an organization and how to establish it. There has been considerable interest with over 20 residents attending one of the gatherings. As a first step, the block captains will meet on Nov. 18 to discuss council representation and create greater communication. For further information, call David Whiteman at 862-5122.

90th Year for Lessons and Carols

On December 12, 2010, Grace United Methodist Church (at Skinker and Waterman) will present A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols for the 90th consecutive year. The service consists of nine readings that tell the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of a Messiah and the birth of Jesus interspersed by carols and hymns. The service starts at 4:15 pm at the church and is free.

The service of Lessons and Carols has an interesting history. The format was originally drawn up by Edward White Benson, the Bishop of Truro, in Cornwall, England, who later became the Archbishop of Canterbury. He first used the service on December 24, 1880. Tradition says that he organized a 10 pm service on Christmas Eve and that a key purpose of the service was to keep men out of pubs on Christmas Eve. [

The original liturgy has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world. The best-known version is broadcast annually from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve. It features carols sung by the famous Choir of King's College, Cambridge and is broadcast on American Public Radio.

The first Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge, was held on Christmas Eve in 1918. It was conceived by Eric Milner-White, the Dean of the College, who believed that the church needed more imaginative worship. The service was first broadcast on the radio in 1928 and, except for 1930, has been broadcast every year since,



even throughout World War II, despite the fact that the stained glass had been removed from the Chapel and there was no heat.

The tradition of celebrating the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was begun at Grace in the year 1920, two years after the beautiful service originated at King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England. The Service used at Grace each year is exactly the same as the original service of 1918.

The Grace Chancel Choir, Chancel Bell Choir, children and youth choirs and other musicians will offer musical responses to the nine lessons. Also featured will be the beautiful Möller pipe organ. Installed in 1952 and renovated and expanded in 2000, the organ contains 3,547 pipes ranging in size from over 35 feet to treble pipes with a length of only 3/8 of an inch.

The unique architecture of Grace's sanctuary and the beautiful music of Lessons and Carols make this service a peaceful and spiritual preparation for the Christmas season. For more information, please call Grace United Methodist Church at 314-863-1992.

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

For the better part of at least 15 years, I have encouraged people to recycle. Recycling will not solve climate change but it diminishes the need for landfills and allows for the reuse of paper, metal, plastic, and glass. Some of us have been able to utilize Earth Circle. For a yearly fee (subsidized by the city), they picked up our recycling once a week. Many thanks to Jerry Witter and his crew for all their effort.

Now, for those of us in Skinker DeBeliviere who are part of the 28th ward, we can recycle along with our regular trash disposal in our alleys. Two blue recycling dumpsters are in each alley and have instructions affixed to them. Recycling is covered in the \$11/refuse charge now appearing on our water bills. Residents may dispose of aluminum and steel cans, plastic #1-5 and 7, and glass bottles plus milk and juice cartons and soup and juice boxes. All these must be rinsed. You can also dispose of newspapers, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, and cardboard. If you haven't been a recycler, it will take a little getting used to but it's a great habit to undertake.

For those in the 26th ward, east of Des Peres and from the north side of Waterman north to Delmar, the SDCC is working with its alderman to have recycling dumpsters in your alleys as well. Hopefully, that will be soon.

We have long been a throwaway society but we can afford to be no longer. As we preserve our historic neighborhood, let us also work to help the environment. Recycling--the time has come!



Ice Carnival

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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

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Tom Hoerr	Venita Lake	Lana Stein	Marcia Kerz
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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: Jan. 15, 2011. 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 the office at 6008 Kingsbury, at 7 p.m. Over the next three months, results from the recent neighborhood survey will be discussed.

November 8 meeting: Discussion of draft planning summary.

December 13 meeting: Planning goals finalized.

January 10 meeting: Presentation to community. The final document will also be published in the next TIMES, in February, 2011.

Security Committee, Wednesday, November 10, 5:30 PM at SDCC office

Housing Corporation Board Meeting, first and third Wednesdays, 6:00 PM at SDCC office

Curse of the Starving Class, by Sam Shepard, directed by Annamaria Pileggi, November 18, 19 & 20 @ 8 p.m. and November 20 & 21 @ 2 p.m. at the A.E. Hotchner Studio Theatre, WU. Winner of an Obie Award, Curse of the Starving Class is a dark and lyrical play, at once comic and tragic, that focuses on the dissolution of the American dream. This family drama is told against the backdrop of Southern California, once the great frontier, the land of milk and honey. But for the Tate family, the dream of prosperity has disappeared. In its place is a curse that dooms everyone to violence, poverty, and self-destruction, and forces them into the ranks of the starving class.

Light up the Loop, Saturday, November 27, 2010: Kick off the holiday season on Saturday November 27th when the loop is transformed into a Winter Wonderland. Stores will be decorating their windows so come down and check us all out!

Residential Committee, Monday, Nov. 29, 6:30 PM at SDCC office

Historic Review Committee, Wed., December 1, 7 PM at SDCC office

Washington University Dance Theatre presents "Living in the Momentum," December 3 & 4 @ 8 p.m. and December 5 @ 2 p.m., Edison Theatre, Artistic Direction by Cecil Slaughter. Join us for an evening of contemporary dance and experience the impelling force that is Washington University Dance Theatre.

Wintermarkt, Saturday, December 4, 2010, 11:00 a.m.-4 p.m. Greg Freeman Park at Four Corners Park. Sponsored by the West End Arts Council. For more information or to rent space, call 862-5122.

Security Committee, Wednesday, December 8, 5:30 PM at SDCC office

Police and Firemen Appreciation Luncheon, Thursday, December 9, 2010, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury. Volunteers are needed to bring hot dishes, sandwiches, goodies, and to serve our men and women that day. Call 862-5122 for more information.

The Loop Ice Carnival January 14-15, 2011. Expanded to two days from previous years, there will be over 40 ice sculptures, over 20 booths/games, and of course the Putt-putt pub crawl. Thanks to the generous help of Herman London, a Maplewood real estate firm, there will also be a \$1000 frozen ice cube event.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, sponsored by SDCC, Sunday, January 16, 3:00 p.m. For more information, call 862-5122.

ORIGINAL ST. ROCH'S CHURCH TO BECOME AN ART GALLERY

By Bill Christman
Bill Christman and Keith Spoeneman are creating a gallery, Ars Populi (Latin for Art of the People) at 6010 Kingsbury, formerly the SciFi Lounge, one door west of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council. The gallery will open with assemblages by Keith Spoeneman and black and white photographs of Connamara, Ireland, by filmmaker Bob Quinn. Several soft openings will begin on Thursday evenings from 7-9 p.m. to coincide with the music events at Joe's Cafe next door. Additional hours will be on weekends and by appointment (862-2541).
The original tenant of the space was St. Roch's Church, from 1912, until the completion of the present church on Waterman in 1922.

Ars Populi intends to exhibit the work of artists rarely seen in traditional St. Louis galleries. Future artists will include portraits by Chris Reuss, Gaslight Square photos by Thelma Blumberg, and small sculptures by Dewey Dempsey.

For more information, call 862-2541, or stop by on Thursday.

News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer



Photos by Kyle Brightman

The 5900 block of De Giverville celebrated with a full blown block party on September 18th and had a great time. **Andrea Cole** and **Mrs. Brown** barbequed. At one point they had two football games going, backyard golf, frisbee, and **Dennis Evans** rounded up a bouncie house for the kids, which even the adults enjoyed using at the end of the party. There was a DJ and the middle of the block was a dance floor. To add to the excitement, balloons participating in the Great Forest Park Balloon Race flew over and landed in Lucier Park! A very exciting party with extra entertainment no one could have planned!



First grandbaby! **Candace O'Connor** and **Bob Wiltenburg** of the 6100 block of Kingsbury are first-time grandparents. On June 8, daughter **Mary Wiltenburg** and husband **Brian Dalton** had their first baby: **William O'Connor Dalton**. Congratulations!



Lana Stein reported that on October 6, **Rufus Davenport**, a resident of 59xx Pershing for well over 40 years, passed away. He will be missed by his neighbors and friends. Davenport was 83 years old. He looked out for those who lived near by and a certain toy spaniel will miss his special friend.

Shirley Whitney Polk reports that grandson, **Allen Whitney**, graduated on September 16 from the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Academy and is now an Officer on the streets of St. Louis. Congratulations to Shirley and Al and all the family!



photo by King Schoenfeld

Darlene Greene, Comptroller of the City of St. Louis, and longtime resident of the 59xx block of DeGiverville, hosted a reception at her home for Senate candidate Robin Carnahan. Attendees included many neighbors, including Lana Stein and former Mayor Vince Schoemehl, Rogerene Kinds, and many more.



Photo by Julie Schoemehl

Nine of the eleven Schoemehl siblings, (plus **Tim and Kelly Schoemehl** and a couple of honorary Schoemehls) recently took a trip to Ireland in September; Dublin to Galway. According to **Julie Schoemehl**, they had many adventures and an absolutely wonderful time!

The McPherson Christmas Caroling tradition continues on Sunday, December 12 at 4:30 p.m. on the Rosedale median, with the lively after-party at the Boxdorfers.

Many neighbors on 6000 and 6100 blocks have participated in the past, thanks in large part to the efforts through the years by **Dave Schmidt**. Dave has been ailing lately, and at this printing is still in hospital recuperating. All our best get well wishes to our great good neighbor Dave.



Photo by Kim Gladstone

The entire Weir family enjoyed the Westminster Block Party in October.



And from Kirkwood comes this note from **Mary Schmidt**: "We love your current issue. Well done! We will always feel connected to Skinker-DeBaliviere as long as we have the Times to read! Our news: This May we went to France for a 3 week reunion with our French "kids": Agnes, Blandine, Benoit and their parents and children. We lived with them. We travelled by trains. We had a wonderful and memorable time! Love, Mary and Pete Schmit."

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 Historic Home plaque makes a perfect gift. Call or email Katie Kurtz for details.

Our condolences go out to the Cross family, formerly of the 6100 block of Kingsbury. **Rosie Cross**, daughter of **John and Jane Cross** and sister of **Andy Cross**, passed away on September 2nd.



Ornaments for Officers is a new non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for The Backstoppers. Through November 16, Ornaments for Officers will be collecting holiday ornaments at our headquarters (10424 Manchester Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122) and at various other locations. The ornaments that are donated will then be distributed and displayed on trees at retail locations, where they will be for sale at \$3 per ornament. The proceeds will be donated to The Backstoppers and used to assist the families of fallen officers. Their goal for this year is to raise \$20,000. More info is available at <http://www.ornamentsforofficers.com>, or call 681-0401.

B.B.Q. Concert Series 2010

By Andy Cross

Great food would be reason enough to bring a crowd to the West End Arts Council of Skinker DeBaliviere's annual BBQ Concert series, and as usual Dan and Phil Lodholtz with help from volunteers Jon Parker, Dan Hudspeth, Hitch Powell, and others served out some knockout dishes. Of course, the music is another great reason this event pulls a crowd. This year, the performances included the band 'Mama Tried' for National Night Out playing old and new acoustics, blues, and bluegrass music. Our next concert was a band called 'Chucker' featuring Dick Hereford of Skinker DeBaliviere playing classic rock. By special arrangement our third performance was Javier Mendoza, the *Riverfront Times* "best male vocalist". Playing his original music, Javier drew the biggest crowd that the concert series has ever seen.

Another great feature of the BBQ concert series is the fine collection of friendly neighbors who make up the audience at these events. The band members



Niteout Band photo by King Schoenfeld

always comment on what a nice neighborhood we have, with such good people. If you have not attended one of these concerts at Greg Freeman Park yet, make it a plan to attend next year. The food, music, and best neighbors you can find make these relaxing get-togethers a real treat.

SDCC Board Mtg, Monday, Sept. 13, 2010
Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Katrina Stierholz at 7:05 pm.

Introductions were made and Karen Godar was welcomed as the new Board representative from Parkview. Minutes: The August 9, 2010 minutes were reviewed and amended as follows - under SDCHC: delete the last three sentences. Norbert made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Michael seconded, and the motion carried.

Financials: The Statement of Financial Position, July 31, 2010 and 2009 was reviewed (attached). Cash balance was approximately \$37,000. Michael made a motion to accept the Financial Report, Karen seconded, and the motion carried. David has been authorized by the Finance and Executive Committees to solicit proposals for 1) payroll services and 2) QuickBooks "set-up" and advisory services, annual review of the SDCC books, and preparation of our 990. Administrative Director's Report: See attached.

There was discussion regarding the Urban Issues Symposium taking on Lucier as a student project; and whether Board approval is required. Paul Hales made the following motion: "The SDCC Board approves the collaboration between SDCC staff and the Urban Issues Symposium to investigate issues and identify strategies to make Lucier Park a community asset." The motion was seconded by Michael and carried.

Norb asked if a Lucier Park committee should be established to work with the students. Deborah Cooper suggested that the students move forward and have a future committee review their findings. David indicated that community stakeholders would be included in work sessions throughout the process. Paul Hales suggested that an outcome of the study might be to identify stakeholders "and encouraged that representatives of the Enright neighborhood be included.

National Children's Study: Vetta Thompson presented an overview. The study is authorized by an act of Congress and sponsored the EPA, CDA and the NIH. St. Louis is one of 105 participating cities and geographic "segments" have been randomly selected - some within the SDCC neighborhood. This is an "observational" study and will focus on environmental and biological factors, with the children in the study being followed until age 21. The pilot phase of the study will launch in November and will seek to enroll pre-pregnant and newly pregnant candidates. The formal study will launch in early 2012. The goal for St. Louis is to enroll 250 women each year over 4 years. Ms. Thompson was asked to coordinate with SDCC staff so that we can notify residents when her teams are in the neighborhood. See attached.

City of St. Louis Waste Services: Josh Weise of the Mayor's Office presented recent changes in the City's waste collection policies and fees. An \$11/month/unit fee has been added to the Water Bill for all waste collection. Two new blue recycling dumpsters will be added in the alley for each block in the 28th Ward. Josh was not sure what portions of the 26th Ward, is any, would have recycling in this initial roll-out. Pick-up cycle for trash, recycling and yard waste will be once per week. Bulk pick-up will remain at once per month.

Norb made the following motion: "The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council requests that two recycling containers per block be provided for both the 26th Ward and 28th Ward portions of the Skinker DeBaliviere community." The motion was seconded by Dan, and carried.

Karin asked if there is a process to appeal the number of units at an address. Josh indicated that there is.

There was discussion about Earth Cycles services - it was generally understood that they would cease business in the City on November 1 when annual contracts expire. Washington Heights Neighborhood Meeting: Michael Noble reported that the meeting was held September 2 and was attended by 15 - 20 people. The attendees provided a history of how tensions arose when Washington Heights residents felt that their voices were not being heard by SDCC and how the organization ultimately melted away. It was the consensus at that meeting to pursue if / how Washington Heights could be reestablished. Michael hopes to have a follow-up meeting within the next two weeks.

Aldermanic Report: Lyda Krewson reported that the Adult Daycare conditional use permit for the southeast corner of Pershing and DeBaliviere is still "percolating". She believes it is a bad location and zoning does not allow this use without a variance.

Lyda reported that a meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 15 in an attempt to bring resolution to the U-Verse boxes on Kingsbury. Lyda still believes that AT&T will not relocate the boxes unless someone else pays for it.

Lyda agreed to report 1) the "disabled" yard waste dumpsters behind the McPherson Community Garden, 2) the refuse truck leaking debris in the DeGiverville alley, and 3) the burned out street light at 5945 McPherson. Note - all of these items can and should be reported on the Citizens' Service Bureau website - and it was noted that we should provide a link to the CCB site on the SDCC website.

Lyda requested that she be included on SDCC email Blasts
SDCHC: See attached Minutes and Project Reports.

Beautification Committee: Andy reported on the disabled yard waste dumpsters and the burned-out street light at the community garden. See Aldermanic Report above.

WEAC: Andy reported that the August 14 Chucker concert broke even and that the August 28 Javier Mendoza concert netted approximately \$500. WEAC will apply for a grant to help fund the 2011 concert series. Andy gave a brief update on his recent purchase of the "Bill Cohn Building" on the NW corner of Des Peres and Kingsbury.

In addition to the existing residential and studio uses, Andy hopes to establish a neighborhood gallery on the first floor. **Rosedale:** Dan reported that Rags to Riches was very successful and netted approximately \$1150 to be shared with SDCC.

Fundraising Committee: Rachel reported that Dine Out netted approximately \$800, with two establishments still not reporting. Homecoming is Saturday, September 25 and Katrina asked all board members to attend - AND to sell tickets. Tickets are \$40 per person and available at the SDCC office. Rachel reported two new revenue sources for this year's Homecoming: 1) a silent auction and 2) the proceeds from the cash bar. Royalty bidding will return again this year - this event netted \$1700 last year. Lovie Dovie is this year's caterer.

Security Committee: No report. Concern was expressed that there was no 7th District police representation at the September 8 Security Committee meeting. A suspect was arrested in the armed confrontations at Rosedale and Waterman, the Central West End and Clayton. Recent auto break-ins were reported on the 6000 block of Kingsbury.

Strategic Planning: Survey responses have been strong and the website will remain open beyond September 15. The Strategic Planning Committee meets again on September 15 to plan stakeholder and peer organization interviews and steps to complete the initiative.

Residential Committee: See attached. Norb raised the question of whether a permit is required for vacant properties. Lyda replied that it is not illegal for a build to be vacant - but that it must comply with the exterior property maintenance code. A building can be placed on the City's vacant property list for a fee/fine of \$200/year on top of property taxes.

General: Katrina suggested that we need a block captain coordinator. Cheryl offered that this might be a good job for a Washington University student to set up. **New Business:** None
The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

SDCC Meeting, Monday, August 9, 2010
Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by President Katrina Stierholz at 7:10 pm. Introductions were made.

Dan Lodholz noted that Paul Michaelson, co-chair of the Security Committee, passed away last Friday night after a long battle with cancer. His obituary will be in tomorrow's Post Dispatch.

Minutes: Rachel was present at the last meeting, Norb made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted, Dan seconded the motion. It passed.

Financials: The Council is hoping to dismiss Davis Associates shortly. They have all the information necessary, and Bethany will deliver the check

Administrative Director's Report: See attached.

Aldermanic Report:

New Administrative Director: Katrina announced that after an extensive search for a new Administrative Director, with advertisements in The St. Louis American, Craigslist, and the S-D e-mail list. David Whiteman, former SDCC board member, has been hired to fill the position. Katrina asked all board members to introduce themselves to David & discuss what they would like to see in the future for the board. Norb interjected that 28th Ward NSO, Les Mason, was present. Les didn't have much to add, but was happy to take questions. **SDCHC:** See attached Minutes and Project Reports. Cheryl asked about the building across the street that was for sale. Andy & Linda have put in a bid, and it is under contract. Norb asked about 5830 DeGiverville, if it was a vacant lot. Jamie responded that that was a house. Gary noted that it needed extensive systems upgrades.

Beautification Committee: Andy updated about the group of volunteers from Gateway

Greening: they were put to work at Hamilton Elementary and the Block Garden 1035. They did a nice job, despite the hot and grueling weather. Andy told Les about a rusted out yard waste dumpster lying on its side directly behind the McPherson Community Garden.

WEAC: Andy noted that NNO went well; we had a good crowd despite the heat. The barbeque was great and so was the band. There is another concert on Saturday, featuring the Lodholz barbeque and the group Chucker. The third concert will be August 28th with Javier Mendoza - it will be the same day as Rags to Riches. Dan L asked about advertising the concert to a broader base. Andy noted that if the crowd becomes too large than we would have to rent port-a-potties.

Fundraising Committee: We are still attempting to get the money from some of the Dine Out contributors. We currently have \$2,500 in sponsorships for Homecoming. The tickets and flyers are still in the works, should be done by next weekend. The committee is still looking for prizes for costume winners, and for the silent auction. The next Homecoming meeting is August 26th.

Security Committee: Minutes attached. Arline pointed out the item on panhandling in the Security Committee minutes, noting that panhandlers could stand passively with a sign, but are not allowed to directly ask for contributions. They can stand in the median, but not in the street. Katrina will be attending in order to discuss issues with Lucier Park, 5819 Westminster. Karin asked about the issues occurring on Delmar regarding curfew. There was a discussion regarding the teenagers leaving U-City en masse and heading into the City.

Strategic Planning: The flyers are ready for distribution. **Residential Committee:** Gary and Norb briefly reported back from the committee meeting. It seems to be moving forward. Norb will be attending the Security Committee to discuss the interrelating issues.

Rags to Riches is August 28th: Looking for volunteers for the food booths. Cheryl asked about recruiting volunteers from local high schools. Dan H agreed to look into it. **New Business:**

Federal Grants Audit: Briefly went over the audit issues, and their resolution. **Website:** Katrina asked for volunteers to write copy for the website. Cheryl mentioned that an article in the Times might be useful for recruitment.

Adult Daycare Facility: Norb said that when he walked past the building there was a man attempting to obtain signatures for a petition for a coffee house. Norb stated that he went back to ask the guy about it being an adult daycare, and the man said they were going to be both.

Katrina asked the Board about a resolution regarding the permit hearing for the building. Norb moved that the Board oppose the business since we know so little about it, Paul seconded the motion.

U-Verse: Candace O'Connor revisited the issue of the U-Verse boxes on Kingsbury. She noted that there was an article about the issue in the Post Dispatch. Candace asked about the SDCC meeting with representatives from AT&T. Paul stated that the problem was that AT&T had the permit, and that it was unlikely that could be changed. She noted that they believed the permit was invalid. Paul said that the matter would have to be referred to the City Counselor. Candace proposed that the SDCC facilitate a meeting between the residents in the area and representatives from AT&T. Katrina asked the Board for a motion; Rachel made a motion to invite the AT&T representatives to a community forum, Paul seconded it.

Ron brought it before the Board that he and his family were moving out of the neighborhood, and would be leaving the Board. He noted that he had a potential replacement in mind.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

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VOICE MAIL 721-5600 x115
karleenhoerr@aol.com
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State Senator Joe Keaveney

It has been just one year since I was elected to represent the 4th District in the Missouri Senate. People often ask about some of the adjustments that I have had to make and my thoughts of my first session of the General Assembly.

The Senate convenes on Monday afternoon and recesses on Thursday afternoon from the beginning of January through the middle of May. I stay in Jefferson City on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights. I'm usually home in time for dinner on Thursday.

Walking into the Senate chamber is truly an experience. Not only is the chamber beautiful, but you can feel the decorum and protocol. There are many unwritten rules in the Senate. Rules pertaining to where you are allowed to walk, how you address fellow senators



(no names allowed), and what items you can bring to your desk are just a few rules that you have to learn quickly. Infractions are addressed by a loud bang of the gavel by the President and a short

admonishment. Needless to say, as the newest member, I have been on the receiving end of the gavel more than once and my colleagues seem to enjoy my misfortune. As the session progressed, I quickly learned how to avoid being the center of attention!

The pace of divergent issues is probably the most surprising aspect of serving. I usually arrive in the Capital before 8:00 am and rarely leave until well past dinner. There are usually several groups of people waiting in my office to speak with me about a myriad of issues. Discussing their issues, working on my own legislation, attending committee hearings and the normal session make for full days.

In the 2011 session you can expect me to file the bill to bring the City of St. Louis local control of

the St. Louis Police Department, to raise the seatbelt fine from \$10.00 to \$50.00, and to lower the mandatory age for Kindergarten from 7 years old to 5 years old. I filed each of these bills last session, had committee hearings, and continue to work to address any issues that were raised.

My first year of service does not apply to my term limit. I filled the partial term of my predecessor. I am up for re-election on Nov. 2 to start my own four year term. I look forward to representing the 4th District for another four years. It is an honor that I do not take lightly.

Remembering Bob Blackburn

By Lana Stein

Bob Blackburn lived in our neighborhood for several decades. He played an important role in its stabilization. When the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council was formed in 1966, he represented Washington University. As longtime Executive Director Cal Stuart noted, "He was a major player in the development of the new Skinker-DeBaliviere. He was a strong supporter of the emphasis on housing."

Blackburn was a strong but quiet voice; his cordiality was ever-present. Dan McGuire noted that, "Bob was a thoughtful and gracious gentleman who helped me get the lay of the land as a young alderman." Blackburn acquired a rehabbed condo on Rosedale in the 70s, when buying it was a statement of faith in the comeback of the neighborhood.

Aside from being a constant friend and supporter of the neighborhood, he had a distinguished career in government and academia. He was trained in political science at the University of Virginia and Harvard and taught at the University of Rochester from 1952-55. This followed distinguished service in World War II. He was also a Congressional Fellow from 1955-56.

Blackburn came to St. Louis in 1957 and was an advisor and then chief of staff to Mayor Raymond Tucker until Tucker left office in 1965. Blackburn played an intimate role in dealing with Civic Progress over urban renewal and freeway building. He had tremendous respect for Tucker.

On leaving the mayor's office, Blackburn became the Assistant to Chancellors Eliot and Danforth at Washington University. He was appointed that university's Director of Community and Government Relations in 1972, working with three levels of government. He retired in 1992 but worked with the movement for home rule in the city of St. Louis. Ill health caused him to move to the Gatesworth from his pied-a-terre on Rosedale. He died on September 20 at the age of 88.

He was a courtly gentleman and always optimistic. He aided the SDCC as a neighbor and as a key player at Washington University. His contributions are before us.



Shown here at the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council 25th Anniversary party are (from left), Richard Hart, lawyer and one of the founders of SDCC; Esther Herron, member of the Council from 1967-1981; Jack Wright, President of the Council through the 70s and early 80s; Bob Blackburn, who represented Washington University on the Council from the beginning; and longtime Executive Director, Cal Stuart. Photo from the neighborhood history, Celebrating Skinker-DeBaliviere, by Jo Ann Vatcha with Marj Weir, 2009, published by the Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere.

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The coffee shop serves freshly brewed coffee, teas, espresso, cafe latte, cafe mocha, cappuccino, cold beverages and a variety of pastry snacks.

Sip 'N Savor Grand Opening specials will include regular coffees for 50¢ from the hours of 7 AM - 9 AM, as well as gifts for every purchase of \$4 or more.

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For more information contact Joyce Wilks-Love @ 314.361.2116 or email jwilkslove@att.net.



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Loop goes kid friendly: City Sprouts

By Norbert Hart

City Sprouts

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City Sprouts is owned by two sisters, Molly, who runs City Sprouts, and Karrie, who runs Phoenix Rising – also in the Loop since 1994. City Sprouts originated as a baby section of the original operation; the idea came from the lack of fun contemporary nursery products available in St. Louis. City Sprouts began to serve this missing market and opened in 2005 when space next to the Tivoli opened up. The business expanded to the current location in 2009.

City Sprouts sells products for babies, kids, moms and dads, including clothing, toys, books, gear (strollers, highchairs etc), furniture and decor. Most toys do not require batteries, there are a lot of wooden ones and some eco-friendly ones made in the USA. Age range in clothing and toys is birth to 9. Furniture is contemporary and many products “grow” with one’s child. The clothing is fashionable, functional, and comfortable. They also offer many small independent lines. They are also considered a destination store for “tea collection” clothing. There’s an in-store and online gift registry.

Their current expansion focus is the internet. But CS loves the Loop because, as Molly Curlee says, “it is a cultural melting pot and is extremely lively. The Loop is a mini urban oasis in an extremely suburb-friendly city. When people have asked/told me that they were surprised that we chose the Loop for a kids store, we tell them there are lots of forward thinking families in the neighborhood, just as many as other places, plus we are a pedestrian and soon to be bike friendly neighborhood.”



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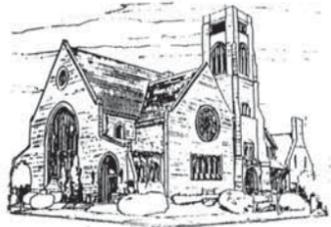
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Skinker-DeBaliviere takes to the seas

by Rachel Boxdorfer

The 2nd Annual Skinker DeBaliviere Homecoming set sail on Saturday, September 25th at Crossroads College Prep! If not a real boat trip, the evening was certainly an adventure that sparked old sitcom references through guest's attire and made even more great memories for all in attendance. The gymnasium at the school was beautifully decorated for the theme and allowed guests room for dancing, bidding on auction items, visiting with old friends and neighbors, and to have fantastically fun photos taken!

Many guests came dressed in cruise attire or some slightly insane versions of cruise attire. A couple of folks even came dressed as Charro (who was a frequent guest on the old show). The best dressed contest was highly entertaining with Monique



Skinker-DeBaliviere Homecoming Dance FishEyeFun.com

Mark Banaszak and Katrina Stierholz.

Hudspeth as Charro and Jamie Kenyon (in drag!) taking the top prizes. Mark Banaszak also won a costume prize for his version of Andy Gibb. Jamie Kenyon was a repeat winner from last

year. Judges for the contest again this year were Bill Christman and Peggy Hermes.

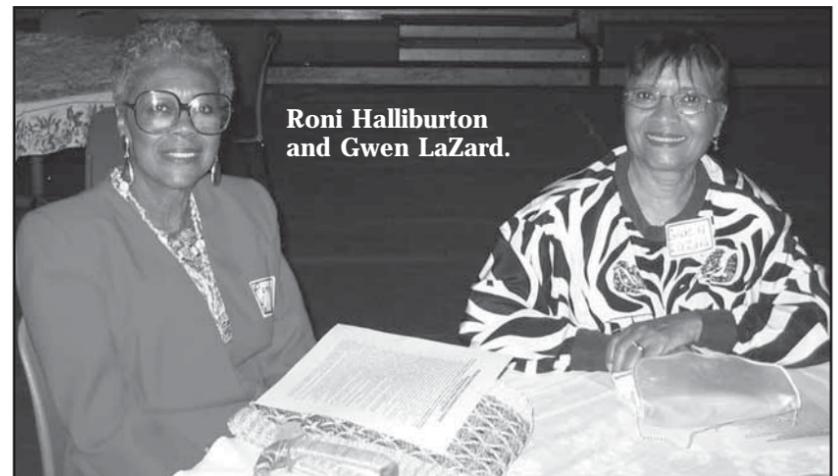
The bidding for the coveted titles of King and Queen of the neighborhood was also an exciting activity again this year (yes....it can be bought and paid for!) and the high honors this year went to our very own Skinker DeBaliviere President, Katrina Stierholz and her husband, Mark Banaszak. Additional entertainment was a large group of residents (all ages) on the dance floor, especially with a rendition of "Soul Train". And Skinker DeBaliviere Board member Karin Hagaman even sang The Love Boat theme to set the mood.

Special thanks go out to the sponsors of the event; Karleen Hoerr & Daniel B. Feinberg Real Estate, Katie Kurtz & Laura McCarthy Real Estate, Big Shark, Rick & Joan Bender, Blueberry Hill, Kingsbury Animal Hospital, Beth

Bender, Dean Porter & ReMax Results, Jump Co, State Senator Joe Keaveny, West End Word, 2Schae Café, Andy Cross, Rachel Boxdorfer & Prudential Alliance Realtors, DGH Services, & The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere.

And of course, many, many thanks to the committee members who worked so hard to make the event such a success and a very memorable and fun evening. The event raised nearly \$11,000 for SDCC. This is important funding for our neighborhood which includes Rosedale Neighbors, Washington Heights, Kingsbury Square, and Parkview.

To see photos of the 2nd Annual Homecoming, log on to the SDCC web site at <http://stlouis.missouri.org/skinkerdebaliviere/>. Photos available there were taken by Ben Brammeier (Benjamin Trevor Photography) and his Fish Eye Fun!



Roni Halliburton and Gwen LaZard.



Thersa Kenyon, Beth Bender, Cristina McGroarty, Shauna Cunningham, Linda Cross.



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Sean McGroarty and Joe Hogan.



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Congratulations to Tom Hoerr for 30 years of "In Your Ear" --

the long-running humor column appears in every issue of *The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere*.

IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

We are not alone. No, I'm not referring to the folks who pick through the dumpsters in the alleys, and I'm not talking about the apparitions who show up on Election Day to vote. I'm talking about other life forms on other planets, about people like us. Or not.

You see, it's no longer speculation. We have identified a planet that is not only capable of hosting life, there's a good chance that it does so. ("We," by the way, ain't me. It's researchers who study this stuff for fun.) The planet is Gliese 581g. To provide a bit more detail so that you can seek it when you point your i-Phone in the sky, Gliese 581g orbits a sun, a dim red star, called Gliese 581 (pronounced GLEE-za). Gliese 581 is not just around the corner; in fact, it's 20 light years away, in the constellation Libra. A light year, in case you were napping in high school physics class, is a term for the distance light travels at 186,000 miles per second in a calendar year. The light that we see today from star Gliese 581 left there in 1990. Bush the first was president and Bush the second was a part-owner of a major league baseball team. Boy, did things go downhill after that!

If the concept of 20 light year's distance doesn't quite tickle your odometer and you'd rather think about those miles in conventional terms, you can do the calculation: 365 days x 24 hours X 60 minutes X 60 seconds X 186,500 miles = 5,878,625,373,184 miles. Yep, that means that a light year is almost six TRILLION miles. Do you realize how many rest stops we'd need to drive 6,000,000,000,000 miles? You could listen to Books-On-Tape of every book in the Congressional Library.

So what do we know about this planet that is not quite six trillion miles away? Well, the reason we think there life is highly possible there is that the planet is in the Goldilocks distance from the sun – not too hot and not too cold. It's not freezing and it's not boiling. This tiny planet revolves around its sun, Gliese 581, every 37 days. (If I was there, that means that I'd

be about 640 Gliese years old!)

Unlike my earlier articles about Sarah Palin being an alien and Rush Limbaugh being made of green cheese, I am not making this up. Indeed, all of this fancy-sounding stuff that I shared comes from an article in the New York Times (September 30, 2010). And you know, if it's in the Times, it's true. If it's in the (Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere, that is. Our editorial page is much more balanced!)

Anyway, scientists tell us that Gliese 581g has a 90% likelihood of water, and that the surface temperatures are likely to be between 10 and -24F, comparable to a summer day on Antarctica.

Wow. One scientist is quotes as thinking that the chances of life there are almost 100%. Think about that will you!

I've thought a lot about this over the years. I just know, no doubt, that other life exists in the universe. How could it not? If you doubt me, check out the following quote:

There are one-half trillion stars in our Milky Way galaxy. That's right, it's trillion with a T. That's 500,000,000,000 stars... And our galaxy is only one of billions of galaxies! The Hubble telescope has discerned areas that contain 80 billion galaxies, and there are many, many more galaxies that are beyond Hubble's' purview. (Hawkeye, In Your Ear, November 2007)

Think about all those stars and some having planets and some of those planets being in the Goldilocks zone and some of those planets having water and some of those planets harboring life. That's' a lot of somes, and it makes sense.

So now that we've established that statistically life out there is a certainty, and now we have an inkling of where it might be. Hello Gliese 581g! But what about it? We have no idea what these life forms look like. We can assume that they've adapted to their environment, as we have, Mr. Darwin, but what else? What might possibly be possible?

Well, dear reader, here are the epistemological questions that plague me. I think about them more than I should (but at least it's better than thinking about the war in Afghanistan or whether LaRussa is going to return). About that life form which exists on Gliese 581g:

1. Does the life form keep another species as a pet? I mean, we have dogs, cats, birds, turtles, occasionally mice and snakes. What about the XYZ living on Gliese 581g? Does it keep an ABC or PKR? Does the ABC require walking, or does the PKR need PKR-litter? Do all "intelligent" species confine and enslave other species, or just us?

2. For that matter, does the Gliese 581g life form enslave other Gliese 581g life forms, maybe those of a different hue or accent? Is man's inhumanity to man limited to man?

3. Do these Gliese 581g life forms play any sports? Do they consume enough nourishment that they have spare energy to engage in recreational pursuits? Really, think about it: Once an organism consumes far more than it needs, assuming that the organism has

time on its hands or whatever those appendages are, wouldn't it want to have fun? What's a grand-slam on Gliese 581g?

4. What is the equivalent of music on Gliese 581? Not unlike my hunch on recreation, Gliese 581g life forms must satisfy the survival and maintenance of their life form first; I get that. But if they are reasonably safe and reasonably well-nourished, what comes next? What or who is the Gliese 581g equivalent of Michael Jackson? Is rhythm a concept limited to Earth? (Say, come to think of it, maybe Michael Jackson already came from there!)

5. And finally, at this second, is someone on Gliese 581g reading about the possibility of life on our planet? Is this a case of the peeping Tom seeing a Tom peeping? We not only are in a Goldilocks Zone, after all, we ARE the Goldilocks Zone. How many other life forms on how many other planets have identified this rock we call Earth as possibly supporting life? Has life on our planet been speculated about in the Gliese 581gTimes?

I'd like to write more now, because there are many other points about Gliese 581g that have caught my fancy. However, while 20 light years is farther than my VW is likely to go, I believe in time warps and the capacity of Black Holes to jettison us across mind-boggling distances. We just don't have a grasp of the technology yet. That's not surprising; it always happens. Think of Columbus trying to operate the cable TV he had on the Santa Maria.

Anyway, I figure I'll get to Gliese 581g before you know it. No, make that before I know it. I just have to find the right time warp and quietly slip away. The journey will be arduous but the destination will be worthwhile. I just hope that Gliese 581g has the equivalent of Starbucks.

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