

# The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 40, No. 5

Feb. - March 2011

www.stlouis.missouri.org/skinkerdebaliviere/sd\_times

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

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## Historic Neighborhood Welcomes Lighting of the Future

By Christopher Smith, Parkview Agent • Photos by Lee Lawless, Parkview Agent

The historic Parkview district, straddling the border between St. Louis City and University City, proudly announced the successful replacement of the neighborhood's entire lighting system, which incorporates the latest in "green" technology, while preserving the antique light poles and historic integrity of the existing light fixtures.



The project included a total re-wiring of the existing system, which comprised electric cable laid directly underground in conduit by subsurface boring. It also included the replacement of the neighborhood's 61 light fixtures, also known as luminaires, with a more reliable and environmentally sustainable 85 Watt induction lighting apparatus. The new luminaires were designed to fit the ambiance of the neighborhood yet employ the latest in "cut-off" optics, resulting in reduced glare and virtually eliminating skyward "light pollution." Induction lights have an anticipated life of 100,000 hours. Induction lighting is commonly used in commercial applications around the metropolitan area, including a current installation at the St. Louis Zoo's pedestrian areas. However, according to Randy Burkett Lighting Design, Parkview's lights are the first residential application of the new technology in the area.

"Thanks to the overwhelming support of the Parkview residents, we were able to make this project a success," said Mary Broun, president of the Parkview Board of Agents. "This new lighting system enhances the security of our neighborhood, maintains Parkview's historic integrity and will save residents tens of thousands of dollars in maintenance and repair costs in future years."

Parkview's electric streetlights date back to 1934, when they replaced gas lamps. At that time, they were wired in what is called "series" rather than "parallel" wiring - similar to old strands of Christmas lights. In addition to operating off a single transformer, the wiring was not protected by conduit, which made it highly vulnerable to electrical shortages.

In 1985, Parkview updated the street lights by adding new luminaires with high pressure sodium bulbs and replacing only bad sections of the original cable. And while ballasts were also added to alleviate certain street-wide outages, the wires were still not protected by conduit. Since 2006, Parkview residents have spent nearly \$200,000 maintaining and repairing the

Continued on page 3

**Lighting**

## Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Strategic Plan, January 10, 2011

### Overview

The Skinker DeBaliviere Community is a beautiful historic neighborhood with tree-lined streets and brick residences located in the west end of the City of St. Louis. It is bounded by the city limits on the west, Delmar Boulevard on the north, DeBaliviere Avenue on the east, and Lindell Boulevard on the south. The community is within walking distance of Washington University, Forest Park, and the University City Loop.

Neighborhoods within Skinker DeBaliviere include Kingsbury Square, Nina Place, Parkview, Rosedale and Washington Heights.

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council (SDCC) was established in 1966. Delmar Baptist Church, (now New Cote Brillante Church of God), Grace Methodist, St. Roch Church, and Washington University, along with neighborhood associations of the times - Rosedale Neighbors and Washington Heights - came together to improve the neighborhood.

Through the years, the nature of some of the programs, as well as

community's residential base, has changed. The role of the Council has evolved as well. It continues to serve as a forum where residents raise concerns, forge solutions, and address problems and assists in the ongoing improvement of the community, working with City of St. Louis, residents and the Alderman to keep a finger to the pulse of the community and to identify, assess, and resolve immediate concerns.

### Strategic Planning Process

In 2010, the SDCC Board of Directors created a Long-Range Planning Committee, the membership of which is noted in Appendix A, to make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding SDCC's near term goals and strategies. The Committee had a robust process to garner input from key constituencies as well as from others outside the neighborhood to help form its recommendations. The following inputs provided valuable information and the survey/questions

Continued on page 5  
**Strategic Plan**

## St. Roch Church Plans Its Centennial

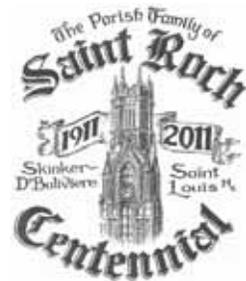
by Lana Stein

In 1908, the first houses arose in Skinker DeBaliviere and construction continued for more than a decade. In 1911, just 3 years after the first residents arrived, a Catholic parish was formed. While Father George P. Kuhlman worked with the new parishioners to raise money to build first the school, then the church, the new parishioners met elsewhere in the neighborhood, including 6008 Kingsbury (home of SDCC today).

Recently, Msgr. Sal Polizzi assembled a group of parishioners and friends to plan the centenary celebration. There will be a mass at St. Roch on Sunday, September 25 at 4:30pm. There will be a dinner at the Chase following the mass. Archbishop Carlton will be in attendance at these events. Following is a list of committees and chairs for the event.

- Co-chairs: Jim and Karen Shaughnessy, Don and Betty Moore
- Coordinator: Bridget O'Flynn
- New history of the parish: Larry Murray
- Art work (banners and logo): Bill Christman and Andy Cross
- Assembling photographs across a century: Arline Webb with Jane Hart, Jim McCarthy, Bob Newsham, and Claire Walsh
- Contribution of social Catholics: Lana Stein and JoAnn Vatcha (Social Catholics are non-Catholics who have been active in the school and with the church in the neighborhood.
- Mailings: Kyle McEvoy
- Outreach to school alumni and the March 5 Centennial Auction: Gloria Openlander
- Women of St. Roch: Beth Hogan
- Boy Scouts: Rick Bender
- For the dinner at the Chase: Chair: Mark Cusamano
- Music: Mary Davidson
- Decoration of Tables: Georgi Fox

*The Times* will bring you more information as the event draws nearer. In another point of interest, Msgr. Polizzi is celebrating his 30th year at St. Roch this year.



# Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

As a longtime member of the Commercial Committee, I have been thrilled by the transformation of Delmar east of Skinker. My only regret has been that there is no store that caters to our daily needs. Perhaps my wish may come true. There are proposals to create a farmers' market on the north side of Delmar where we could purchase locally grown produce and perhaps other fine things as well. It would be a place for neighbors to meet and to obtain items not that easily available and hopefully at better quality. I am hoping this idea finds financing and is not relegated to the dustbin of faded dreams. Our Committee would be ebullient if this idea were to come to fruition and I hope that all of you would be as well.

We have also been happy to learn that Washington University is sponsoring a Retail Study which will have as its goal the production of market analysis and data to give to prospective tenants of the great spaces along the entire stretch of Delmar. The study will also include data on DeBaliviere, very timely considering the upcoming Greenway and Trolley activity.

## Lighting

Continued from page 1

previous lighting system. This high voltage, low-amperage system is not used today. Parts of the neighborhood had been without street lights for over one year prior to the reconstruction. "The continuous outages and repairs we sustained over the years were a great financial drain on the neighborhood's annual operating budget diverting funds needed to support other services," said Broun.

The \$625,000 replacement of the previous lighting system was funded through a special assessment that was approved by Parkview residents at the neighborhood's May 2010 annual meeting. The three main phases of the reconstruction took just under three months. Resident reaction to the new lights has been extremely positive with one resident stating,

"They are so beautiful that I have left the blinds open till nearly midnight, just to rejoice. Thanks to all who made this possible."

Randy Burkett, Randy Burkett Lighting Design, of Webster Groves, Mo. provided consulting expertise in fixture and light type selection. Lamke Trenching and Excavating of Marthasville, Mo. performed the boring for conduit and wire. Briner Electric of Maryland Heights, Mo. was the general contractor for the project.

Founded in 1905, Parkview was recognized for its historic significance by the U.S. Department of Interior National Register of Historic Places in 1986, St. Louis City in 1978, University City in 1992 and St. Louis County in 1999. The 70-acre neighborhood, situated immediately west of Skinker Boulevard between Forest Park Parkway and Delmar Avenue, encompasses seven named streets and 255 houses.

# 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.

SDCC Calendar for Feb-March (all meetings at SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury):

Housing Corporation Board Meeting, Wednesday, February 2, 6 PM

Historic Review Committee, Wednesday, February 2, 7:00 PM

Security Committee, Wednesday, February 9, 5:30 PM

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Meeting, Tuesday, February 15, 7:00 PM

Housing Corporation Board Meeting, Wednesday, February 16, 6 PM

Bowling for Skinker DeBaliviere, Monday, February 21 (Presidents Day) 12 Noon - 3 PM at the in-Up Bowl (to be confirmed Feb 17)

Residential Committee, Monday, February 28, 6:30 PM

Housing Corporation Board Meeting, Wednesday, March 2, 6 PM

Historic Review Committee, Wednesday, March 2, 7 PM

Security Committee, Wednesday, March 9, 5:30 PM

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Meeting, Monday, March 14, 7:00 PM

Housing Corporation Board Meeting, Wednesday, March 16, 6:00 PM

Residential Committee, Monday, March 28, 6:30 PM

If you would like to have emails sent to you regarding neighborhood events, meetings and what's going on in general in our area and are not currently not on the council office email list, please contact David Whiteman at the council office @ david.whiteman@skinker-debaliviere.com, or call David @ 314-862-5122

## THANK YOU TO OUR LOYAL TIMES DONORS

by Jo Ann Vatcha

Thanks to all the neighborhood residents who gave a year-end donation to the TIMES. Over \$ 1,800 was raised from the following forty-one donors. Thanks, too to our great money manager, Lois Schoemehl, who makes sure we can continue to have such a professionally produced and printed newspaper, the oldest neighborhood newspaper in the St. Louis area, now in our 41st year. We deeply appreciate your participation!

### 2010 Year-End Appeal:

- |                                 |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Robert & RoseMarie Smith        | Lana Stein                          |
| Peggy Hermes                    | Sandy & Sue Rothschild              |
| Krister Knapp & Corinna Treitel | Judith & Fred Giraud                |
| Don Walker                      | Katrina Stierholz & Mark Banazak    |
| Lynn & Bob Huson                | Bob & Jean Ducker                   |
| Lara Fuchs                      | Vince & Lois Schoemehl              |
| Robert Dearing                  | Virginia Leguey-Feilleux            |
| Laura Gorman                    | Joe & Nancy deBettencourt           |
| William Taylor                  | Marj & Brad Weir                    |
| Leonard & Suzanne Knese         | Kristina Stierholz & Albert Webster |
| Ethel Sawyer Adolphe            | Karen & Jerry McClure               |
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| Gene & Delores Hoeful           | Joe Edwards                         |
| Joan and Rick Bender            | Andy and Linda Cross                |
| David Schmidt                   | James Parrot                        |
| Willie & Rogerine Kinds         | Pat & Carrie Sullivan               |
| Mary & Hitch Powell             | Jim & Susan Gamble                  |
| Rich & Nancy Rice               | Dan & Jill McGuire                  |
| Jennifer Barton                 | Anonymous                           |
| Gary & Dee Hayes                |                                     |
| Neville & Jo Ann Vatcha         |                                     |

In 2010, we were gratified with written, photographic and web contributions from a wide variety of young and older residents of the neighborhood who call with news, who email us with story ideas, and who continue to believe in the power of communication and community. If you would like to contribute at any other time throughout the year, just send a check to TIMES of SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE, 6168 Westminster, 63112. You can email me at jvatcha@gmail.com to let us know if you would like to distribute on your block or to institutions, help with upcoming "New Neighbors" parties, contact advertisers, help with fundraising, write articles, take photos, or if you have new ideas!

## The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

**Co-Editors:** Lana Stein and JoAnn Vatcha  
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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: March 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.

# News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer



Happy New Year! I hope that your holidays were enjoyable and allowed you to spend a lot of time with friends and family. Traditions are such a big part of the holiday celebrations and that is certainly true for the 6100 and 6000 blocks of McPherson. Every December neighbors on those blocks gather at the barricade to sing Christmas Carols door to door and raise money for the St. Louis Christmas Carol Association. Despite bitter cold this year, the tradition continued - the 38th year! **David Schmid** began the tradition and unfortunately was not able to join the carolers as he was recuperating at the time in a rehab facility, so neighbors took the caroling to him. David enjoyed the visit very much and sang along with his neighbors. **Betty Burke** of the 6000 block of McPherson provided home made chocolate chip cookies for the group. Later, the carolers met to continue caroling in the neighborhood, despite bitter cold, and then enjoyed hot chocolate and more cookies at the **Boxdorfer** house. David is now home and we wish him the very best!

Special kudos go out to **Jon Barton** of the 6100 block of Westminster. Jon, who is an attorney with Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard P.C. has been named one of the 2011 St. Louis Business Journal's "40 Under 40". Jon's profile appears in the January 28th issue of the St. Louis Business Journal.

**Susanne and Len Knese** of the 6100 block of Kingsbury are enjoying the company of a special house guest for a year. Susanne's cousin, Dr. Steffi Ludwig is working on her third year residency at the Wash U BJC OBGYN lab. Further news from 6100 Kingsbury is that **Susanne Knese and Cindy Ormsby** have put together a ladies Bunco group to get the women of the block together. Fun!

We were very sorry to learn of the passing of several neighbors this winter. **Mary Smith**, of the 6100 block of Westminster, had lived in the neighborhood with her husband Tim for over thirty years. Mary was a dedicated and caring elementary teacher in the St. Louis Public Schools who had a passion for teaching children to read. She had only recently retired. Artist-husband Tim Smith, who frequently does caricatures for special events like the Westminster block party, once did this charming sketch of Mary at her desk. Also on the 6100 block of Westminster, one of the longest-residing neighbors, **Rosie Sparkman**, has passed away after a long illness. **Evelyn Sparkman**, her daughter, brought Mom and several family members to the Westminster Block Parties over the last few years to bring her back together with neighbors and friends.



Many of us in the neighborhood have been sad to hear that longtime residents (since 1994), **Betul Ozmat and Billy Handmaker** will be moving this summer. Billy, who has been leading Crossroads College Prep for 15 years, has accepted the position as the head of the Bosque School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Betul has also served our community working at Washington University and has been the 28th Ward Committee Woman since 2006. We wish the entire family the best of luck in this exciting move, and hope they will come back

for visits in the old neighborhood. **Mary and Peter Schmit**, formerly of the 6100 block of McPherson, but still neighbors in their hearts, reported that they were heading to Mississippi in December for their annual trip to visit their good friend Brother Pius, a Christian Brother Administrator of a poor, small parish, St. Gabriel. Every year they put out the call for donations of pots, pans, jewelry, and clothes and take it down to the parish. Mary says they will be collecting all kinds of items next year to take down to be sold to raise money for parish programs like a senior center, GED classes, sewing classes, and more.

And the **Leathers-Dahl family**, of the 6100 block of McPherson, vacationed between Christmas and New Years in Lake City, Minnesota on Lake Pepin. Ellen Leathers reports that it is the home of water skiing, circa 1928 and is beautiful!

Longtime chair of our Historic District Review Committee, **Katie Kurtz** of 61xx Kingsbury, has stepped down as chair, having recruited **Nancy Hohmann** to chair that committee. Many thanks to her for providing education about and implementation of the standards that preserve the unique architectural aspects of the neighborhood.

On the 5700 block of DeGiverville, **Mrs. Laverne Fleming** has passed away. Jo Ann Vatcha reports that, a few days before Christmas,

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:  
 Gitana Productions,  
 a nonprofit arts and education company that promotes cross-cultural understanding, seeks true St. Louis stories about the rich shared experience of Irish and African Americans. Select stories will tour the St. Louis area and be featured on our website. Submission deadline is February 15, 2011. For more information visit [www.gitana-inc.org](http://www.gitana-inc.org) or call us at 314-721-6556. Submit your story at <http://stlouis.missouri.org/501c/gitana/submit2.htm>

she had purchased one of the "Celebrating Skinker-DeBaliviere" books about the history of the neighborhood, just before her passing. As another of our long-time residents, Mrs. Fleming no doubt had her own favorite memories of living in our great neighborhood. Our condolences to all these families.

Congrats go out to Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Vice President, **Michael Noble** and his bride, **Angie Ranson**. They celebrated a fall wedding and reside on the 5700 block of McPherson.

And a huge thank you goes out to all the neighbors who turned out for the Skinker DeBaliviere Bowling Party on Monday, January 17th. Neighbors of all ages enjoyed the afternoon and over \$1,000 was raised. The fundraising committee is planning another bowling day for the President's Day holiday on February 21st.

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!

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## Being Secure In Skinker-Debaliviere

By Dan Hudspeth, SDCC Security Committee, with Dotti Pennington, Neighborhood Improvement Specialist, City of St. Louis

### Dan advises:

In the majority of cases where someone is apprehended, it is due to a diligent neighbor calling in a suspicious person, car, activity, with a COMPLETE description of that person and/or auto involved.

Lets learn how to be the little old lady peeking out from behind her blinds. Pay attention to the noises you are not used to hearing. Look out your back windows, this is usually where they break-in. If you hear suspicious noises check it out. You never know, it could be Mr. Thief, or your friendly neighborhood squirrel.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?** Be aware: know your neighbors and their cars. Is your dog/ neighbors dog barking uncharacteristically? Did you hear glass break? Is some one unknown to you, hanging out in the alley? Is an unfamiliar car circling the block? Get involved, get informed and become proactive in keeping our neighborhood and neighbors safe and secure. For more information, follow the Security Committee blog on the SDCC web site, <http://stlouis.missouri.org/skinkerdebaliviere>, and become that little old lady!

### Dotti advises:

Of the residents who participated in the Neighborhood Survey, 82% listed crime as one of the top three problems in the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood. A few residential crime prevention tips have been compiled in effort to create a safer environment. There are simple and inexpensive ways of altering the appearance of your yard and home exterior that help to deter crime, while still maintaining a sense of privacy:

Trim away the bottom branches and leaves on shrubs and hedges, leaving at least 12 inches of clear space between the ground and the lowest branches. A trespasser's

feet and legs can easily be seen if he attempts to hide behind foliage.

Don't allow shrubs and foliage to block the view of any basement or first floor windows or doors. Trim them to remain below the height of the windows. Thieves take advantage of concealed areas.

Install night security lighting on the exterior of the home to turn on when motion is detected. (Make sure to position the sensor to activate only when someone has entered the property - sensing every movement on the sidewalk or the passing of vehicles in the street defeats the purpose of security lighting. Like the fable, The Boy That Cried Wolf, residents and neighbors alike will start ignoring constant, misused activations.)

Per St. Louis City Ordinance 68791, Section 304.3, your home's address numbers must be easily visible from the street and alley! The address numbers should be eye-catching and posted in prominent locations. To receive prompt emergency service, responders must be able to easily find the correct address.

Introduce yourself to neighbors. At the very least, trade names and contact telephone numbers. Burglars are often caught because a neighbor recognized something suspicious and called 9-1-1.

Notify police about suspicious activities while they are still occurring.

Preventing crime in your neighborhood and within the City of St. Louis requires the partnership of its citizens, businesses, schools, neighborhood associations, various city departments, St. Louis City Government, and the St. Louis Police department. Together, we can make a difference.

To reach Dottie Pennington or any of the Neighborhood Stabilization Team of the City of St. Louis, call 657-1392.

### SDCC Board Meeting, December 13, 2010

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Katrina Stierholz at 7:04 PM.

Minutes: The November 8, 2010 minutes were reviewed. Rachel Boxdorfer made a motion to accept the minutes, Dan Hudspeth seconded, and the motion carried.

Financials: A Statement of Financial Income Expense was not available for November. A summary of bank account balances for November totaling \$31,359.33 was reviewed. A summary of internal loans to the operating account totaling \$12,057.00 was presented for review and discussion. Katrina Stierholz will contact the Parks Department to determine if SDCC is required to maintain a reserve account for playground maintenance. David Whiteman will check with Alderman Krewson to determine if SDCC is required to maintain an account balance for the DeGiverville/Waterman parking tag program. Katrina Stierholz will meet with WEAC to discuss repayment of the loan from the WEAC account. Michael Noble made a motion to accept the financial report, Karen Godar seconded, and the motion carried.

CDA has approved SDCC's hiring of Lisa Bushur CPA as our new payroll and accounting services provider. We will transition to Lisa Bushur CPA effective January 1, 2011; and will convert to QuickBooks Online.

2011 Budget Model by major income and expense category was presented for review and discussion. Cheryl Adelstein made a motion to accept the budget model, Paul Hales seconded, and the motion carried. David Whiteman will prepare a line item budget based on this approval.

Administrative Director's Report: David Whiteman reviewed his activities since the November board meeting (see attached). David reviewed documentation required for the 2011 CDA contract. Conflict of Interest Statements

## Needed: Pedestrian Friendly Neighborhood

by Katrina Stierholz, President, SDCC

Uneven sidewalks were frequently mentioned as a problem in the SDCC neighborhood survey conducted this summer. Over twenty percent of the comments were complaints regarding the problem of uneven sidewalks and the need for repair. Sidewalk maintenance and repair is legally the obligation of the property owner. If your sidewalk needs repair to be safe for pedestrians -- parents with strollers, joggers, the elderly -- now is the time to start.

The City of St. Louis offers a solution to this problem for neighborhood homeowners! The 50/50 Sidewalk Repair program covers 1/2 the costs of replacing sidewalks, and bills the owner for the rest of the cost. To qualify for the 50/50 sidewalk program your property must be single-family, 2-family, or 4-family, and owner-occupied.

Both Alderman Krewson and Alderman Williamson are very supportive of this program and encourage you to begin the process to fix your sidewalk.

### Procedure:

1. Contact your alderman (Lyda Krewson or Frank Williamson, City Hall, Room 230, 1200 Market St. St. Louis, MO 63103-287. Lyda is also available by email at [krewson@stlouiscity.com](mailto:krewson@stlouiscity.com))

2. Provide your address and you will be put on a waiting list. The average wait is 18 months.

3. When it is your turn the inspector will be sent out and give an estimate of the cost of repair. If you are willing to pay the cost (the city will pay the other 1/2), you have 21 days to sign the estimate and return it (either by mail or in person) to the Street Department. If they don't get the signed letter back, they won't proceed.

Payments for the repair can be paid in installments over 10 months.

were distributed to all board and staff members for signature. David also reviewed the requirements and documentation necessary for SDCC's recertification as a Community Based Development Organization (CBDO). Forms will be forwarded to all board members (At-Large, Neighborhood, Institutional and Business) and responses are required by December 23.

Nomination of Officers: Katrina Stierholz and Michael Noble have agreed to serve another year as president and vice president, respectively. Cheryl Adelstein will present a full slate of officers, and elections will be held, at the January board meeting.

### Committee Reports:

Fundraising Committee: Rachel Boxdorfer reported that upcoming events are "Bowling for the Neighborhood" on MLK and Presidents Days at the Pin-Up Bowl; and the Friends Campaign. Homecoming 2011 is tentative scheduled for October 8, 2011 at Crossroads School - and planning will begin after the first of the year.

Residential Committee: Norb Hart reported that the LRA-owned, vacant house at 5780 McPherson is in a serious state of disrepair and is becoming a structural hazard, as well as an eye sore. Several developers have evaluated the building and none have been able to offer a viable proposal for redevelopment. The Residential and the Historic Review Committees have each deliberated and voted to request that the city demolish the building and make the site available for a new structure. Paul Hales made a motion that SDCC formally request the demolition of the building, Michael Noble seconded, and the motion carried.

MLK Commemoration Committee: Liz Johnson reported that Judge Jimmy Edwards will speak on "Is the Dream Still Alive" at this year's MLK Commemoration at Grace and Peace Fellowship. Liz is also planning a forum on violence for later in the year in collaboration with members of Grace and Peace.

Strategic Planning: Katrina Stierholz presented the most recent draft of the Strategic Plan for review and discussion. The draft was favorable received and several modifications were proposed and discussed. A final draft will be presented for adoption at the January board meeting.

New Business: Illegal dumping continues to be an issue in the dumpsters and the alleys. Additionally, what appears to be an on-the-street auto repair enterprise in the 26th Ward will be reported to the Neighborhood Stabilization Officer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

### SDCC Board Meeting, November 8, 2010

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Katrina Stierholz at 7:05 PM and introductions were made. Molly Rater, representing Kingsbury Square, was seated as a

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board member

Minutes: The October 7, 2010 minutes were reviewed. Cheryl Adelstein made a motion to accept the minutes, Dan Hudspeth seconded, and the motion carried.

Financials: Statement of Financial Income Expense was presented for review and discussion. Rachel Boxdorfer made a motion to accept the financial statement, Michael Noble seconded, and the motion carried. SDCC staff is continuing to work with CDA to gain approval of a new payroll and accounting services provider.

### Administrative Director's Report:

David Whiteman reviewed his activities since the October board meeting (see attached). Regarding SDCC's involvement with the Gephart Institute and The Washington University George Warren Brown of Social Work during the spring semester on issues of community engagement, Paul Hales made a motion to empower the Executive Committee to make final decisions about the commitment of SDCC resources, Cheryl Adelstein seconded, and the motion carried. It was requested that a list of all SDCC Committees and committee members be distributed to all board members.

Wintermark: Andy Cross reported on preparations for Wintermark to be held Saturday, December 4, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Set-up will begin at 7:30. Andy asked that an email-blast be set requesting volunteers and baked goods for the bake sale.

Committee Reports: October Corporate Compliance report was not included in the board package and is attached will be distributed to board members.

Strategic Planning: Betul Ozmat reviewed the strategic planning process and a summarized the broad needs identified from the community survey: 1) physical improvements, 2) community building, and 3) safety and security. Katrina Stierholz summarized the findings of stakeholder interviews as they relate to SDCC strengths, weaknesses/challenges, goals and priorities. David Whiteman reviewed the findings from interviews with peer organizations as they relate to partnership with community institutions, organizational structure, development strategies and community engagement.

Betul and Katrina engaged the board in a detailed review of draft Core Values, Vision, Mission, and Goal Statements. Betul and Katrina will include the board's input in the preparation of a draft Strategic Plan to be presented to the Executive Committee on December 6 and to the SDCC Board on December 13.

New Business: The Nominating Committee will prepare a list of candidates for officer positions. Elections will be held at the January meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

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## Strategic Plan

Continued from page 1

for each are attached in Appendix B:

- Neighborhood-wide online survey
- Board of Directors survey
- Benchmarking interviews with peer community based organizations in the region
- One on one interviews with and surveys of individual and institutional stakeholders in the SDCC service area

An extensive array of census data was also compiled and is available in summary form as Appendix C.

The Committee reviewed and discussed findings and developed the following for the Board of Directors consideration and adoption:

- A. Statement of organization values
  - B. Vision and mission statement
  - C. Goals and strategies
  - D. Outcome measures
- Statement of Organizational Values

The SDCC operates based on the following core principles which provide a framework for decision-making, leadership and action:

- \* Service to and promotion of the neighborhood

- \* Inclusiveness and diversity
  - \* Partnership and collaboration
  - \* Accountability and transparency
  - \* Respect and integrity
- Vision and Mission Statement

The vision of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council is to be the connector, coordinator and facilitator of all aspects necessary to maintain and enhance the diverse, desirable and thriving community of Skinker DeBaliviere.

The mission of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council is to serve and promote the community and advocate on behalf of the residents to enhance their quality of life.

## Goals and Strategies

SDCC has six primary goals to guide the work of the Board of Directors which should be reviewed annually and revised as needed. The strategies noted in each of the six goals are recommended for implementation in 2011 and progress for each should be reviewed quarterly with new or ongoing actions developed for 2012.

### Goal 1.

Preserve and improve the physical condition of the community, particularly housing, by being proactive as it relates to neighborhood planning, implementing both residential and commercial improvements. Strategies to achieve this goal include:

- \* Create a work group that by June 30, 2011 will examine and prepare a report to the SDCC and SDCHC Boards of Directors that recommends the most effective organizational/operational solution to cause development and redevelopment that is in the best interest of the Skinker DeBaliviere community (SDCC and SDCHC).

\* In collaboration with the SDCHC, undertake the research, assessment, and planning

activities necessary to position the Council/Community to begin a comprehensive master planning process for the continued improvement and development of the community.

\* Advance commercial development that serves the needs of the residents by continuing to support the Delmar Commercial Committee and by creating a work group to consider the creation of a DeBaliviere Commercial Committee in collaboration with the DeBaliviere Place Neighborhood Association and other stakeholders.

\* Connect with adjacent neighborhoods to work collaboratively on these issues.

### Goal 2.

Position, promote, and market the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood as a desirable community in which to live and work. Strategies to achieve this goal include:

\* Establish a marketing work group or committee to draft a marketing plan, which should include web site improvements, use of other technology and other communication tools to advance marketing priorities and then execute the plan once approved.

- \* Develop regular and consistent communication strategies.

### Goal 3.

Create opportunities for neighbors to know one another and advance neighborhood cohesion.

Strategies to achieve this goal include:

\* Develop a more robust, diverse, and inclusive volunteer base and new leaders that reflects the composition of the neighborhood

\* Improve communications systems, including block captains, email, newsletters and by making good use of the neighborhood newspaper The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere with regular submissions of articles, calendar items, and minutes of council meetings.

\* Organize diverse and inclusive annual events, develop background information for each, and create a plan that evaluates current events and considers new events to advance community engagement.

\* Reestablish among residents and institutional partners the role and identity of SDCC as a diverse and inclusive organization, and how it serves the community

### Goal 4.

Create a safer neighborhood. Strategies to achieve this goal include:

\* Create a security action plan by April 30, 2011 and implement as appropriate.

\* Educate residents about issues related to individual, household and neighborhood safety and security.

\* Connect with adjacent neighborhoods to work collaboratively on these issues.

### Goal 5.

Actively engage institutional partners and other neighborhood groups such as The TIMES of Skinker DeBaliviere to collectively advance the goals and activities of SDCC. Strategies to achieve this goal include:

\* Reestablish among institutional partners the role and identity of

SDCC.

\* Develop regular and consistent communication strategies with institutional partners.

\* Clarify and restate the communication and liaison responsibilities of the Board members representing member institution.

### Goal 6.

Establish and maintain policies and procedures to ensure fiscal and performance accountability to the community and funding institutions. Strategies to achieve this goal include:

\* Revise Bylaws and adopt corporate compliance policies for SDCC.

\* Reexamine & recalibrate the committee structure, role and charge, mission, leadership & membership of each - to achieve the goals of the SDCC. This should be accomplished by June 30, 2011.

\* Hire executive director and develop a cohesive organizational staffing structure.

\* Clarify boundaries within SDCC service area in which SDCC will actively work.

## Measuring Progress for 2011

Progress for each goal noted below should be reviewed quarterly at each SDCC Board of Directors meeting. The following note measures of advancement for each

goal by the end of Fiscal Year 2011:

\* Goal 1: Work group completes it report and presents it to SDCC Board of Directors for action. The SDCC Board of Directors develops a strategy for advancing housing development, redevelopment and improvement within its service area and adjacent neighborhoods.

\* Goal 2: Create a marketing committee that submits a plan for SDCC Board of Directors' approval and implementation

\* Goal 3: Create a comprehensive calendar of diverse and inclusive events and neighborhood involvement activities; develop a robust, diverse, and inclusive volunteer data base; develop a strong communications system that provides the basis for communicating with volunteers and SDCC residents.

\* Goal 4: The security committee submits an action plan for the SDCC Board of Directors approval and implementation.

\* Goal 5: There is regular and consistent communication to institutional partners by SDCC staff and board about the work of the Council; institutional partners attend events.

\* Goal 6: Budget is balanced; Bylaws have been reviewed and revised as necessary; Executive director is hired; SDCC committee structure is reviewed and revised as necessary.



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# Channeling Grief Into Healing and Helping

by Lana Stein

I recently met Rachel Ebeling of 63xx Waterman. She and her husband are the parents of 3 children who all attend St. Roch. She is a woman of energy and determination who has helped to bring about a project that helps the organizers to heal and succors those who suffer.

Teresa Butz was a close friend of Rachel's dating back to grade school in south St. Louis. Butz lived with her partner in Seattle. A man broke into their home, assaulted both women and murdered Teresa. This horrible crime devastated Teresa's family and friends. She was one of 11 children in a very musical family. Her siblings provided songs at her funeral here and a later memorial service in Seattle.

Ebeling and Jean Fox became the producers of The Angel Band Project. They raised money to produce a CD--Take you with me--to honor her. Family members, her partner, and some professional musicians contributed. The music is eclectic, gospel as well as rock. The CD was released in November. It is available on I-Tunes, cdbaby.

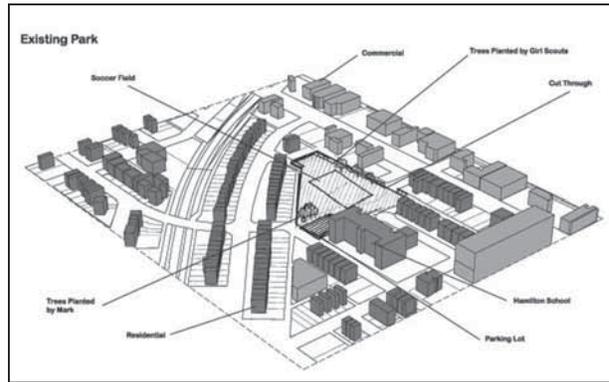
com, and at Vintage Vinyl and Euclid Records.

Rachel said that we were able to find healing from the music that arose from such a devastating event. The healing music has another purpose. Sales of the CD are benefiting Voices and Faces, a Chicago based group that provides assistance to victims of sexual assault.

In May, Ebeling and Fox will participate in the Sixth National Assault Response Team (SART) Training Conference in Austin. A thousand people will attend.

"Healing in the wake of violent crime, one song at a time." That is the theme of The Angel Band Project. Ebeling noted that the CD--the songs--"can open up some communication doors." Sexual assault is not really talked about. People are not comfortable with it. "Using some form of art may speak more loudly."

Ebeling, Fox, the Butz family, Teresa's partner have turned their horror and their sorrow into a project to aid healing and to help other victims. I applaud their courage and their will.



# Urban Issues Symposium Studies Lucier Park

By David Whiteman

SDCC collaborated with the Urban Issues Symposium this fall to generate a series of strategies to transform Lucier Park from what has been perceived as neighborhood liability - to a community asset. The Urban Issues Symposium is a joint program of Washington University Schools of Architecture and Social Work and St. Louis University Schools of Law and Urban Planning. The students presented their final report at the January 10 SDCC board meeting.

Lucier Park is located just west of Hamilton School. It was created in the 1970's on land that had been cleared of abandoned housing and the vacated rights of way of portions of Hamilton and Washington Avenues. The 2.9 acre park includes a soccer field and playground equipment, but has suffered from a lack of investment to develop it as an inviting, safe and active and community asset.

"... the history and components of Lucier Park deter families from wanting to use the area, reinforcing the lack of activity and programming within the park. Due to its uninviting location, gang activity, and lack of park components and attractions, the area is seen as unsafe and unwelcoming. The project at present is to generate and present proposals to better integrate Lucier Park into the community. The project champions desire Lucier Park to transform from a liability into an asset, thereby becoming a real neighborhood anchor, and encouraging positive usage while naturally deterring negative usage and presences. As one resident remarked, "I just want a place where I feel comfortable to take my daughter to play outside. I don't even consider Lucier Park as it is now." The primary focus is to bring Lucier Park back into the prevailing narrative of the neighborhood, and allow residents an opportunity to claim the space as an indicator of community viability - a home for positive and public actions and interactions".

The student team met with a number of neighborhood and constituent groups over the course of the study including representatives of SDCC committees, 5900 DeGiverville, Washington Heights, Enright the City Parks Commissioner, the 26th Ward, and Hamilton, St. Roch and Crossroads Schools. That process yielded the community's concerns about the park as constituted today - and ideas to help the team understand desired uses for Lucier Park. Additionally, the team considered the impact of revitalized commercial activity on Delmar, the Trolley, and cooperative use of the park by Hamilton School

In the end, the team generated a series of development concepts to help the community re-imagine the potential of Lucier Park. The council felt that this approach would be more valuable tool to spark new thinking and engage the community than a single design proposal.

The concepts range from reconfiguring and upgrading the soccer and softball fields, to implementing the perimeter trail previously proposed by the Greenways Committee, to developing the park with a strong link to Delmar and the Trolley, to a developing housing along the northern edge of the park. Each of the concepts includes elements such as a dog park, an amphitheater, water features and landscaping that are interchangeable from concept to concept. Additionally the team identified "low hanging fruit" improvements, such as signage, that should proceed now regardless of future development plans.

What's next? The team recommended that SDCC establish a formal Lucier Park committee to maintain community engagement and shepherd the planning process forward. If you are interested in being a part of the Lucier Park Committee, or if you would like to review the team's full report, please stop by or call the SDCC office at 862-5122.

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## From State Senator Joe Keaveny

We are all familiar with the old refrain, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." It's something I occasionally repeat to myself when I become frustrated by the slow-moving legislative process, but our system, and the state Senate in particular, is designed to slow down the process and ensure we thoroughly consider an issue before voting on it. We often see the same bills filed year after year; some of those bills gain traction for whatever reason and make it to the floor for debate, while others don't even receive a committee hearing. Sometimes, though, persistence pays off.

With that in mind, I am sponsoring two pieces of legislation again this year that I strongly believe would benefit the citizens of St. Louis. Senate Bill 23 would allow the City of St. Louis to control its police force through the passage of a local ordinance.

The St. Louis Police Department is currently controlled by the



St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners. Four of the five commissioners are appointed by the governor and the fifth member of the board is the Mayor of St. Louis.

The citizens of St. Louis clearly support returning control of our police department to the local level. On November 2, 69% of St. Louis voters approved Proposition

L, the measure that asked voters if they want authority over the police department to return to local control. I think those results send a strong message to Missouri lawmakers that the time has come to end this antiquated arrangement.

My proposed legislation would not alter the current police pension system for members of the St. Louis Police Department, which will continue to be governed by state statute. The move to local control would not affect any officer benefits or residency requirements and it would allow for collective bargaining of uniformed officers.

I am hopeful the results of the November 2 election will be the catalyst that finally passes this important legislation so the City can start to save money and resources by combining duplicative services.

The other important legislation I am sponsoring this year addresses school attendance in St. Louis for five-year-old children. Just 45% of St. Louis public school students graduate from high school, and we know this problem begins at

an early age. Too many children are falling through the cracks and are not consistently attending school. The bill I plan to file this week would ensure we are doing everything we can to get them to stay in school.

The legislation I am proposing would require parents or guardians residing in the St. Louis School District to enroll their child in a public, private, parochial or parish school by the age of five. This will ensure children are receiving their education during a crucial time in their development. Starting school at age five instead of age seven will help identify students with special needs and prepare children for future success.

The 2011 legislative session promises to be a difficult one due to an estimated budget shortfall of \$500-million. Protecting education, higher education and the services and programs Missourians rely upon will not be an easy task, but I believe if we all work together we can meet these challenges and move our state forward.



Photo by King Schoenfeld

## MLK Day in Skinker-DeBaliviere

by King Schoenfeld

A large, enthusiastic crowd of neighbors attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. commemoration January 16, 2011, at Grace and Peace Fellowship, 5574 Delmar. The event has alternated between Grace and Peace on the eastern side of the neighborhood and New Cote Brilliance Church on the west side for several years. Liz Johnson, M.C. for the event, welcomed the audience with a promise to revitalize the event, which in recent years had seen declining attendance. Johnson, daughter of longtime SDCC President Jack Wright, who initiated this local observance of Dr. King's birthday in 1987, 24 years ago, said that a larger group of neighbors would plan related events throughout the year.

Presentations included several musical performances, and Speaker Judge Jimmie Edwards, Chief Juvenile Court Judge of the St. Louis Circuit Court, talked about a new school he founded, the "Innovative Concept Academy" which has gathered attention as a new way of educating and rehabilitating troubled teens.

A highlight of the program this year may have been the liturgical dance performed by young Julia Wright. She is Jack Wright's granddaughter, and her deeply-felt performance elicited spontaneous applause."

To join the planning activities of the SDCC MLK Committee, contact committee members: Liz Johnson, Chairman, Katrina Stierholz, President of SDCC, David Whiteman, Shirley Polk, Arline Webb, Bob Lowes, Rev. Kurt Lutjens, Rev. Mikki Merritt, or Rev. Mike Williams.

## Miss M's Candy

by Norbert Hart



Looking for some new ideas for the Easter Bunny? Go no further than our newest culinary stop, Miss M's Candy shop located next to Pin Up Bowl. They carry over 250 types of candy including 21 different custom M&M colors! Making things more complete are candies that are fat free, sugar free, all natural, kosher, reduced

fat, portion & calorie controlled and fortified. The shop also has candy related apparel along with some nostalgia related items, gift baskets and novelty items such as party balloons.

Miss M's will travel and set up a candy bar or buffet for events like birthday parties and weddings. Visit their website at [www.missmccandy.com](http://www.missmccandy.com).

The owners like the loop for its diversity and look forward to working to help make the loop one of the state's top travel destinations.

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# IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

Can dogs think? OK, that's a bad question. We know that dogs can think. I mean, just about everything thinks.

To be fair, dear reader, some things don't think: amoeba, rocks, and Republicans. Amoeba doesn't think; they just do. Rocks don't think; they just are. Republicans don't think; they just hoard.

But back to dogs. Dogs do think. We know that because they listen, occasionally respond, and sometimes initiate. There's typically a basic repertoire of what dogs routinely do, often while on their routine. That is, if a dog wants to go out in the morning to administer to basic body functions, it's pretty simple. The dog awakens its owner by barking, nuzzling, scratching, or demonstrating some otherwise agitated behavior.

Rocks don't want to go out; they are out. And rocks don't want to go in, so rocks don't bark, nuzzle, scratch, or act agitated. Rocks remain steady (yep, as in steady like a you-know-what). Amoebas don't do anything; they're in, they're out, they're everywhere. And since they're everywhere, they don't need to try to signal.

Those Republicans, however, fall closer on the continuum to dogs than rocks. Republicans are in, but they want you out. So they bark, scratch, and act agitated to keep you on the outside. You may not hear a bark, of course, but that's because it will be disguised. Our nation is facing an incredible financial deficit, for example, yet the Republicans want to keep tax cuts in place for the very wealthy. Does this make any real sense? No. Is this an effort to further the hoarding of wealth? Yes. Arf!

Sorry for the digression here, dear reader. This month's topic truly is dogs' thinking, but the Republicans keep getting in the way. That's particularly odd, since dogs often evidence more thinking than Republicans. I think my muddled confusion (how's that for redundant?) stems from the fact that dogs and Republicans do, in fact, have lots in common.

First, dogs and Republicans are similar because they are both loveable. Sure, they each can test our patience - You did that on the rug??? (sometimes said to dogs too) - and they each have a mind of their own, but by and large they both bring charm to our households. Who wouldn't want a Sarah Palin Pomeranian, a Newt Gingrich Great Dane, or a Mitch McConnell Mutt in the backyard? If you had any of those pooches, you sure wouldn't need a burglar alarm.

Second, dogs and Republicans are similar because they are so pure. Even when they're loveable, they're always and only focused on their own benefit. When is the last time that a dog willingly gave one of his bones to another dog? Have you ever seen a dog step aside and give a bit more of her dinner to another dog because she knew that the other dog was hungrier or needier?

I have two dogs, Casper and Shadow, and while they get along reasonably well, neither is particularly charitable toward the other. If I'm taking them somewhere in the car and they're both in the back seat, whichever dog gets in first will take up as much space as possible, leaving the second dog to fend for himself and survive on left-over space.

Doesn't this sound like the way a Republican would behave?

Dogs are pure because they want what is good for them, pure and simple. They're appreciative and friendly, and you might even want to vote for one, but make no mistake: The dog is only interested in what is good for the dog.

Sorry, I digress! Let me return to the true question: WHAT do dogs think? Inquiring minds want to know, and so do ours.

In preparation for this column, I did a little research. I stopped four dogs on the street and interviewed them. To be fair, this was not a random selection. The four interviewed dogs were Midwestern, middle-aged in dog years, and all leashed. Three of the dogs were short-hair, and one barked with a bit of a southern accent. My questions were basic, but designed to ascertain what dogs think. I asked them each three questions:

1. What is your favorite treat?
2. What time of day do you like to walk?
3. What is your hope for the future?

Here are their answers:  
1. Three dogs prefer PAC donations and one likes being endorsed by the Tea Party.

2. All said that they don't have a preference for when they walk, but that they like to walk on the downtrodden.

3. One hopes for dog cookies before every meal, and table scraps. Two hope for Obama not to be elected in 2012, regardless of what this might mean for the country. One hopes for all taxes to be paid by people earning less than \$100,000 per year.

I think that says it all. Next month I'll interview four rocks and see how their answers differ (if, in fact, they do). In the meantime, arf!

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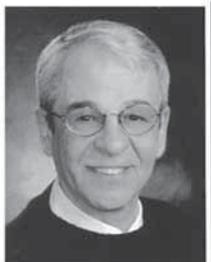
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