

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 41, No. 3

September - October 2011

<http://SDTimes.org/index.html>

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

FREE

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September 17 is Washington University Neighbors Day at the Bears Football Game

The excitement of fall, football and festivities come together at outdoor "tailgate" parties that take place prior to every home football game on the Washington University campus. These events are open to the public and attract students, fans of the opposing team, and community members, as well.

On September 17, the Danforth University Center (DUC) and the Department of Athletics are joining forces to invite Washington University neighbors to experience WUSTL hospitality and Bears Football. Join student groups and other members of the university community as they gather on the DUC Southwest Patio facing the Simon Hall parking lot and Francis Field.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the "tailgate" event will be specially focused on WUSTL neighbors. The family-oriented atmosphere will include kid-friendly diversions such as live music, face painting, inflatables and yard games. A big screen television will be available for parents to sneak a peek at nationally televised games and keep up with scores around the country. Then at 1 p.m. the Washington University Bears will take on Wittenberg University of Springfield, Ohio, ranked #8 in a preseason poll of NCAA

Division III teams by The Sporting News. Washington University neighbors who attend the tailgate and receive a wristband will be eligible for free admission to the football game.

Washington University neighbors are always welcome at university athletic events. Admission to most events is free of charge; football games cost \$5 for adults and \$1 for children. To learn more about Washington University athletics and see the schedule for upcoming football games, visit athletics.wustl.edu.

The final 2011 BBQ Concert at the Four Corners will be September 17 and feature Misla, an Irish band, and traditional Irish dancers.

Update to The Times Online Archives

by Marj Weir

Searchable issues of The Paper/The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere have been available for some time (at <http://sdtimes.citywestend.org/index.html>), but the quality of the searchable text was poor. A major revision of these files is underway to address this weakness. So far all the issues from the first one in April, 1970, through May, 1977, have been rebuilt and placed online. The rest of the 70's should be completed by mid-September. Each decade takes time, so the 80's should be finished by the end of October. A status report will be included on the website. These files will be readable through Adobe Reader 9 or later. This is free software through Adobe, so users should be prepared to upgrade if they are using something lower than version 9.

If you have questions, please contact Marj Weir at 314-863-7558 or email weir.marj@charter.net. You can also contact Marj Weir, Jo Ann Vatcha, Lana Stein or Rachel Boxdorfer through the website.

St. Roch: Celebrating its First Century

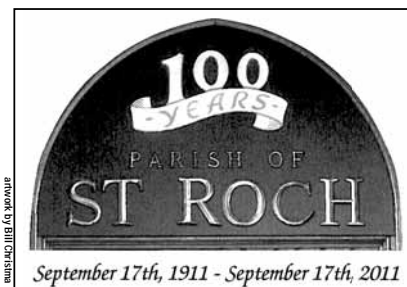
by Lana Stein

The first homes in Skinker DeBaliviere were built in 1908. Just three years later, some of the early residents formed the parish of St. Roch. They met in a storefront on Kingsbury and by 1921 they were able to lay the cornerstone on the magnificent edifice that is a center of our neighborhood. The church and its school served the large neighborhood Catholic population.

The church became a critical linchpin of the neighborhood after integration and subsequent white flight. Although some parishioners joined that flight, a strong coterie remained loyal to parish and neighborhood and helped to stabilize the area. The school expanded and opened to non-Catholics. The church and its pastors worked with Grace Methodist and Delmar Baptist and Washington University to create the council and help fund it and to provide a base for a myriad of neighborhood activities.

Today, the church and school remain vital to Skinker DeBaliviere. After one hundred years, the church and its parishioners are at the heart of what this neighborhood is. St. Roch parishioners and school alumni will be participating in activities marking this major milestone. On Sunday, September 25, a special mass will be said with the archbishop in attendance. A celebratory dinner will follow at the Chase. There will be a video capturing the impact of St. Roch and a book to be forthcoming later.

A joyous celebration to the members of St. Roch and to its pastor of 30 years, Monsignor Sal Polizzi.



Homecoming Set for October 8

Travel back in time to the era of speakeasies and flappers when you come to the 3rd annual Skinker-DeBaliviere Homecoming, Saturday, October 8, at Crossroads College Prep School on DeBaliviere Ave. The event benefits the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council. Sponsors include SDCC, the TIMES of SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE, Pulaski Bank, Kingsbury animal hospital, Blueberry Hill, Jump Co., Star Image Studios, Rick and Joan Bender, Beth Bender and Shauna Cunningham, State Senator Joe Keaveny, Luvy Duvy's, Real Estate Agents Katie Kurtz of Laura McCarthy, Karleen Hoerr of Daniel B. Feinberg Real Estate, Dean Porter of Re/Max Results, and Rachel Boxdorfer of Prudential Alliance Realtors. \$40 per person entry includes appetizers, music, dancing, and creative fashion. Tickets are available at the SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury, or call 862-5122.

Child Safety Day

October 8, 2011, at the Pageant, Child Safety Day will include presentations, giveaways, and lots of information about keeping your family safe from cyberbullies, predators, and other child safe issues. There will be lots of freebies, including free flu shots, free bike helmets and t-shirts. Police officers and firemen will also attend and give demonstrations, such as this from the canine unit and many others. For more information, go to info@stlchildsafety.com.



Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

After a little reflection, I would characterize Skinker DeBaliviere as an upbeat neighborhood. It has a resiliency born in difficult times that serves it well now. Neighbors take adversity in stride. After all, there is a point of comparison when things were less safe and neighbors more transient. Crime still occurs, students can be disruptive but the general attitude is that this too shall pass. Also, many of us are sophisticated enough to know who to reach out to to solve problems of urban life. We have an active security committee and a council dominated by younger residents with families who feel the neighborhood is worth the struggle.

I've lived in a number of neighborhoods in a number of cities but cannot recall a place like this one where neighbors become fast friends. There are shared values and shared experiences which create tight bonds. A number of us have been active in politics too. St. Louis provides many opportunities to get to know your elected officials and work together to enhance the community. We never rest on our laurels. Hence, we look forward to the marketing study for Delmar. And, we celebrate the centenary of St. Roch. There is a vibrant life here for those who want it. Hopefully, it will continue to yet another generation.

BBQ... great music... ice cold sodas... amazing neighbors - All found at events organized by the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council.

Did you ever wonder if you could meet and play with the neighbors who help organize the fun and food at various neighborhood events? Well wonder no more - see for yourself how easy it is to give back to your neighborhood and bring your skills and talents to making your neighborhood a better place to live.

If you are a seasoned volunteer, long-time neighbor or a brand new arrival in Skinker DeBaliviere, we invite you to contact the office or come by and discuss various volunteer opportunities with David Whiteman or Jessica Eiland (jessica.eiland@skinker-debaliviere.com) If you have a half an hour once in a blue moon, several hours a week to contribute ,or something in between...we likely have a volunteer opportunity to fit your skills, time and interest!

Right now, the West End Arts Council is hoping to compile an updated list of names/emails for anyone interested in helping out as a volunteer for various neighborhood events. For example, the WEAC will again be sponsoring Wintermark't again this year) and needs volunteers to help with the Food Booth at this great event.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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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. Opinions expressed in Commentaries are the opinion of the author.

Deadline for next issue: October 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

Rags to Riches Yard Sale- Saturday August 27, 8:00 AM-2:00 PM

Rags to Riches BBQ Concert- Saturday August 27, 6:00-9:00 PM

Executive Committee Meeting- Tuesday, September 6, 6:30 PM

Housing Corporation Board Meeting- Wednesday, September 7, 6:00 PM

SDCC Board Meeting- Monday, September 12, 7:00 PM

Security Committee Meeting-Wednesday, September 14, 5:30 PM

September BBQ Concert-Saturday, September 17, 6:00-9:00 PM

Housing Corporation Board Meeting- Wednesday, September 21, 6:00 PM

Residential Committee Meeting- Monday, September 26, 6:30 PM

Housing Corporation Board Meeting- Wednesday, October 5, 6:00 PM

Historic Review Committee Meeting- Wednesday, October 5, 7:00 PM

Skinker DeBaliviere Homecoming-Saturday, October 8, 7:00-11:00 PM

SDCC Board Meeting- Monday, October 10, 7:00 PM

Security Committee Meeting-Wednesday, October 12, 5:30 PM

Housing Corporation Board Meeting- Wednesday, October 19, 6:00 PM

Residential Committee Meeting- Monday, October 24, 6:30 PM

St. Roch Halloween Party-Monday, October 31, 5:30-6:30 PM

September 19, 2011 - IRON Kids is a cooking competition between five teams of children who have completed the Discovering Options after-school program.

Each of the five teams is led by a local chef. Each team has planned, tested and created their submission which will be prepared for you to sample at the event. Each submission will be voted on and winning teams will win dinner at the sponsoring restaurant.

In addition to the Iron Kids competition, your ticket price includes 2 drink tickets, samples of the kids creations, plus appetizers by Home Wine Kitchen, food-themed live and silent auctions.

The event will be held at the Third Degree Glass Factory on Delmar. For more information, go to www.discoveringoptions.org.

Helping Students Away From Home Feel at Home

Washington University is looking for warm-hearted families to host 2-3 students for casual dinner and conversation. Help them feel at home in St. Louis and your family can enjoy the company of Wash U's incredibly smart and talented kids. We only require that you have 2-3 get-togethers over the course of the academic year. We also try to match students to family interests.

We will ask you to host your first dinner this late September or early October - we will provide you with an option of three different dates just to get started. You and your students plan all subsequent dinners. There will be a reception at the Chancellor's residence for all program participants in the Spring. E-mail Risa Zwerling at zwerling@wustl.edu to sign up!

KEMPER COMMUNITY DAY

WUSTL neighbors are invited to a
Community Day event on Saturday,

September 24. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.,

The family-friendly events will celebrate the art on view with free music, food, fun, and games for all ages. Special activities for the kids will include a scavenger hunt and choreographer and performer Alice Bloch will lead two movement workshops inspired by the artworks on the sculpture plaza, and Washington University student docents will lead tours throughout the day.

Meredith Malone, associate curator, will lead an interactive walkthrough of the Tom's Saraceno exhibition at 1 p.m.

News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Always up for a good party, the residents of 6100 and 6000 McPherson kicked off summer celebrating their 3rd (almost annual) block party on June 18th. There was plenty of bbq, volleyball, music, a parade of bicycles, and of course, the return of the fire truck! Lots of fun was had by all and new neighbors **John Lin and Katie Bucklen**, along with sons **Simon and Ian**, picked the perfect weekend to move in and share in the festivities. Welcome to the neighborhood!

We love to meet and greet new neighbors and are happy to welcome **Lawrence Marsco and John Lents** to the 6100 block of Westminster! And we also love to welcome new family members! Proud grandparents **Roy Bell and Pat McClafferty** of the 6100 block of Kingsbury report that Claire Bell Werner made her grand entrance to the world on June 1, weighing 8 lbs., 11 oz., 21 inches long. Parents **Paul and Maureen** are elated, but a bit tired. And **Nancy and Rich Rice** of the 6100 block of Westminster are thoroughly enjoying their visits with grandson **Jackson Rice**, born on March 30. Proud parents are **Bob and Anne Rice**. **Danny Stout**, who grew up on 6100 McPherson, and his wife **Sarah** welcomed a baby girl **Janet "Jessie" Beatrice Stout** on August 6th. Congratulations to all our new parents and grandparents!

Speaking of proud, **Bob and**



Maggie Mahon of the 6200 block of McPherson reported that daughter **Elizabeth** graduated from Mizzou May 14 with her medical degree. Bob now refers to her as "Doctor Elizabeth". Elizabeth (a St. Roch graduate) has begun her three year residency program in internal medicine at St. John's Mercy Hospital in St. Louis.

Perhaps it is because I grew up in a scouting family, and have spent recent years as both a Cub Scout Den Leader and a Girl Scout Leader, but I am thrilled to share news from the Atlanta Area Boy Scout Council



that **Bert Bender** (aka one of my big brothers), received the Silver Beaver Award this past spring. The Silver Beaver is the highest award that a local council can give to a

volunteer Scout Leader for service to youth. Bert grew up on the 6100 block of Kingsbury and now resides in Decatur, Georgia with family, and is the second son of **Joan and Rick Bender**.

In a day and age when divorce seems so common, it is nice to hear of many lasting happy marriages. On August 5, **Brad and Marj Weir** of 6100 block of Westminster Place, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. And **Andy and Linda Cross** of the 6000 block of McPherson celebrated their 25th anniversary on Tuesday, August 2nd, where else, but at National Night Out! And **Rick and Joan Bender**, formerly of the 6100 block of Kingsbury quietly celebrated their 56th anniversary on Saturday, August 6th at St. Roch's 4:30 mass.

Speaking of celebrating, **Joe Hogan** of the 6100 block of Kingsbury seems to find the most unique ways to mark his birthdays. You may recall reading in this column that he ran with the bulls one year to mark the occasion. This year Joe chose to honor the big day climbing Long's Peak in Estes Park, Colorado! Happy belated birthday Joe!



Always looking for a fun way to raise money for SDCC

and to celebrate our wonderful neighborhood, the SD Fundraising Committee is hard at work on the third annual Homecoming, scheduled for Saturday, October 8 at Crossroads College Prep. The theme this year is The Roaring 20's! For those who do not know, the Homecoming is a celebration of our neighborhood; for current neighbors, old neighbors to return and visit, and people who want to be neighbors. If you have never attended, please do. Be sure to tell old neighbors about this party (save the date postcards are available at the SDCC office). We would love for old and new neighbors to celebrate our wonderful and unique neighborhood together!

As a final note this issue, there is sad news, **Diane Shea Mensing** passed away on July 15. Diane lived on the 6100 block of Kingsbury many years ago and was the wife of the late **Joe Mensing**. A mother of six and a grandmother, many of our SDCC neighbors also knew her from the 20 years she spent teaching at U.U.M. Preschool. Our condolences go out to all of Diane's family and friend; she will be missed.

Postcards from your travels... you don't really have to send us a postcard, but we sure would like to hear from you. Also send news of babies, engagements, weddings, awards, special achievements, etc... to News of Neighbors, care of rboxdorfer@prudentialalliance.com, or drop off a note to the attention of Rachel Boxdorfer at the Skinker DeBaliviere office. Mark "News of Neighbors" in the subject line.

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BBQ Concert Series Reaches Out to Embrace SD Diversity
by Andy Cross

The West End Arts Council BBQ Concert Series aims for a diverse mix of music for the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood. For our first concert this summer, we tried a new approach. Neighbor Liz Johnson has been organizing the M. L. King Commemoration for many years in Skinker-DeBaliviere, carrying on a tradition which her father started nearly twenty years ago. The commemoration takes place in January or February. Liz has been planning on extending the celebration of Martin Luther King's message to other times of the year in accordance with her father's wishes. The West End Arts Council strives to offer a variety of music to the SD neighborhood and approached Liz with the idea of including the gospel choirs of SD to perform as musical guests for one of our concert nights. We've heard one or two selections of each choir at the M. L. King commemorations in the winter - so why not make an evening of great singing and music out-of-doors at Greg Freeman Park? This would be a celebration of our neighborhood's diversity, and would include all of our churches' choirs. It has been a goal of SDCC to reach out to all parts of the neighborhood and make sure all residents feel included.

Liz was not only excited about the offer from the concert organizers, but she felt this was the perfect opportunity to work on the outreach project she had been planning; to bring children of diversity together to explore racial harmony. The children's activity would happen in the daytime, and their results would be presented during the concert that evening. The response from the churches was positive and enthusiastic. The Grace Methodist choir set up their sound equipment and instruments for all the choirs to use. Beautiful voices and arrangements were offered by the Grace and Peace choir and the St. Roch's choir. The entire crowd was jumping and clapping to the songs of the Mt. Olivette youth choir. The audience was singing, dancing, swaying, laughing, and more engaged than any concert we've ever had in SD. When the New Cote Brillante gospel choir finished their numbers, the audience couldn't stop applauding, so the percussionist joined in the clapping, then the base joined in, and another verse broke out from the audience - the energy was overflowing!

We are grateful to the five choirs who participated, and to the volunteers who helped us present this inspiring event.



Chuck Berry statue dedication brought together Joe Edwards and sculptor Harry Weber with the incomparable Chuck Berry. Photo by Hope Edwards.

The newest star on the Walk of Fame was dedicated in 2011 to Mel Bay, a St. Louis guitar teacher and innovator. His star is opposite the Pageant. Photo by Hope Edwards.



A Hot National Night Out 2011

by Andy Cross

Even with record heat, National Night Out still held a crowd and had a fine (but sweaty) evening. Mayor Slay visited our event and spoke with neighbors for a long while, before heading off to the other NNO celebrations. Both Alderpersons, Lyda Krewson and Frank Williamson mingled with the crowd as well. Dotti Pennington, our Neighborhood Stabilization Officer (now called Neighborhood Improvement Specialist) attended the SD security committee table and offered safety information and flyers, as well as invisible ink pens for marking personal property. Along with security bike and car locks, a free raffle was held for a car club steering wheel lock.

Children kept cool under the sprinkler in the playground. NNO regular performers Mamma Tried entertained the crowd with a great mix of music. The talents of BBQ greats Phil and Dan Lodholtz were enhanced with side dishes from Monarch restaurant.

It is a great neighborhood that can keep a good crowd at a 101° event! Thanks to all who participated and volunteered. We hope to see you at our final 2011 concert on September 17th with Mislá, an Irish band and also traditional Irish dancers (Cooler weather predicted).



MLK Youth Arts Workshop on Saturday, July 23rd. 25 youth came to three different workshops--photography, theater, and drawing/painting. All of the workshops focused on the theme of Living Dr. King's message and the good and bad choices that people make in their lives and in their community. Photo by Jessica Eiland, SDCC.

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The 2011 Breakfast Garden Tour focused on the 6100 block of Westminster, and the gracious hosts gathered afterwards in photographer King Schoenfeld's back yard.

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Great Rivers Greenway

by Jill Cook, Mass Communications Graduate Student, SIU Edwardsville

"Build it and they will come." While that line might best be remembered in reference to a baseball field in the middle of a corn field, it is what some people are hoping for with the soon finished Great Rivers Greenway Centennial Greenway.

Great Rivers Greenway (GRG), a voter approved tax initiative to build a system of connecting paved paths and green spaces, has been working on the local part of its Centennial Greenway. The greenway will connect Washington University with the Loop, then with Heman Park and eventually up to the Olive Boulevard/I-170 interchange.

Susan Trautman, GRG executive director, said she hopes residents and visitors will consider the greenways an opportunity to leave the car behind.

"It is more than just a form of transportation," Trautman said. "The greenways connect communities, increasing business and entertainment opportunities. People can experience nature—and it promotes good health."

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the Washington University to north of Delmar section of the Centennial Greenway, held July 29, was an important event for GRG, as it steps one greenway closer to the finished vision.

"There is always a sense of joy and satisfaction when a ribbon is cut," Trautman said. "Success is watching people use and celebrate the greenway in their own way."

Some community members are looking forward to celebrating the greenway's benefits. Ben Fuller, DeBaliviere Place neighborhood resident, looks forward to

the opportunity just to explore something new.

"Like the fact that they're creating opportunities for us to enjoy new paths and new scenery," Fuller said. "While there have been improvements to the Forest Park bike paths, it's the same park. This certainly will encourage locals—and me—to explore some place different."

If the success of other greenways, like Grant's Trail, is any indication of the Centennial Greenway's success, then the new path is sure to get lots of use.

"Every form of wheel is out there now," Trautman said in reference to Grant's Trail. "And as we build new paths they become stronger."

Indeed, according to trailink.com, Grant's Trail boasts more than 100,000 users every year.

But GRG greenways were planned with more than just exercise and nature in mind. The system of greenways—known as The River Ring—design is similar to what you will find in Minneapolis. And considering Minneapolis was recently voted as the most bicycle-friendly city in the United States by bicycling.com, this bodes well for St. Louis. David Fisher, Trautman's predecessor, came to St. Louis from Minneapolis.

"Having established a greenway in Minneapolis, David developed the vision of the River Ring for St. Louis," Trautman said.

The design, when finished,

will include about 600 miles of greenways that will connect St. Louis City, St. Louis and St. Charles counties and even cross the Mississippi River to connect with projects in Madison and St. Clair counties in Illinois. This connection will give people a different way to explore what neighboring communities have to offer.

Such a large undertaking, however, cannot be taken without working in coordination with municipal governments and local residents. Stephen Kraft, University City Ward 1 council member, whose ward part of the Centennial Greenway goes through, recognized the importance of working together.

"There is definitely a diversity of opinion on the bikeways," Kraft said. "But we'll try to listen to people and see what they want."

And GRG planned ahead by

and Kraft, in tough economic times it's difficult for many municipal governments to set aside the resources needed, especially when creating a balanced budget has become a challenge and a main priority. But GRG is "constantly looking for creative ways to facilitate project completion," Trautman said.

For the Centennial Greenway, Washington University donated some of its land to allow a connection to Forest Park. The path crosses over Forest Park Parkway via a pedestrian bridge near the university's power plant building. The greenway then follows Ackert Walkway Avenue, which runs parallel to Melville Avenue, and connects to Delmar Boulevard between Blueberry Hill and Fitz's Grill & Bottling Works. It continues north along Leland Avenue, then travels west along Vernon Avenue to Heman Park. The path will later expand west near Balfon Avenue, north near North Jackson Avenue, west near Shaftesbury Avenue, then along a waterway until it meets up with Olive Boulevard east of I-170. Its end goal will be to connect with St. Charles, costing a little more than \$2 million.

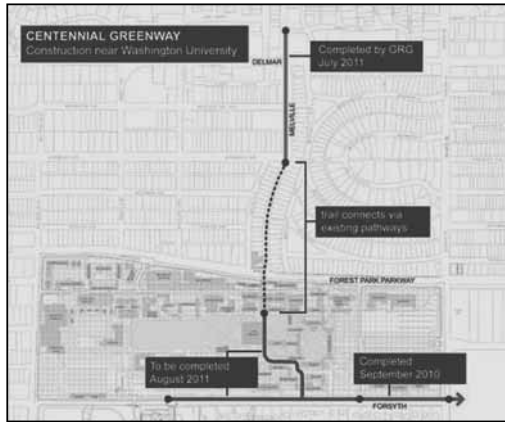
When necessary, GRG purchases the land it needs for the paths, explaining a good portion of the cost.

"We own 1452 acres," Trautman said. "And we maintain most of them unless we have an agreement with another agency to maintain."

For more information on the Great Rivers Greenway, visit their website at greatrivers.info. Or for information and maps on regional bicycling trails, visit mobikefed.org or stlbiking.com.



GRG's Susan Trautman and MC Charlie Brennan dedicate the Centennial Greenway.



Map courtesy of WU.

creating multiple route designs.

"We in some cases have a number of different possibilities of connectivity and will work to find what works with everyone," Trautman said.

The biggest drawback to having to work with community members and leaders has not necessarily been the difference in opinion, though. According to Trautman

a progression every boy makes on his way to manhood, and The Who captures it perfectly in a little over two and a half minutes.

Many of The Who's songs and rock operas have spurred me to explore similar thoughts. Consider, for instance, the riveting album, *Who's Next*, and how much it differs from the mercurial *Who By Numbers*. In contrast, never, not once, have I laid awake at night to ponder the deeper meaning of Katy Perry or Michael Jackson. Music, in its fullest potential, should challenge the listener to reconsider something in herself or the world around her. In Don McLean's words, can music save your mortal soul? That might be overstating it a bit, but music should strive to reach beyond your ears to touch your mind and soul. The music of The Who does this better than any rock band I have ever heard.

Can Music Save Your Mortal Soul?

by Sean McGroarty

As the 2011 McPherson Block Party wound down (and the keg began to float in the ice water), a number of us began discussing the merits of our favorite rock bands. One of us mentioned the Beatles as the greatest band of all time. To the shock and disbelief of all (except Mark Banaszak), I stated that in my opinion, the Beatles couldn't hold a candle to my favorite rock band, The Who.

Knowing that I had started a friendly argument impossible to resolve, I forged ahead anyway. To my mind, if a Beatles song comes on the radio, I'll probably keep the station on. I'll likely sing along, as we all know their ubiquitous lyrics. But I will not go out and buy their music (except, perhaps, the song *Blackbird*). Their music is pretty, but it does not mean anything to me.

In contrast, and as an example, consider The Who's song, *Pictures of Lily*. This song concerns a

young man, probably a teenager, suffering from insomnia. He asks his dad for help, who tapes a picture of a girl named Lily to his wall. The boy then has no trouble sleeping, and begins staring at the picture until he falls in love with the girl. He asks his dad where he can find the girl, and is heartbroken when told that Lily had died years before. The boy laments that if only he had lived in Lily's time, things would have been all right.

Pictures of Lily tells the story of a young man's journey of self-discovery within the painful uncertainties of adolescence. It is the story of a boy asking his father for help, choosing to lose his innocence, and having his hopes crushed by the grim realities of adulthood. It is



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Saving energy in Centennial Homes

by Gabriel Bien-Willner

In response to Ursula Goodenough's request in the summer issue of the *Times*, I thought I would share my experience and knowledge in energy conservation in our masonry homes. I will also try to explain concepts in energy usage that even some professionals in the field tend not to know (or at least never tell you about).

I will start off by saying that there is no free lunch. In order to make our old homes "energy efficient" real progress will not be seen without spending some cash. True, some small things can help trim the fat, especially if there is a single point of over-abundant energy waste in your home. Doors and windows that do not shut properly in the dead of summer can be particularly wasteful since you are basically air-conditioning the outdoors. But for the purpose of this article I will assume most people know enough to have addressed these issues and I will try to address more complicated matters that most people don't really know.

We typically see big utility bills twice a year- with A/C usage in the summer and boiler/furnace usage in the winter. The spring and fall are particularly cheap for us relative to other, more modern homes, and for good reason. This is because our homes are masonry construction, with very thick walls

(mine are 18" thick). Masonry, unlike modern materials (modern cheap building materials like wood and siding) has very high thermal mass. What is thermal mass? Let me explain in an analogy. Let's say you are making cookies in the oven, and line the pan with aluminum foil. When the cookies are done, do you hesitate to touch the foil that was just in the oven? No, because it has high heat transfer, or very low thermal mass. On the other hand, if you cook food in a ceramic bowl at the same temperature, you cannot touch it without oven mitts for some time. This is because the bowl has high thermal mass, just like our houses do. High thermal mass means it takes a long time to change the temperature of your walls. That means that the temperature inside our houses stays close to the mean temperature for the day, and in the spring/fall the masonry heats during the day and cools at night, but the temperature of the bricks stay about the same the whole day. You can see the obvious problem that arises with masonry homes in the summer and winter- you are continually losing heat in the winter and coldness in the summer since the mean outdoor temperatures are not desirable (too cold/hot), meaning you need to spend a lot of energy to heat and cool them.

Modern houses do not rely on this principle, but instead use insulation to avoid this problem. Insulation works on a completely different principle. Instead of relying on thermal mass, insulation

works by resisting heat changes. In the earlier analogy, the oven mitt works like insulation by preventing the heat from interacting with your hand. It acts as a barrier that prevents thermal transfer, and is typically measured in "R" values. Walls in modern construction typically have an R value of 10-20, and ceilings/roofs have a value of 30 or more. Our brick walls have an R-value of roughly 0.3/inch, so my 18" walls have an R-value of 5 (probably an over-estimation).

The obvious solution to this problem, then, is to have both insulation AND high thermal mass. I'm sure some people have completely gutted their homes and done this, but it is really not feasible for most of us. You would have to strip down to the studs (or in my case, frame-in walls since the plaster walls go right up to the brick) to add insulation. To undergo this type of project you would need to be seriously committed to your home and plan on spending the rest of your life there, since it will cost a small fortune. The ceiling/roof is another matter. I bet most have had insulation added to the ceiling, and if you haven't you should next time the roof is redone since that is where you will lose the most heat in the winter.

With knowledge comes disappointment. Many of the homes have had doors and windows replaced with "energy efficient" models, that have high R-values (a standard single-pane window has an R-value not significantly greater than 1-3). We are told that these will save us money on energy costs. However, if you understand the above concepts you will note that for most of us, these treatments will do absolutely nothing in the summer or winter, since heat loss will occur through the walls just as readily as the old single pane window (ok, it may do a little, but here is no point in an R-value greater than 5 since your walls will be less than that).

So what can be done, besides insulating our walls? Since heating and cooling are basically inevitable in our hosing, we have to be smart about how it's done. Ultimately, you can save money by upgrading to higher-efficiency models of boilers and A/C units. Here is some simple advice regarding heating and cooling:

1. Cold air goes down and warm air goes up. Based on that alone, you will save money by placing your air handler (inside part of the A/C) in the attic rather than the basement.

2. Get a heat pump with your furnace. These are like reverse A/C units and function in the winter when it's above freezing outside. They are a lot cheaper to run than a furnace, and come built in with modern A/C systems.

3. Stick with a boiler and radiant heat. It is MUCH better than a furnace/forced air. While a topic for another day, modern efficient boilers go up to 98% efficiency. If you are considering replacing your boiler with forced air... stop right now. You will regret it later.

4. On that note, upgrading your radiant system can save you a lot. Our homes had gravity-fed

systems installed, which is why you may have 4" pipes running in your basement. That means that you have to heat A LOT of water. You can replace the system now with pumps and 1/2" pipe, significantly reducing the amount of work your boiler does.

5. Ductwork is the key for A/C systems. You need to have adequate return and air circulation for the A/C to run efficiently. Even a brand new unit may result in significant expenses if your ductwork is bad, since the fancy new motor will be pushing air against a wall, and be starved of return air.

6. Proper boiler sizing. Make sure you have the correct boiler size for the amount of heating needed for your home. My home (2,010 sq ft. excluding the basement) needs 40-50,000 BTU (that's british thermal units) per hour to maintain heat on the coldest day of the winter. When I purchased the house, the previous owner had a 140,000 BTU boiler installed by a local company (that was continually fleecing them, again, the subject for another day). That is the car equivalent of driving during rush hour traffic in a Hummer with the pedal down all the way every time you accelerate. That means that the boiler system was completely inefficient and wasting vast amounts of energy. I saved 50% of my heating costs by getting rid of that junker. You can get a company to do a heat-loss estimation for you, and the procedure is tax-deductible, and anything you do to save on energy subsequently is also tax-deductible by the state of Missouri.

7. Do the math. If your boiler is 84% efficient now (and, for argument's sake, is properly sized), and you replace it with one that is 99% efficient, you will save 15% on heating costs assuming that is the only change you make to the system. However, you have to take into account how much you spend on the unit. If your net costs on the new unit is \$5000, and your annual heating costs are \$1000/year, it will take you 33 years to pay off the unit on your savings alone, and this transaction is probably not worth it. If the unit needs to be replaced anyway it is another story.


Last note, regarding basements.

Ever notice that the basement is warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer? There is a good reason for that. The frost line in St. Louis is about 3 ft. That means that below that, the temperature of the ground is warmer. At about 5 ft., the temperature is about 60-65 degrees year-round. Also, the ground adds insulation. At 5 ft. below ground, the R-value of your stone walls is roughly 50. Incorporating the basement into the home living space can significantly cool your home in the summer and warm it in the winter, if done properly, and can significantly reduce heating and cooling costs. Of course, there are significant caveats to this approach, and may be the topic for another day.

If anyone is interested in more on this subject, feel free to email me at gbien@path.wustl.edu.



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BUSINESS NEWS

by Norb Hart

The newest business in the De Baliviere area is the tailor shop owned and operated by Lyndon Blaylock.

Located at 5648 Pershing Ave., right across the street from Talayna's Restaurant, it offers fine quality alterations for men and women.

Asked about what distinguishes this shop from any other, Lyndon replies: "I use only the best traditional techniques. For example, skirt and trouser hems are done meticulously with secure hand-sewing, instead of a machine-made chain stitch that falls out so easily. But I charge no more than other shops.

"I also make period costumes. During the

last few years, with so many people re-enacting events connected with the Lewis and Clark expedition, I've had a great time dressing actors and dancers in clothing appropriate to 1804.

"But the main part of the business is still modern clothes - altering and repairing. It could be as simple as replacing a button to something as complex as re-styling a formal dress.

"Just a few months ago, a client brought me a traditional wedding dress. I took it apart, made a completely new bodice in the 19th century style, added new trimmings to the skirt, and transformed it into something really remarkable - a gothic Victorian fantasy."

The shop is open for business 9-5 Tuesday through Friday, and 9-1 on Saturday. Closed Sunday and Monday.

Lyndon Blaylock, Tailor
5648 Pershing Ave.
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9 - 5, Tues. - Fri.
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From State Senator Joe Keaveny

My colleagues and I will collaborate again soon when we are called for the First Extraordinary Session of the 96th General Assembly, and when we meet for our annual veto session. Our special session is scheduled for Sept. 6, and veto session is scheduled for Sept. 14.

While in Jefferson City, one of my top priorities is to focus on returning local control of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department back to the City. Fortunately, the local control matter was included in the governor's call for special session. I have

worked with city and the St. Louis Police Officers Association to craft a version that all sides agree to.

This is a matter that I have been working on since I was elected to the Senate - it's about time we update the current governance structure to be more efficient and increase collaboration among departments. This will save money and increase safety.

A delicate compromise was reached between the city and the St. Louis Police Officers Association, which sets the stage to return control of the police department

back to the city. With many citizens and lawmakers backing the passage of the local control measure, it is my hope that we will take the steps necessary to return local control to the City of St. Louis.

For my complete interview regarding special session and local control, please click on this link or visit my Missouri Senate website at www.senate.mo.gov/keaveny and click on "Multimedia" under the "Media" tab. You can also follow the progress of special session and veto session by visiting the Missouri Senate website.

An Update from Congressman Clay

by Lana Stein

Congressman William L. (Lacy) Clay lived on 61xx Washington for a number of years. His residence now is again in Skinker DeBaliviere. He loves the neighborhood and has a lot of family close by. In our recent conversation, he remarked on the neighborhood's vibrancy and, in particular, pointed to the continuing development of the Loop. He had worked on getting funding for the trolley.



Clay is serving his sixth term in the House. He was first elected in 2000, winning a 5-person race with 61% of the vote. He now serves as Democratic Deputy Whip, handling the midwestern states of Oklahoma, Indiana, Missouri, Illinois and Iowa. Clay serves on several important House committees. He is on the Oversight and Government Relations Committee which looks over federal agencies. He had chaired the subcommittee on the census. In addition, he serves on the Financial Services Committee that handles banking, insurance, and urban development. He is now the ranking minority member of the Domestic Policy Subcommittee that has jurisdiction over the Federal Reserve. The chair of the subcommittee is Texas' Ron Paul, who wants to abolish the institution.

During this summer break, Clay has been gauging his constituents' sentiments. He is hearing a lot about unemployment and the pain it causes as well as a failed education system. The federal tax structure, according to Clay, rewards corporations that outsource jobs. There is also the continuing legacy of discrimination

that continues to haunt us.

Clay has a several-fold approach to job creation.

1. Reauthorizing transportation bill and highway trust fund;
2. Fair tax--Closing loopholes; ending tax dodges that benefit big oil, hedge fund managers; end Bush tax cuts for the very wealthy.
3. Restoration policy--As the wars wind down in Iraq and Afghanistan, do nation-building here at home to create jobs; reform federal procurement policy that currently rewards corporations that ship jobs overseas. Use the peace dividend to rehab schools, hospitals, transit systems, the power grid.
4. Strengthen universities, community colleges, trade schools to train workers.

I asked Congressman Clay about working with the House Republican majority. He said it can be frustrating because the majority is focused on seeing the Obama administration fail. It becomes discouraging at times.

All in all, the Congressman enjoys his work. He is happy with the redrawing of the 1st District. He is glad it includes the whole city of St. Louis with its many diverse neighborhoods. He will be seeking reelection in 2012 and expects to be successful. Clay told me that he comes home to St. Louis as much as he can. You might catch him setting off for a bike ride in the park.

New Evening Speakers Series at the St. Louis Fed

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis is offering a new evening discussion series this fall for members of the public. Katrina Stierholz, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council President, says that the series, "Dialogue with the Fed: Beyond Today's Financial Headlines," will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. on Sept. 12, Oct. 16 and Nov. 21, 2011, and is designed to help answer questions about the important issues facing our economy and financial markets.

The October 16 session will explore the implications of the federal budget deficit and will be led by William Emmons, assistant vice president and economist. On November 21, the session will address lingering high unemployment rates and will feature Chris Waller, the Bank's senior vice president and director of research. Speakers will take questions from the audience after each presentation. Light refreshments will be served.

The Bank is located at One Federal Reserve Bank Plaza, on the corner of Broadway and Locust streets. Complimentary, secure parking will be made available in the Fed parking garage, located right next to the Bank on Broadway.

Online registration and more details about the dialogues are available via the St. Louis Fed website. If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact the St. Louis Fed's Jakita McBride at 314-444-8438 or jakita.m.mcbride@stls.frb.org.

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<http://ward28.citywestend.org/index.html>

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IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr, Commentary in the TIMES for more than 31 years.

Seriously, this is a serious column this month. Oh, I know, occasionally you may not be able to tell whether my column is serious. Whereas I generally think that I'm being pretty funny, my loyal readers often may be thinking "I don't get it. What's he talking about?" And you can then imagine the comments of my non-loyal readers! If a joke is carved on a tree which falls in the forest and no one laughs, is it really a joke?

This month's column is different. I write with gravity because I'm writing about a very serious topic: wine. No, not whine; wine! Get your glass and light up your cigar. I'm going to offer a mini-education on the grape.

You see, I'd like to consider myself a wine connoisseur. Of course, I'm probably not one because I can't even spell it (thank you, dictionary.com). Anyway, I drink quite a bit of wine, and generally all I know is that it tastes good. I'm often not sure what I'm drinking or why it takes good, but that's not a problem. Here's to you!

But I've decided to change all that and to become a student of wine. I mean, I know about the other important things in life - God, chess, the NFL, and the Tea Party - so why not wine? As much wine as I consume, I should be more knowledgeable.

As part of my need for continuing education credits, I enrolled in a wine class. To be fair, it was a one-nighter; still, it was a wine class. There were teachers, a Power Point lecture, and I even took notes. The instructors explained why red wine

is red and why white wine is white. I've forgotten the details but it has something to do with color. They told us about the difference between oak chardonnay and non-oak; yep, it has something to do with oak. A wine that has been sealed in an oak container will, insert drum roll, have a presence of oak. Go figure!

Anyway - and please remember, this is serious - at the end of the class they handed out a Wine Glossary sheet; "Tasting Terms" they called it. Honest. Two-sided, it has 37 words and their definitions. Thirty-seven! It looked like an SAT prep sheet.

As I began to read the terms, however, I began to smile and then laugh. Are they serious? Yes, they are. These are, I was told, REAL wine terms. They're spoken in fine restaurants and wine stores; consider them part of wine-speak. Talk about being out of it, I felt more like a heathen than when I go to church! This is a foreign language.

Or is my naivete just due to my south St. Louis upbringing? I couldn't help wondering how many of these terms are known to the more sophisticated masses. I'm not surprised that I was clueless, but what about you? If you're reading this fine column, clearly you have more taste than I do.

So, dear reader, I've prepared a little test. Below you'll find ten wine tasting terms and their definitions, but there's a catch: I've made-up half of them. Yep, five of the ten terms are real, legitimate, valid, true, and honest - they come from the sheet given to me at my wine

class. They are words that you'd hear at a premium bar in St. Louis or on any street corner in France. But the other five terms and definitions are total fabrications. Your task, oh savvy reader, is to decide which terms are real. Which are the real wine terms versus what is just Hawkeye jargon? Inquiring and tipsy minds want to know! The answers appear at the end of the column.

Directions: Please put a T (true and tasty) by the real wine terms and an F (false and fabricated) by those which I've made up.

1. Aloof - A wine that is very dry, not compelling.
2. Clean - A wine that is technically irreproachable but not very demanding.
3. Deviled-egg - A wine that has gone bad and isn't drinkable.
4. Fleishy - Description of particularly lush, fruity, wines.
5. Jammy - Indicates particularly lush, red fruit flavors.
6. Legs - Refers to the syrupy streaks that run down the glass after the wine has been swirled.
7. Marimba - Wine so good that you think your phone is ringing.
8. Patton - A very strong wine that makes you want to salute.
9. Steely - Very dry, and not at all fruity.
10. Wobbly - What you are at the end of wine class.

OK, it's time for the answers. The true wine terms were b, d, e, f, and i. The phony words were a, c, g, h, and j. If you got nine or ten right, cheers to you! Clearly you spend more time with the grape than is healthy. If you got six to eight correct, you need to try a little harder so consider having wine with breakfast, not just for lunch and dinner. And if you got less than six correct, I'll see you in class. Cheers!

Now if only I could find a class on Hostess Cupcakes.

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