

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 41, No. 4

November - December 2011

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

FREE

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

A Dozen Years of Wintermarkt

by Jill Cook

This year's Wintermarkt will be Saturday, Dec. 3, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Greg Freeman Park (Four Corners Park) at Kingsbury and Des Peres.

As with the traditional German Christkindmarkt, from which the idea for Wintermarkt came, food and vendors are the staples. One favorite German and neighborhood tradition—for the adults—is Glühwein, a warm spicy drink popular during the winter holidays. And of course, roasted chestnuts will be back again this year. "When I was kid we used to stick them in our pockets to keep our hands warm," Andy Cross said. "We didn't know we could eat them."

This year's Wintermarkt is hoping to see the return of many of its regular vendors and entertainers while also welcoming new faces, especially the children, Katrina Stierholz, president of the community council explained. "Neighbors often have their own arts and crafts they like to share," Stierholz said. "Children can even have their own booth. Children can be incredibly entrepreneurial and very talented."

Indeed, past Wintermarkts have seen children being rather successful at selling homemade bookmarks, candles and other sorts.

Children also have some favorite adult vendors, including Joy Stingers, the honeycomb lady.

"She makes use of everything," Stierholz said. "It's crafty and homey, it has that touch of artistry, that's what Wintermarkt is about." "But what people love the most is the honey she sells," Cross said.

Another popular vendor/entertainer with the children is the blacksmith. There have been several different blacksmiths who have shown kids the skill in the past, but all have willingly given children a hands-on opportunity in a trade most will never experience otherwise. "All of the blacksmiths have let the kids heat the metal up in the forge, pull the metal out and hammer it on an anvil," Cross said.

Though many children look forward to presents around the holidays, our neighborhood's annual Wintermarkt can help give children another experience, one of hard work, tradition and neighborly cheer. Andy Cross, a member of the Wintermarkt planning committee, explained that the performances planned for this year will provide kids the chance to hear some of the more traditional echoes, along with their favorite pop music. The St. Roch's Chimers are a neighborhood favorite, providing a holiday sound that has been popular for over half a century. "It is such a beautifully rich, mellow sound. People often stop what they're doing just to listen, even the children enjoy them," Cross said. Three a cappella groups from Washington University will also perform, including The Pikers. "They're sort of the class clown group of a cappella groups at Wash U," Cross said. "They are just very different and entertaining."

Wintermarkt provides volunteer opportunities for children also. "They can do service hours, taking warm drinks to the vendors or keeping the area tidy during the event. It depends on the kid," Stierholz said.

If you or your child is interested in having a booth or volunteering for Wintermarkt, contact Jessica Eiland, administrative coordinator, at jessica.eiland@skinker-debaliviere.com. The security deposit fee is \$25 for adults and \$10 for children. Vendors are also required to give 10 percent of their profit to the community council, with the deposit going toward the 10 percent, Stierholz explained.

Welcome to your neighborhood

by Susanne Knese

- My husband and I are both from Oakville (deep in St. Louis' South County) and when we became engaged started our house search. Our criteria: older house, a garage, safe pedestrian friendly neighborhood, walking distance to a Catholic Church and school, close proximity to a park and restaurants/shops and absolutely in St. Louis city limits. We have lived in the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood for 9 years now and seem to love it more and more, especially now with our daughters. We love the history and stories of our neighborhood and the fact that we know many on our street (not

Continued on page 3

Welcome



New Art Exhibit at Ars Populi

After the successful summer exhibit on the human face, Bill Christman and Keith Spoeneman will host "The Art of the Sign" at Ars Populi, 6010 Kingsbury. The exhibit will feature signs from collections in St. Louis and throughout the U.S. Some will date back to the 19th century; some will be from the golden age of signs, the 1930s and 40s. There will be large neon signs that are 10 feet tall. The exhibit will open in Nov. On Nov. 26 and 27, Bill will sign copies of his new book, "A Sign Painter's Scrapbook." This exhibit has been years in the making. There will be a small charge - \$2 for adults, \$1 for kids 16 and under.

Retail Study Moves Loop Forward

by Cheryl Adelstein



The rehab continues at Neal Shapiro's former Original Cast Lighting Building next to the Regional Arts Commission on Delmar. The first tenant will be a new Italian restaurant from the Del Pietro family, set to open later this month.

Washington University with the Loop/East Loop Special Business District sponsored a retail study and market analysis of The Loop and the entire Loop Trolley Route. The study was guided by a steering committee consisting of property owners, merchants, residents of adjacent neighborhoods, and officials from University City, the City of St. Louis and Washington University. Skinker DeBaliviere participants included David Whiteman, JoAnn Vatcha, Jill McGuire and Gary Boehnke.

The purpose of the study was three fold. First was to examine the Loop in order to evaluate market mix and provide recommendations for additional retail recruitment based on area demographics, buying power and sustainability goals.

Second was to examine an adjacent corridor to determine future retail uses in light of the construction of a Trolley line that will run the full length of the study area. Third was to identify and develop strategies for addressing the needs of current and potential shoppers in the district.

The final report will be available in November. It includes detailed demographic data on visitors to the Loop and their buying power. From this data, the consultants determined that the Loop could support an additional 150,000 sq. ft. of retail space including and sufficient market demand exists to support a small grocery store. The report also includes tenant recruiting and marketing recommendations as well as redevelopment strategies for each distinct section of the Loop.

The lead consultant for this work was HR&A Advisors, an industry leader in real estate, economic development and public policy consulting, based in New York, led by Kate Coburn. They partnered with two St. Louis firms, H3 Studios, which specializes in planning and urban design services, and the Research and Planning Group (RPG), which handled on-street and phone surveys.

Future issues of the Times will highlight specific recommendations relevant to the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood. Visit the SDCC website at skinkerdebaliviere.wordpress.com for a link to the additional details about the report.

Cheryl Adelstein is Director of Community Relations and Local Government Affairs for Washington University and serves as the University's representative to the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council.

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

One plus factor about hosting a World Series is that many flock to our town--reporters, fans, etc. I wonder what their impressions of St. Louis will be. Too many articles in various media have compared St. Louis with Detroit. As someone who grew up in Detroit, I can say unequivocally that the comparison is false. St. Louis may have lost considerable population but it remains a very diverse city. It has chain groceries and drug stores, unlike the Motor City. Although parts of our town are desolate, many others are vibrant. About a third of the city consists of stable, integrated neighborhoods. There are residents of all ages and backgrounds. There are restaurants, bakeries. Of course, visitors may not get beyond the confines of downtown. But, they will still find the remarkable City Garden, which provides art and beauty to all--kids, dog walkers, daytime workers, nighttime ballgame goers. The loft district is well-established now.

Of course, the city could always use more businesses and jobs and more housing, new and renovated. But, it is a town that has nothing to be ashamed of. We may be rustbelt, we may have suffered from flight but we are not an urban basketcase. Our neighborhood is emblematic of the city. It has come a long way in the past 4 decades. Perhaps Delmar is an apt microcosm. When I was here on a job interview in 1986, a friend drove me through the Loop and past city limits. There was a notable drop-off. Today the city Loop shines and plans will go forward to keep extending the renewal east on Delmar and along DeBaliviere.

There is hope, progress, and portents of even better things in our city. I hope Tim McCarver and all the other visitors catch the drift.

Letters from Neighbors

A neighbor asked if the TIMES would include a request that residents and their visitors not loiter in front of neighbor's property. Some blocks have had ongoing issues with youth loitering in front of other residents' property, presumably because their parents/guardians do not want them hanging out in front of their own property.

Another letter reminds all homeowners to help in the effort to keep the streets clean. First: Move your cars on street-cleaning days. Second: Blow or rake your leaves, then pick them up and remove them from the street to the yard waste dumpsters. This should be done whenever it will be more than a day or two before the street cleaners come. Leaving leaves to get soggy and then icy is dangerous and difficult for others to manage!

Happy Holidays from your TIMES staff! If you wish to make a year-end donation to keep things moving, send to TIMES OF SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE, 6168 Westminster, 63112. Thank you.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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The Times welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of the Times has always depended in large part on submissions from non-staff area residents. Calendar listings should be phoned in to the editor at 721-7532, or mailed to 5953 Pershing Ave., 63112.

The writer is responsible for the accuracy of the data, including times, dates, location, and particularly the spelling of names. The editor retains the right to omit or alter any material. Opinions expressed in Commentaries are the opinion of the author.

Deadline for next issue: January 15, 2012. 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

Skinker DeBaliviere Comm. Council Meeting, Mon., Nov. 14, 7 PM

Housing Corporation Board Meeting- Wednesday, Nov. 16, 6 PM

Residential Committee Meeting-Wednesday, November 28, 6:30 PM

West End Arts Council Meeting- Wednesday, November 30, 7 PM

Wintermarkt-Outdoor Crafts Festival, Saturday December 3, 11 AM

Executive Committee Meeting- Monday, December 5, 6:30 PM

Housing Corporation Board Meeting- Wednesday, December 7, 6 PM

Historic Review Committee Meeting- Wednesday, December 7, 7 PM

Skinker DeBaliviere Comm. Council Meeting, Mon., Dec. 12, 7 PM

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

Housing Corporation Board Meeting- Wednesday, Dec. 21, 6 PM

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, Sunday, January 15, 3PM

Bowling for Skinker DeBaliviere, January 16

Police and Firefighters Appreciation Lunch, February 2, 2012

Don't miss the Loop Ice Carnival, January 13-14, 2012. go to visittheloop.com <<http://visittheloop.com>> for details.

Remembering Our Neighbor, Jim McLeod

by Lana Stein

Dr. James McLeod came to Washington University in 1974 as an Assistant Professor of German. He became increasingly important as an administrator who advised a chancellor, directed African American studies, served as the undergraduate dean and was the creator of programs that increased student diversity. On October 9, Washington University held a memorial service for a man beloved by those who worked with him. The service was packed; many of those present were students who had been in Jim's program; a goodly number came from out of town to attend the service.

For many of us, Jim was a neighbor and friend who was active on the Council in the 1980s. When Jim arrived in St. Louis, he lived in a two-family in our neighborhood. He soon bought a house and renovated it on the 6100 block of McPherson where he lived with his wife Clara and daughter Sara. According to former SDCC director Nancy Farmer, Jim fully appreciated the many diversities of Skinker DeBaliviere: age, income, race. He always spoke of neighbors, not residents, and believed in neighbor helping neighbor.

Former alderman Dan McGuire said, "I got to know Jim when he was the Washington

University representative to SDCC. He was the personification of a "gentleman" in every sense of the word and, without fanfare, did so much for his university and his neighborhood. I feel honored to have known him." Karleen Hoerr served with him on the council. She noted that, "everybody thought he was their good pal. He made you feel so special." Hoerr added that he was "remarkably kind and thoughtful."

McLeod was his university's representative to the council, succeeding Bob Blackburn. He also served a term as president. He, Karleen, and the late Kathleen Hamilton helped select Nancy Farmer as executive director. Then, Jim and Karleen had breakfast with her once a week at the West End Cafe. They wanted to ensure her success. McLeod helped her put on a benefit concert for the SDCC with a noted local pianist. Nancy recalled being in numerous meetings with him and he never looked at his watch. When he was with you, he gave you his complete attention.

If you had met Jim McLeod, you would not forget him. Few had his warmth or grace. His mark on Washington University and his students will be long evident. But he also enhanced Skinker DeBaliviere. He clearly wanted to live here and he helped make it what it is today, a diverse neighborhood of neighbors.



Jim McLeod with Esther Herron, longtime SDCC Treasurer, Karleen Hoerr, and Nancy Farmer.

News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

As we move into the fall season, it is time once again to catch up with some of our neighbors. It seems this time around we have some very talented and busy neighbors in our midst!

For one year, the Meara family (Sean, Angie, Olive & Van), of the 5900 block of Pershing participated in a documentary titled *Holistic Child Care: One Family's Journey*. The film takes an in depth look at one family as they raise their two year old child and prepare for the birth of their second child, making choices about child birth, showing the support of their community, (including according to Angie, the neighborhood and community



garden) and their bond as a family. The film's focus is to shed light on what any family can do to holistically to prepare for parenthood and the journey of birth. The film is being screened at the Ethical Society on January 14, 2012.

Shelly Goebel Parker, of the 6000 block of Kingsbury contributed a chapter in the book *Art Therapy and Postmodernism; Creative Healing Through a Prism*, edited by Helene Burt and foreword by Joy Schaverien. The book brings together the expertise of international art therapists with diverse backgrounds and experiences and asks them to consider the role of postmodernism

Welcome

Continued from page 1

such the case in our spread out suburbs). The fact that we can walk to Delmar and purchase unique gifts, food, clothing, etc. from the local stores is quite the envy of our suburban friends. There are always activities to experience at COCA, the local libraries, music venues, Forest Park, the Loop and Wash U; unless a cold drink and conversation settles us on our front steps with neighbors. Now that our daughters are getting bigger, I can finally get out and become more involved with the Skinker-DeBalivier neighborhood meetings. I attended the last block leader meeting and was so energized in all our neighborhood had to offer. I immediately wanted to help which led me to Jessica Eiland. We wanted to improve the neighborhood "New Neighbor" welcome packet and it grew from there, and now we want to market it to all the Times readers:

Need fun neighborhood activity ideas for holiday guests? Do you

in their understanding of art therapy. A call for submissions went out from Helene Burt who is a feminist art therapist in Canada who Shelly has always admired. Shelly's submission deals with her art therapy experiences in working at Edgewood Children's Center.

Moving from movies to books, we now have some theater news! Nothing makes me happier than to report on the youth of our



neighborhood and their many talents. Daisy Hudspeth will be appearing in Webster Groves High School's performance of *The Sound of Music*, November 10th through 12th. Daisy will play the part of Liesel. Daisy is the daughter of Dan Hudspeth of the 6000 block of McPherson (and he grew up on 6100 Westminster). There is no doubt that Dan and his wife Monique will be some of Daisy's biggest cheerleaders at her performances! Last year Daisy played the part of a munchkin in *The Wizard of Oz*.

Baby news! From the 6100 block of Westminster, news that Peter and Liz Kniep Engelsmann welcomed a baby girl, Jane Judith Engelsmann, born on Oct 18 at 3:56 pm. 8 lbs, 9 oz. Elizabeth says they are "looking forward to introducing her to all of our great neighbors!"

know who to call if a street light is out on your street? Did you know the city can help with your pesky sidewalks being uprooted by trees? How can our neighborhood security council help you? Interested in volunteering in your own community? Looking for ways to meet more of your neighbors? These are all issues that can be answered by visiting our friendly Skinker-DeBaliviereCommunity Council office (6008 Kingsbury Ave.) to pick up a Neighborhood packet. When a new neighbor moves into the neighborhood they receive a 'Welcome to the Neighborhood' packet filled with very useful information answering these questions and more. But realized that we should offer them up to all residents of our neighborhood as a 'Welcome to Your Neighborhood' packet. Between the packet and the website (<http://skinker-debaliviere.com>) there is more than enough information to help you and our neighborhood stay welcoming and vibrant.

Peter also just launched a new website that he designed, featuring the mural art work he's produced over the last 15 years. It's at www.peterengelsmann.com.

The 5900 block of DeGiverville welcomed a new neighbor this summer. Congratulations to Todd and Alise Schwartzlow who



welcomed their first baby on July 20th! Finn Allen weighed in at 5 lbs 8oz and was 18 inches long.

And on to more happy couples.... Beth Bender and Shauna Cunningham, of the 6000 block of Kingsbury, confirmed their partnership to each other in front of friends and family on Saturday, October 1st at Joe's Café. Beth is the daughter of Rick & Joan Bender (and this columnist's sister), and grew up on the 6100 block of Kingsbury. Congratulations to Beth and Shauna!

More wedding bells rang at Joe's Cafe on Sunday, October 9, when Sophie Kohn, born on the 6100 block of Kingsbury, married Paul Bourdeaux on October 9. Sophie



is an anthropologist and Paul a web designer. They now live now in Dogtown. Congratulations to Sophie and Paul (and proud mom Pat Kohn too!).

Glenda Underwood of the 6100 block of McPherson reports that her family was traveling in October to North Carolina to celebrate her Grandmother's 104th birthday. She loves a party so they have been sure to give her one every year since she turned 100. Glenda was also pleased to report that granddaughter Sydney is now going to St. Roch, following in the footsteps of her mother Britney.

Great block parties were held this summer and fall in the neighborhood. The 6000 and 6100 blocks of McPherson held their annual parade



of bikes, the 6000 and 6100 blocks of Westminster partied together, and for the first time, the 5700-5900 blocks of Pershing celebrated their blocks.

Be sure to check out (and 'like') the Skinker DeBaliviere page on facebook! The SDCC office has a facebook page that shares updates and announcements about neighborhood events, meetings and activities, as well as information about other things happening in and around the St. Louis area. There is also a facebook page for people who grew up in Skinker DeBaliviere. Be sure to 'Like' them on facebook and stay connected with your neighbors and your neighborhood!

Do you have news to share? Please send your submissions via email with the subject line News of Neighbors to rachelb@sdtimes.org or drop off a note to the attention of Rachel Boxdorfer at the Skinker DeBaliviere office. Be sure to mark it "News of Neighbors".

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- 28th Ward Regular Democrats -

Meetings for 2011: April 21 • June 16 • July 21 • September 15 • October 20 • November 17

Dressel's Pub Above • 419 N. Euclid • 7:30 p.m. • Free Parking

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For up-to-date information on programs and other news of politics, go to the 28th Ward website:
<http://ward28.citywestend.org/index.html>
Alderman Lyda Krewson • 367-9765
lyda.krewson@pgav.com

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SDCC Homecoming 2011 – The Roaring 20's!

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Flapper dresses, gangsters, and even a Charles Lindbergh and Charlie Chaplin gathered for the third annual SDCC Homecoming at Crossroads College Prep on Saturday, October 8th. The annual event serves as a fundraiser to support the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office and the many programs offered to our community. The theme this year



of The Roaring 20's was well received by guests who turned out in 20's outfits and even competed in a Charleston dance off!

Best costume winners were Mary Brown, (in flapper style), of the 5900 block of DeGiverville and Dan Hudspeth, (as Charlie Chaplin), of the 6000 block of McPherson. The silent auction was fully stocked with wonderful items ranging from gift baskets to restaurant certificates, private dinner parties and airline tickets. A new feature for the 20's theme was a jail. Many guests found themselves locked up in "Krewson's Kooler" (sponsored by Alderman Lyda Krewson), which served as an additional way to raise money for the neighborhood by making a donation to lock someone up and paying bail to get out. The jail quickly became a popular and fun gathering place, a mini-cocktail party, and even a second dance floor.

The dance floor was full throughout the evening with couples and groups dancing, a group effort of the soul train, and the Charleston. And of course, as it has become tradition, through

the raising of more funds, the neighborhood crowned a new King and Queen! Congratulations go out to Cristina McGroarty of the 6100 block of McPherson and Mark Gorman of the 5700 block of Pershing who received their crowns from the outgoing royals, husband and wife, Mark Banaszak and Katrina Stierholz.

The evening would not have been the amazing success it was without the backing of the corporate sponsors who came in strong this year to show their support of the event and the neighborhood that the Homecoming committee truly believes is the best neighborhood in the City of St. Louis. Sponsors this year were; Karleen Hoerr & Feinberg Real Estate, Rick & Joan Bender, Front Door, Restoration St. Louis, Rachel Boxdorfer & Prudential Alliance Realtors, State Senator Joe Keaveny, Katie Kurtz & Laura McCarthy Real Estate,



Kingsbury Animal Hospital, Lyvy Duvy's Restaurant, Beth Bender and Shauna Cunningham, Dean Porter & ReMax Results, Jump Co, Big Shark, Star Image Studios, Pulaski Bank, National Sales, Alderman Lyda Krewson, Quiet Village Landscaping, The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere, & Blueberry Hill. It was a fabulous evening with a wonderful mix of friends and neighbors celebrating and raising over \$12,000 for Skinker DeBaliviere! Thank you to all the sponsors, volunteers, and neighbors who participated in this "fun" raiser.

SDCC Board Meeting (edited for space) Monday, September 12, 2011

Financials: Statement of Financial Position as of August 31, 2011 and Budget vs. Actual: YTD thru August were presented and discussed. Rags to Riches resulted in a slightly different net income to SDCC than indicated in the report. Corrections will be reflected in the September financials report. Computer technical support expenses exceed budget because vendor presented, and SDCC paid, previously un-invoiced bills for previous year's web and email hosting services.

Cash Balances as of August 31, 2011 were as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Operating Account | \$30,172.32 |
| CDA Account | \$3,819.52 |
| WEAC Account | \$6,603.99 |
| Brick Account | \$2,275.76 |
| Playground Account | \$10,000.45 |
| Total | \$52,872.04 |

Alice Stanley made a motion to accept the financial report, Dan Hudspeth seconded, and the motion carried.

Homecoming Visitors: Elizabeth Bender, Rachel Boxdorfer, Cristina McGroarty, and Lynn Tiede made a surprise visit to the board meeting dressed in Roaring 20's attire. Rachel and Beth announced that the 2011 SD Homecoming will be held on October 8, 2012 at Crossroads Preparatory School. Rachel and Beth explained the details of Homecoming, SDCC's largest fundraiser, to the board and asked for board members' support. Board members can support Homecoming by attending the event, distributing flyers, selling tickets, and soliciting auction items.

Staff Report:

David Whiteman made a presentation to the Board about SDCC's Priorities and Goals for 2012, 2012 CDA Funding Application, and proposed committee realignment.

SDCC Priorities and Goals for 2012
The following priorities were presented and discussed – as a basis for developing specific goals for 2012.

1. Build upon the Strategic Plan, and begin a community-wide physical planning initiative.

2. Strike a healthy balance between community development programs and events/entertainment.

1. a summary of the staff & volunteer time commitments and income received from individual SDCC events was reviewed.

1. Continue to develop SDCC's organizational capacity; and realign committees to achieve its objectives.

2. Seek new sources of funding to offset anticipated reduction in CDBG funding. As part of the Board's discussion, progress against 2011 goals was informally reviewed. It was the consensus of the Board to proceed with the four priorities listed above.

Action: The Executive Committee and staff will determine a process for formally reviewing progress against 2011 Goals; and for establishing 2012 Goals. Process will be presented at the October Board meeting.

Action: SDCC staff will forward a copy of the Strategic Plan to each Board member. 2012 CDA Funding Application

The 2012 CDA funding application is due on September 23, 2011. CDA anticipates further reductions in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for 2012. Additionally, applicants have been

advised to closely align their objectives with the CDBG national objectives and the St. Louis City Consolidated Plan. It was the consensus of the Board that the SDCC include the master planning initiative its 2012 CDA objectives. In recent years, all CDA funding has been through the 28th Ward Alderman. Funding will also be solicited from the 26th Ward Alderman for 2012.

Review of Current and Proposed Committee Structure

A chart was reviewed comparing the committees established by the By-Laws with a list of current SDCC committees.

In many cases, committees cited in the By-Laws do not exist; and there are active committees that are not cited in the By-Laws.

A Proposed Committee Structure was presented for review and discussion. The intent is to align committees to best achieve SDCC's goals; and to respect (and take best advantage of) the communities' precious volunteer leadership capacity. Highlights of the plan include the following:

1. Existing Committees to remain include Residential, Delmar Commercial, Historic Review, Marketing, Security, Fundraising, West End Arts Council, and MLK.

2. Fundraising will take on the additional responsibility of prioritizing events and setting annual Events Calendar.

3. A new Public Space and Beautification Committee will be established; responsibilities include Parks, public rights-of-way, street trees and sidewalks.

4. A new Social and Economic Outreach Committee is contemplated to connect residents with home repair resources, senior services, and various other resources and programs.

5. A new Master Planning Committee will be established to lead the master planning initiative. This committee will include members from the SDCHC board; and the initial steps will be to define the scope of the plan (with input from all other committees) for Board approval.

Action: SDCC staff will work with Committee Chairs to outline each committee's responsibilities (charter) prior to the October Board meeting.

Action: SDCC staff will forward a copy of the By-Laws to each Board member. See September Staff Report for other details.

Committee Reports:

Rags to Riches
Dan Hudspeth reported that Rags to Riches was a successful event and thanked the volunteers and staff for their hard work. Dan said that the income brought in by the event was less than the previous year but that the committee hopes to make changes so that next year the event is more financially effective.

Security

Katrina noted that Melissa Von Rohr is the outgoing chair of the Security Committee and Allison Dunningan and Mark Gorman are the incoming co-chairs. The Security Committee monthly meeting has been changed from September 14 to September 19 at 5:30pm.

Residential

David noted that the Residential Committee met on September 8, 2011 regarding the 6000 Westminster Office Building.

There will be a hearing on, September 14, 2011 at 1:30 pm at City Hall regarding the revocation of the owner's occupancy permit. The owners of this building were granted a building and occupancy permit in January 2009, but failed to make required improvements within the specified 90 day period. The Residential Committee requested that SDCC write a letter expressing concern about the owner's past lack of performance and request that all ten conditions remain in effect should the Board of Adjustments not move to revoke the occupancy permit. Lyda Krewson also wrote a letter stating that she does support the revocation. David, Nicole Blummer, and 28th Ward NIS, Dotti Pennington will be in attendance. All others are welcome to attend as well.

Aldermanic Report: Dotti Pennington,

Neighborhood Improvement Specialist for the 28th Ward, reported that she attended the hearing for the owners of one of the vacant properties on the 5700 block of DeGiverville. The owner and his wife have been in touch with Dotti and the Cultural Resources Office. Dotti also said she was scheduled to meet with the management from the DeBaliviere strip mall that day, Monday September 12, 2011, however, they did not show up. Dotti is also continuing to monitor nuisance property, specifically one property in the 5800 block of Pershing, 6125 Washington, a former nuisance property is currently getting a gut rehab. Some of the overgrowth at the former Kingsbury Square hardware store across from Crossroads School has been removed but more work is still needed. Dotti is working to get more of the overgrowth cut down in the alley between the 5800 block of DeGiverville and Metro right of way.

New Business: Cheryl Adelstein recognized the passing of Dean James McCleod, long-term resident of the 6100 block of McPherson and one of the council's earliest active and impactful members. Jim moved to the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood in 1974 and was the former Washington University representative to the Council. Cheryl and other board members requested that the council organize some form of recognition for Jim and include information in the Times about his passing.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23PM

D.G.H. Services

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Dan Hudspeth, business owner and
lifelong resident of Skinker-DeBaliviere

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One Relaxing and One Rowdy Concert

By Andy Cross

After a long day of shopping at the 2011 Rags to Riches, Skinker DeBaliviere residents came to Greg Freeman Park at Four Corners to settle in and enjoy the evening. The St. Louis Guitar Society Orchestra played Brazilian, Spanish, Baroque, classical styles of music, also a drinking song and some original pieces. Guitarist Cliff Eise played a sample of his own musical creations on wooden recorders which he built himself, while other members of the orchestra kept time using their guitars as a gentle percussion section. Eise played music inspired by Native Americans and during some of his works the audience and even the children in the playground became so quiet you could hear a whisper.

In contrast to the mellow sounds of the classical guitars our final concert featured Mislá, playing authentic Irish jigs, reels, and songs. Mislá includes two neighbors from Skinker DeBaliviere; Kelly Winter and Mary Walsh. An 8 foot by 20 foot wooden stage was added to our permanent concrete stage for the traditional Irish dances performed by the St. Louis School of Irish Arts. Dance Instructor Shannon Slecka taught the crowd how to do a traditional Irish 'ceili' dance called "The Siege of Ennis". About fifty people participated in the dance which included turns, weaving, arches, smiling, and laughing. The dance was as fun to watch as it was to participate in.

We hope you have enjoyed

the diverse kinds of music offered in the 2011 BBQ Concert Series presented by the West End Arts Council of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, with support from the Regional Arts Commission. Our audiences are a fine reflection of what a great neighborhood we live in, with friends enjoying each other's company and good sized crowds even in the hottest summer on record! Thank you to all who participated and to all our volunteers.



It's Only Rock 'n' Roll, or Is It?

by Jon Tiede

Who is the greatest rock band of all time? That's the tall question that we debated late into the evening at the McPherson Block party wound down this past summer. The answer is personal and tends to evolve based on the music you're into at any given point in time. Asked this question in high school, I might have said Led Zeppelin or The Cult (yes, The Cult). In college, my answer probably would have been U2. But with the perspective of 41 years and a little objectivity, my final submission after going back and forth between The Beatles and the Rolling Stones, was the Stones.

I was a little surprised at the amount of enthusiasm for The Who emanating from the 6100 block of McPherson that night, but clearly my friends Sean McGroarty and Mark Banaszak have a deep passion for Townshend, Daltrey and Co. I've always admired The Who, and consider their epic album, Who's Next, a classic that belongs in any discussion of top albums. But with all due respect, I just can't see putting The Who at the top of the rock & roll heap.

Consider this. In 1971, the year Who's Next was released, the Rolling Stones began an amazing run of number one albums. Starting with Sticky Fingers and ending with Tattoo You in 1981 (which was my first official album purchase at eleven years of age at Camelot Music...remember that place!), the Stones put together a prolific, rock buffet featuring some of the most recognizable tracks of all time - Brown Sugar, Wild Horses, Tumbling Dice, Angie, It's Only Rock 'n' Roll (But I Like It), Beast of Burden, Emotional Rescue and Start Me Up among others. And

this ridiculous run was preceded by albums that brought us classics like Sympathy for the Devil, Gimme Shelter, Paint it Black, Let's Spend the Night Together, Ruby Tuesday, and what many consider to be the greatest rock & roll song of all time - (I Can't Get No) Satisfaction. For a little further support, The Stones have had at least one album in the top five in each of the past five



decades. That's a fifty-year span for those who are counting making their longevity hard to match.

On a personal level, I have been fortunate enough to see the Stones twice, once in 1994 on their Voodoo Lounge Tour, and a second time in 1997 on their Bridges to Babylon Tour, which was extra special and possibly prescient. That's because I saw it with my wife, Lynn in St. Louis, before she was my wife, and before we moved to St. Louis. As I have amassed their music over the years (due in no small part to the influence of my brother-in-law, who is possibly the biggest Rolling Stones fan and

a true music aficionado), their classic, gritty, bluesy-style of rock and roll has become an essential part of my music library, matched possibly only by one other band, The Beatles.

Yes, The Beatles, who I would consider the only real, legitimate challenger to the Rolling Stones as the greatest rock & roll band of all time. How do you argue against them? It's tough. Their influence as a band, and later as solo artists on the genre we loosely call rock is undeniable. My only defense is that they really don't strike me as rock anymore. Certainly at one time they were, but they now seem to fall into another loosely defined category called pop. Is Let It Be an amazing song? Yes. Does it rock? No not really, nor do countless other classic Beatles tracks.

At the end of all of this, I am certain of at least two things. The Who is definitely a band that has captivated the souls of many loyal followers including a couple great guys that reside on the 6100 Block of McPherson. But for my money, as they were once introduced way back in 1969 by their stage manager, the Rolling Stones are "the greatest rock and roll band in the world."

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St. Vincent Greenway Groundbreaking at DeBaliviere



Groundbreaking for Porter Park, the DeBaliviere link to the St. Vincent Greenway, was held on October 2011. Dignitaries pictured here include Joe Edwards, Comptroller Darlene Greene, Alderman Frank Williamson, Great Rivers Greenway Director Susan Trautman, and many more.

St. Vincent Greenway is a development of the Great Rivers Greenway District. The trail will extend for more than seven miles from NorthPark, near I-70 and Hanley Road, to Forest Park. The greenway route includes the completed sections through University of Missouri-St. Louis campus and the adjoining St. Vincent (County) Park.

The primary trail will continue to the Rock Road MetroLink station area, the MET Center in Wellston, and the West End and Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhoods. The greenway will follow Engelholm Creek as much as possible.

The remainder of the primary greenway trail from the North

Hanley MetroLink station to Forest Park is being designed.

The next segment slated for construction lies within the City of St. Louis. Construction through Porter Park (Ruth Porter Mall), and along Etzel Avenue from the park west to Skinker, will begin in October. Finishing touches will be applied in the spring.

At Forest Park, St. Vincent Greenway eventually will connect to other greenways, such as Centennial, Chouteau, and River des Peres. In the NorthPark business development, the greenway will meet the Maline Creek Greenway now being planned.

For more information, visit the Great Rivers Greenway District website.

By mutual agreement, work on the DeBaliviere connection to Forest Park will be delayed until construction begins on the Loop Trolley, hopefully starting in 2012.



Moonrise Hotel received AAA's coveted and rare Four Diamond award rating. Joe Edwards and the Moonrise Hotel's General Manager, Martin Pittman, accepted the award at a celebration at the Pin-Up Bowl.

St. Roch Centennial

by Lana Stein



Class of 1984

It is part of the lore of Skinker DeBaliviere that St. Roch knew how to throw a party. That spirit was clearly evident at the church's centennial celebration. On September 24, alumni of St. Roch School and non-Catholic neighbors were invited to tour the school and attend a barbecue in the church parking lot. The forecast was for rain but, alas, the sun shined on the church and this event. Friends, parishioners, and alumni all mingled. Classes were reunited. Photos were taken. It was a happy beginning to the celebration.

to attend the gala and spoke of how St. Roch would always be home. Kim Tucci was m.c. and brought down the house with his imitation of Monsignor Sal Polizzi, who has pastored here for 30 years. The monsignor addressed the gathering and gave special recognition to the 75 families who



Sister Leo Ann Bubb, longtime principal of St. Roch School.

On Sunday, the 25th, a mass was held at 5:00 pm with Archbishop Carlson in attendance. Then, the crowd dispersed to the Chase Park Plaza. The centennial banquet took place in the Khorassan Room. Each table held a centerpiece of beautiful white flowers surrounding a facsimile of St. Roch and his dog. About 800 people were present to remember and celebrate. Father Mike Campbell helped assemble a video in which parishioners told of the importance of their church. Genny Fox Malcolm came from England

did not join in the white flight. He also recognized the two school directors he has worked with, Sister Leo Ann Bub and Gloria Openlander. He also thanked the "social Catholics" who have worked with the church in the neighborhood and who sent their children to the school.

There was a wonderful collection of photographs spanning the church's history that Arline Webb helped to assemble. It was a very special occasion. Some of us also reflected on the church's critical role in preserving the neighborhood. Someone said, "St. Roch saved the neighborhood and the neighborhood saved St. Roch." It is a special symbiosis that hopefully will continue.



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New Home in Historic Neighborhood

by Jo Ann Valcha

Many in the neighborhood think of the 6100 block of Pershing as mostly apartment buildings, virtually a student enclave. But there are actually many single-family and two-family homes on this lovely, tree-lined street. It's also convenient, close to Washington University and the Skinker MetroLink Station, adjacent to Kayak's Coffee Shop. All these features drew Anders and Christiane Carlsson to their unexpected new home, a brand-



new house, built of components from a manufactured housing company called Homeway Homes in Peoria, Illinois.

The Carlssons have called St. Louis home for many years, moving from the DeMun area to the Central West End, then to a large home in Parkview Neighborhood. Anders is a Physics Professor at Washington University, and

Christiane is professor of German at Webster University. She came to St. Louis from Germany to attend Wash U; Anders' family emigrated from Sweden to the US in 1962, and he grew up mostly in California. Accepting the position in the Physics Department at Wash U meant a return to St. Louis, where he had actually spent a few childhood years.

In finding a lot for a new home, their main criterion was proximity to MetroLink.

Pershing proved to be the perfect location, not only adjacent to MetroLink, but with the mix of students and other residents, having a real "sense of life," as Anders puts it. Their other goals were to have a home with a smaller footprint, both in terms of size and energy consumption. They found a new way to achieve that goal when they connected with Jay Swoboda, of EcoUrban Homes, who has built several of the manufactured homes in the City of St. Louis over the past few years. They then chose Paul Hohmann as the architect, to help design the facade and fit the house to the historic district specifications and setting.

They decided on Homeway Homes, which delivered the components and did the tough work of fitting them into a site

between two existing buildings. Among the high-quality features are the solidly built walls, which are actually put together at the Homeway Homes factory, complete with wiring and all the typical features of so-called stick-built homes.

To enhance the energy-efficiency of the home, the Carlssons also chose geothermal heating system, which utilizes the more consistent temperatures of the earth below to heat and cool the home. Moreover, solar panels will generate energy to fulfill many of the home's needs. Homeway Homes recently achieved gold status in the National Association of Home Builders National Green Building Program, by incorporating environmental considerations and resource efficiency into every step of the building and development process to minimize environmental impact. The design, construction, and operation of a home must focus on energy and water efficiency, resource efficient building design and materials, indoor environmental quality, and must take the home's overall impact on the environment into account. Appliances, windows, and water heating systems have ENERGY STAR ratings. The home includes efficient lighting fixtures and bulbs. Renewable energy sources, such as photovoltaic electricity and water heating systems, further decrease the overall energy consumption



within the home.

Going green was important to Anders and Christiane, who love to ride their bikes throughout the neighborhood and the city. They also love sailing on Lake Carlisle, but mostly they love the wonderful and diverse mix of people in the historic old neighborhood they are now enhancing with a great new house.

For more information on EcoUrban and Homeway Homes, go to: www.ecourbanhomes.com and www.homewayhomes.com.

And make their block a new biking or walking destination for yourself and check out the new home being completed there.

The City's Cultural Resources Office reviews all building permits in the city's local historic districts, including Skinker-DeBaliviere. Among the highlights:

Location, spacing and setback: The historic district ordinance states that new structures "shall be positioned on their lots so that any existing rhythm of recurrent building masses to spaces is continued. Existing building lines shall be strictly maintained, with no portion of any building (excepting any open porch, open veranda, open stone platform or open balcony) to be constructed beyond the existing building line.

Exterior materials: The historic district ordinance states that exterior materials when visible from the street should be of the type originally used when the historic district area was developed: brick, stone, stucco, wood, and wrought and cast iron.

For 6153 Pershing, "exterior materials are brick, stucco, and metal for handrails, to produce the effect of wrought or cast iron."

Height: the ordinance states: "New buildings or altered existing buildings...must be constructed to within 15% of the average height of existing residential buildings on the block."

For 6153 Pershing, "The height of the front parapet is within 15% of the height of the cornice line of adjacent buildings."

Concluding comments of the Cultural Resources staff:

The Skinker-DeBaliviere Historic District Standards allow the construction of contemporary infill design, and the staff feels that the proposed building is successful in replicating the rhythm of the buildings on the block."

KAH Fun Run

by Jill Cook

In times of economic crisis, we often hear reports of food banks and other nonprofit organizations suffering shortages in donations.

Many local animal rescue organizations face similar problems. There are an increasing number of pets being turned over by the owner who can no longer afford their pet and decreasing donations of supplies and cash.

However, one local business recently teamed up with a rescue organization to help raise money and awareness. Kingsbury Animal Hospital hosted its first KAH 5K Dog Walk & Fun Run on Oct. 8 to benefit the St. Louis Senior Dog Project.

Terri Montgomery of Affton volunteers as a foster home with the St. Louis Senior Dog Project. She was originally introduced to the organization through a rescue of her own.

"They helped me out in 2007 placing a dog that had been abused," Montgomery said.

She came to the fun run with Sadie, a very active border collie who is looking for a forever home. And while she was not adopted at the event, Montgomery expressed gratitude just for the exposure.

"This is such a great way to get people educated. A lot of people didn't know about the in home fostering aspect," Montgomery said. "It's wonderful to live a

responsible life with a pet."

The success was echoed by Abbey Spencer of Dogtown, who is a KAH receptionist and helped organize the event.

"Overall I think it went amazingly well," Spencer said. "The turnout was bigger than we thought it would be and we've received a lot of positive feedback."

The event drew a good crowd; about 200 people participated



in the run. Some people came because of their love for dogs but some came out to train and get in shape.

Mackenzie Hopping of Overland saw a flier at a water fountain in Forest Park when she was out jogging. She's training for the St. Louis Rock -n- Roll Half Marathon.

"I had a choice between this race and the one tomorrow," Hopping said. "Bringing my dog was one exciting part of this race. I don't get to run with Basie in other races."

And while getting in shape was

not the primary goal of the race, it was a concept that some at Kingsbury Animal Hospital were hoping for in people and their pets. Cheryl Fields of St. Louis Hills, lead technician at KAH who co-founded the idea said that they also wanted to emphasize exercising with your dog.

"Pet owners have a hard time seeing the weight gain in their own pets," Fields said. "And three pounds extra on a dog is similar to 30 pounds extra on a human. Just like humans, pets need their exercise to maintain a healthy weight."

Walking three miles (five kilometers) several times a week helps the pet and the human maintain a healthy weight and in turn reduces the chances of diabetes, arthritis, heart disease and high blood pressure—all illnesses that dogs can suffer from also.

KAH is hoping to sponsor the event again next year, building on this year's success and experience.

"It's been daunting, so many things to take into consideration," Fields said.

"We learned from our mistakes and now we have a general outline of what needs to be done for next year," Spencer said.

If you are interested in donating to the St. Louis Senior Dog Project, you can drop off donations at Kingsbury Animal Hospital or visit them at www.stlseniordogproject.org.

IN YOUR EAR

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

The St. Louis community is a bit poorer than it was a couple of months ago. In fact, it's significantly poorer. Two extraordinarily bright lights in our community, Jim McLeod and Bob Cassilly, are no longer with us. Jim and Bob were very different – in some ways it's hardly possible to think of two people who might have less in common – but they also shared some wonderful and remarkable qualities that set them apart from the rest of us. Robert Kennedy said "There are those who look at things the way they are, and ask why... I dream of things that never were, and ask why not?" Jim and Bob did more than have that attitude; they each lived it. Every day they looked at what could be and every day they worked to make it happen. Their palettes were different: Jim did this through his relationships with others, and Bob did it through his art. Yet Jim was an artist in how he saw people, and Bob's relationships were integral to his success.

Jim McLeod was Skinker-DeBaliviere neighbor and a friend. He held many roles at Washington University, and his most recent title was Vice Chancellor for Students and Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. A thirteen word title gives you an idea of just how indispensable Jim was in so many aspects of campus life. But Jim's skills did more than enhance Washington University. Years ago he served on the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council. He was also president of the New City School Board of Trustees, chair of the New City Advisory Council, president of the Express Scripts Foundation, and served on the board of the Art Museum. Jim was busier than one could imagine, but he always had time to make a difference.

At Washington University, he was famous for maintaining that every student should be known by their name and history. They weren't just students; they were people. Jim did just that. He asked, he listened, and he took the time to know the students. I know several people who say that Jim was a major force in who they are today. He was a role model for other adults in how he viewed the student experience. Jim expected a great deal from others, and you wanted to rise to meet his belief in you. He was always there. He helped people in their journeys, applauding them for their successes and embracing them for their shortcomings.

Jim died in September, and I attended his memorial service at Washington University. Held in the Field House – the crowd was far too large for Graham Chapel – the crowd and words were a testimony to Jim's memory and, more, evidence of his impact. For so many current students and alums, Jim is Washington University. He personalized the marble columns and academic courses. He was THE teacher for hundreds upon hundreds, and he empowered, yes, that's the right word, thousands of people to realize their potential. At

the service it was said "There are so many of us here today because we all felt Jim was our close friend; and that's because he was." Why don't people like that go into politics?

I was fortunate to get to work with Jim quite closely for a couple of years. I used to enjoy watching him in a meeting. He was called a calm leader, and that's apt. Regardless of the topic or tenor of the discussion, Jim would be quiet, listening and nodding, and empowering – there's that word again – others. And then he would ask the question or make the comment that turned the conversation. Invariably and consistently I would wonder why I hadn't thought of that! Jim had the ability to listen to words and to discern emotions; his instincts enabled him to see the larger picture even while the rest of us wallowed around in the day-to-day dirt. In every setting, his values were consistent: He wanted the best for people and he wanted to help all of us, including me, achieve our dreams. I am old enough to have worked with many, many different kinds of people, and I have been fortunate enough to watch a range of leadership styles. Sadly, I've only known one Jim McLeod. Fortunately, I knew Jim McLeod.

Bob Cassilly also died in September. Unlike Jim, Bob was a larger-than-life public figure. Make that MUCH larger than life! I didn't know Bob nearly as well as Jim, but I knew Bob well enough to have my breath taken away by his passion and vision. Bob and I chatted occasionally and had lunch together, and I always marveled at his imagination, his verve for life, and his unwillingness to accept limits. Why don't people like that go into politics?

It wasn't until after his death that I learned that Bob was the person who stopped the madman hammering on Michelangelo's Pieta in St. Peter's Basilica in 1972. Somehow, once I knew that, I wasn't surprised. Even back then Bob was the right person at the right time, unrestrained by convention and following his instincts. I can imagine him, flying through the air to tackle the stranger who dared deface a work of art. Years later, Bob retained that same sense of indignation when St. Louis city art – brick buildings and monuments – was destroyed.

Bob was an artist who gave new meaning to "unconventional." He was more than un; he was anti-conventional. He initially gained fame as a concrete sculptor. The frog, tortoise, serpents, and hippos that adorn the New City School playground are Bob's creations. I once asked Bob how he created these great sculptures from concrete, and he replied, "Oh, it's really simple. You just start shaping before the concrete hardens." He is also the creator of the pillars at the intersection of our east-west streets and Skinker, the ones that announce our neighborhood.

Bob's greatest work of art, of course, is the City Museum, a

cacophony of crazy catalysts. Like no other play space in the world, it's designed to delight, to entertain, and to frighten. For Bob, smiles and laughs weren't enough. He thought risk-taking is an essential part of fun. As a result, kids of all ages, some barely house-broken and some receiving social security checks, find themselves enamored and anxious when they interact with the artifacts of Bob's imagination. Beyond this, the museum became a hothouse for other artists.

I was at the Memorial Service for Bob, and each of the speakers spoke about how Bob changed their life, even though they didn't use those words. In a way, we all envy Bob's attitude about life and his willingness to pursue a vision. Looking around at the crowd at the Sheldon Concert Hall, it was clear that for so many people Bob was more than an artist, more than an entrepreneur, and more than a visionary. He was someone who showed them that the impossible was possible. That's how he lived his life.

From the outside, Jim and Bob share a bit. An academic and an artist, they lived in St. Louis, and they both died recently. There wasn't much overlap between their arenas. But when you peel away the patina, take off the academic trappings and remove the concrete trowel, there is much that they have in common. Although their demeanor and strategies were very different, Jim and Bob each believed that they could make the world a better place, and each of them worked to help others. Being around them was a treat.

Jim and Bob cared about their community and their efforts made St. Louis a better place for all of us. We are so fortunate to have had them among us. My life is better because I knew them, and I am saddened that we no longer have their vision and their touch. They left us far too early.

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