

The TIMES of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 42, No. 4

Nov. - Dec. 2012

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

FREE

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

Wintermarkt 2012

by Andy Cross

One of Skinker -DeBaliviere's favorite events is our annual Wintermarkt: a local interpretation of a traditional German holiday festival held at Greg Freeman Park at the Four corners, Kingsbury and DesPeres. Take the stress out of your holiday shopping and join us on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 11 am to 4 pm for live music and a capella singers, great food and drinks, and one-of-a-kind hand-crafted gifts sure to please everyone on your holiday shopping list.

Some of our vendors are residents of Skinker DeBaliviere, while others come from within and outside of



St. Louis. As you explore the vendor booths this year you may find some heartwarming groups who sell their crafts to support wonderful causes. Some of our vendors sell beadwork, scarves and jewelry, handcrafted by people in need in other countries and our own. These crafts are as beautiful as the kind people who sell them.

In addition to professional jewelers, potters, woodworkers, and sculptors, you can also find novice crafters with clever new ideas. Our growing collection of young vendors sell oragami Christmas cards, dry erase boards, neckwarmers, even a doughnut delivery service: place your order to have fresh baked doughnuts delivered to your home - or a friend's home in Skinker DeBaliviere on Christmas morning! Last year many of our young vendors sold all of their items!

Get together with your neighbors at this hearty outdoor festival, grab a bra't, some baked goods, a German-style beverage, listen to some excellent live musical performances, and get your holiday shopping done early at the Wintermarkt!

Aging in Place in Skinker DeBaliviere

By Kathie East

As the trees change color and the days grow cool, Skinker DeBaliviere residents are digging out yard rakes and ice scrapers from the backs of garages and trunks of cars, preparing for falling leaves and frosty mornings. Those carpets of red and gold leaves are lovely; the annual chore of raking and disposing of them, however, is hard work. Without assistance, some of our neighbors may wonder how on earth they'll manage it before the icy rains of November turn those pretty leaves into a sodden and slippery mess.

Raking leaves is only one of the physical and logistical challenges facing aging homeowners, and a minor one. Studies confirm that the vast majority of Americans want to remain in their own homes and neighborhoods as they grow older. This simple preference to "age in place" may be complicated by the difficulty of maintaining a home that has become too large to care for or navigate safely.

Other challenges to aging in place include finding affordable, dependable assistance with daily and seasonal tasks and convenient, reliable transportation. The wish to downsize locally may be thwarted, also, by a lack of affordable, attractive housing designed to meet the needs of seniors who want to stay in the neighborhood.

Many Skinker DeBaliviere residents have lived here a long time. Over the years, they have purchased homes, raised families, forged friendships, and become active members of local committees, clubs, and congregations. These now-older residents enhance the diversity and vitality of the neighborhood with their experience and wisdom; their memories deepen our shared understanding of the place we all call home. As a community, how can we ensure that older residents in Skinker DeBaliviere remain independent, comfortable, and safe in their homes and fully engaged in neighborhood life?

The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council (SDCC) is taking a good look at this question. According to the 2010 Census, more than 700 adults aged 65 and older live in this neighborhood - 11% of the total population. By 2030, that number is expected to double, with a particularly large increase in the percentage of adults aged 85+. Given these statistics and the Council's mission to maintain the neighborhood's diversity and enhance residents' quality of life, the SDCC's new Neighborhood Services Committee (NSC) has chosen to focus first on issues of particular concern to residents aged 65 and older.

The NSC's first meeting on September 27 was attended by an intrigued but somewhat skeptical group of residents, as well as SDCC staff, community leaders, and volunteers. All agreed there is a need for greater community support for neighborhood elders. Not entirely clear, however, are the specific kinds of support needed or the varying degrees of need.

Some Skinker DeBaliviere seniors have strong support networks of nearby families and friends. Others are more isolated and face many of the challenges of aging in place almost entirely on their own. Health conditions vary; employment status differs. Some older residents are not only facing their own challenges but are also caregivers for children, grandchildren, spouses, or elderly relatives.

Given the wide spectrum of circumstances facing Skinker DeBaliviere seniors, the NSC has decided to work with graduate students from Washington University to design and conduct a needs assessment survey of neighborhood residents aged 65+. The 40-question survey is designed to get as clear a picture as possible of the benefits and challenges of aging in place in Skinker DeBaliviere. The survey is also completely confidential. Respondents may, if they choose, provide their names and contact information for the SDCC mailing list, but that is a separate request and not part of the survey itself. Results of the survey will be used by the NSC to coordinate services and develop volunteer programs to meet the actual needs of neighborhood residents, now and in the future.

Since it is not possible to interview 700 people in two weeks, WashU grad students will contact, by telephone, a random sampling of older residents from every part of the neighborhood. If you are called, the student will work with you to schedule a convenient time to drop off the survey at your home and pick it up again when you are finished. At your request, students will be happy to sit down and help you complete the survey, or just keep you company while you complete it, as you prefer.

Folks who complete the survey will be doing a wonderful service by helping the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council understand the needs and concerns of neighborhood seniors. You will also be helping to keep Skinker DeBaliviere an attractive, diverse, and welcoming community for residents of all ages.

For more information about the survey or the Neighborhood Services Committee, please email Kathie East, SDCC Intern, at keast@wustl.edu or Jessica Eiland at Jessica.Eiland@skinker-debaliviere.com or call the SDCC office at (314) 862-5122. The next NSC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 8, at 5:30 p.m. at the SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury Avenue. All are welcome.



The SDCC Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee Invites Neighbors & Friends to a

Celebration of the Life & Legacy of

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Sunday, January 20, 2012

3pm - 5pm

Grace United Methodist Church
6199 Waterman Blvd.

For more information contact
the SDCC Office at 314-862-5122

McPherson Christmas Caroling - Sunday, December 16, 4:45

Join the long tradition of Christmas Caroling on the 6000 and 6100 blocks of McPherson. Meet at 4:45 on the barricades between the two blocks. We hope for a very large turnout this year to honor our friend, Dave Schmidt, who started this tradition many years ago. See you there!

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

I have now lived in St. Louis for 25 years. I love the city and, of course, our neighborhood. I've enjoyed many a Cardinal game and love the fan spirit in this town. But, I grew up in Detroit. I have mixed feelings about my life there but one thing is certain: I was a total Tigers fan. I tried to listen to every game on the radio when I was in elementary school and watch the TV casts (weekends only). I remember my first game at Tiger Stadium with neighborhood friends. We had \$1 seats about 25 rows back from home plate. There are certain things that can't be replaced and my love for the Tigers is one. I spent the 2006 series sick and under the covers. I was divided. This year regrettably is not a repeat. So I can stop hiding and root for another rustbelt team. Detroit continues to need all the help it can get. There is some redevelopment in downtown and midtown but a great deal of desolation elsewhere.

Tonight concluded the four debates of this presidential race. It's evident that style weighed more heavily than substance and there were a lot of prepared lines thrown in. What a process! Our elections are laden with negative ads and theatre acting. And yet the stakes are very serious indeed..

Thanks to everyone who came out to the New Neighbors Party. It was a great crowd with a lot of new people as well as many familiar faces. And thanks for your support of our all-volunteer paper! The SDCC joined us in putting on the party and their effort and support helped immensely. We hope this collaboration will continue. Thanks especially to David Whiteman and Jessica Eiland. To me, this is a typical St. Louis story. Disparate neighbors coming together and supporting one of the best comeback neighborhoods ever! Detroit should be so lucky.

TIMES THANKS NEIGHBORS

by Jo Ann Vatcha

The TIMES' October 12 New Neighbors Party at "Joe's Cafe" was a huge success, thanks to all the volunteers and the invaluable help of SDCC Executive Director David Whiteman, SDCC Associate Director Jessica Eiland.

Generous contributions of tasty food and beer and wine and soda came from Karleen Hoerr, Mark and Chanaya Jacobs, Lana Stein, Venita Lake, Linda Nodiff, Mary and Hitch Powell, Jill and Dan McGuire, Lu Green, Arline Webb, Lois Schoemehl, Shelley Conley, Andy and Linda Cross, Lyda Krewson, and SDCC. Those donations of food and drink meant the TIMES netted over \$ 800 from the party, helping make sure that our all-volunteer publication continues on. Thank you to all!

New this year were "door prizes" which included a SDCC sweatshirt, two Andy Cross posters from the neighborhood centennial, and a autographed copy of the neighborhood history, SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE: HISTORY AND COMEBACK.

We were particularly happy that so many new neighbors joined us at Bill Christman's wonderful venue, "Joe's Cafe." Welcome to each and every one of you.

See Rachel Boxdorfer's "News of Neighbors" column to see the names of all the new neighbors who signed in at the party.

If you are interested in writing, photography, editing, fund-raising, advertising, or delivery to businesses or homes, please contact the TIMES. Our website is <http://sdtimes.org>, where you'll find archives of all the past issues, since beginning in 1970.

The TIMES is a 501 (c) 3 organization and all donations are tax-deductible. If you would like to send a year-end donation to the "oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis," you may send it to: TIMES of SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE, 6168 Westminster, St. Louis, MO 63112.

Also, a new shipment (our fourth printing!) of the neighborhood history SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE: HISTORY AND COMEBACK has arrived, just in time for holiday gift-giving. Copies may be ordered by sending a check for \$ 42 to the TIMES, address noted above. Or contact Marj Weir or Jo Ann Vatcha at <http://sdtimes.org>.



From left, Bruce Olson, new neighbor; Mayor Francis Slay; lifelong neighbor, Will Jacobs.



The TIMES all-volunteer staff includes Marj Weir, online editor; Venita Lake, former editor; Rachel Boxdorfer, News of Neighbors; Andy Cross, Arts and Gardens; Jo Ann Vatcha, co-editor; Lois Schoemehl, business manager; Lana Stein, co-editor. Missing from the party photo are such notables as photographer King Schoenfeld and long-time humor columnist Tom Hoerr. Many others contribute writing and photographs, and many, many hours delivering the TIMES to your door.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Co-Editors: Lana Stein and JoAnn Vatcha
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The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere is published by the West End Publishing Co., a not-for profit, independent, community organization. Members of the Board of Directors are:

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Layout:Kate Klimut
 Printing:Arcade Printing

Advertising Rates:
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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: January 15, 2013. 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.



Paul and Nancy Hohmann with Shelley Conley and Andy Cross.

Recycling Saves Money

by Lana Stein

A strong argument for recycling is an environmental one—conserving resources. However, there is an additional benefit: recycling lowers the cost of government! General trash flows from our dumpsters to landfills. Landfills charge the City \$ 35 for a ton of trash. However, there is no charge for the recycled materials, and, sometimes, the city is even paid for what you put in the blue dumpster.

In the fiscal year July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012, the city recycled 12,830 tons, saving the city \$ 450,000 in landfill fees. In addition, the city garnered \$ 265,000 for the recycled material. The latter figure fluctuates depending on demand. So, help the environment, help the city, help yourself!

News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

We always love to hear about neighborhood people and their business ventures. And it is even better when it is something that we can all support and enjoy. Which brings us to our first bit of news about neighbors for this issue; Anthony Ellerson, Jr, a long time Skinker DeBaliviere resident has opened The Kitchen Sink at 280 DeBaliviere (just north of the Metro Link station).



This diner features Cajun style or inspired items including burgers, sandwiches, sides, and more. The diner is open Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday from 12:00 to 12:00. They recently have added a breakfast menu too! The Kitchen Sink is named from the phrase "everything but the kitchen sink". Anthony Ellerson's resume includes many popular St. Louis restaurants including Norton's Café, Rigazzi's and Market House Pub. Be sure to stop by sometime soon and for a tasty meal at our neighbor's new restaurant!

Some younger neighbors in Skinker DeBaliviere are making news as well. Congratulations to Lilly Webster who lives in Parkview for her score of a 36 on the ACT college admissions test. Lilly is also a National Merit semifinalist. And Molly Hart of the 6000 block of McPherson has been elected Freshman Class President Nerinx Hall. Way to go girls!

Zach Hoffman and Joe Grady, both of Parkview, are playing varsity soccer for Saint Louis University High School. Zach was picked as team captain and was featured in the Sports section of the Southside Journal.

Candace O'Connor and Bob Wiltenburg of the 6100 block of Kingsbury are enjoying a grand-baby boom year! Daughter Mary and husband Brian of Baltimore had their second child, Lucy Britt



Dalton on September 13. Big brother Will is certainly excited! And Daughter Kate and husband Eric of Brooklyn had their first child, Alexander Welch Todrys on June 13th!

Residents of the 6100 block of Westminster paid special tribute

to their long time neighbor, Don Walker, who passed away last spring. Don always liked a party so many of the residents on the street gathered on July 25th to honor Don. They toasted Don in front of his house and afterwards went across the street to the home of Linda and Marvin Nodiff to continue the celebration.

David Schmidt, longtime resident of the 6100 block of McPherson, has passed away after a long illness. Dave was not only a loyal Skinker DeBaliviere resident; he was an active volunteer and resident for years. He organized an annual Christmas Caroling party for many years on the 6000 and 6100 blocks of McPherson and made sure, as his health failed, that he found younger residents to continue the tradition. The younger neighbors went to serenade Dave when he was no longer able to go out on the annual tour of the neighborhood. Dave was an officer of Rosedale Neighbors Association and served on the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council in the 70's. He worked for many years at City Hall. Dave and his late wife Barbara raised their children Karl and Roelle on McPherson and were active in the community throughout their lives. Dave's life was celebrated at All Saints Catholic Church in University City on October 20th. Many in attendance wore Cardinal red to the service, a fitting tribute for Dave as he was an avid Cardinals fan! He will be missed.

Just a few weeks before Dave Schmidt passed away a group of Boy Scouts from St. Roch Troop 98 gathered at his house to clean out Dave's backyard. Dave was no longer able to keep up with tending to his yard and some things had become overgrown. Special thanks go out to these young men



for enthusiastically signing on to help out Dave who served Troop 98 for many years.

And kudos go out to the 4th Annual SDCC Homecoming Committee for hosting a very successful and fun fundraising event for the neighborhood at

the Regional Arts Commission on September 22nd! The fearless leaders heading the committee this year were Lynne Tiede of the 6000 block of McPherson and Mary Pat O'Gorman of the 6300 block of Pershing. This event of course resulted in the ordination of a new "king" and "queen" of the neighborhood! Congratulations to our Homecoming Queen Lynn Tiede, and our King, Jamie Kenyon of the 5900 block of DeGiverville!

And finally, a special welcome to our many "New Neighbors" who attended the TIMES' New Neighbors party on October 12 at Joe's Cafe. On the 6000 block of Washington, we welcome Bruce and Marilynn Olson and George McMurray and Sherry Holmes. The 5900 block of McPherson welcomes Tao Oi, Loan Hui, Buzz and Jenny Matthews. Anders and Christiane Carlsson live in the new house on the 6100 block of Pershing; Jill and Jonathan Peelle are condo dwellers on Nina Place; Rebecca Durst and Andy Upchurch and Katie and Mike Wilson have moved to the 5800 block of Pershing and Valorie and Brian Helf are on the 5900 block of Pershing. Pippin Schupbach and Charlie Kurth are on the 5900 block of Kingsbury, Tim More resides on the 6100 block of McPherson; and Tom Grady is a new neighbor on the 6100 block of Waterman. Morgan Cole and Ryan Moore have also moved back into our great neighborhood after some time away! Welcome to all our new neighbors. It was wonderful meeting you at our party, and we look forward to

hearing more of your news as time goes by.

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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Homecoming 2012

SDCC Homecoming Celebrates and Flaunts Our Neighborhood's Artistic License!

“Creative Attire” was optional for guests at the Fourth Annual Skinker DeBaliviere Homecoming. But creative it was! The party took place on Saturday night, September 22nd at the Regional Arts Commission and the theme was Artistic License. Guests turned out in artsy themed outfits and costumes. There was a large group of people who were dressed as a color wheel and people even dressed as their favorite artists; including Albert Webster and Matt Boxdorfer dressing as none other than Skinker DeBaliviere’s own Andy Cross!

Guests enjoyed dancing, caricature portraits, poetry, opera, food, and custom Skinker DeBaliviere drinks. It was a great occasion to catch up with old friends and make new ones. The silent auction had a large selection with something for everyone to bid on including many popular restaurants and even dinner with Skinker DeBaliviere neighbor, Bernie Miklasz. The committee did a fantastic job with the leadership of Lynn Tiede and Mary Pat O’Gorman, raising nearly \$15,000 for the Community Council.

And of course, the evening ended

with the coronation of a new King and Queen of the neighborhood! Congratulations to Jamie Kenyon and Lynn Tiede who took top honors this year and will serve as our royal leaders! Best costume prizes went to Matt Boxdorfer for his Andy Cross costume and Colette Morton who was Frida Kahlo.

The evening would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors. Thank you to the following; Quiet Village Landscaping, Front Door, St. Louis Restoration, Joan & Rick Bender, Charter Communications, Blueberry Hill, Karleen Hoerr/

Feinberg Real Estate, Big Shark, National Sales, Pulaski Bank, Kingsbury Animal Hospital, Rachel Boxdorfer/Prudential Alliance Realtors, Katie Kurtz/Laura McCarthy Real Estate, Galati & Sons Tuckpointing, Beth Bender & Shauna Cunningham, Dean Porter/ReMax Results, The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere, Imo’s Pizza, Star Image, Luvy Duvy’s, and Jump Co.

It was a wonderful party and plans are already under way for the Fifth Annual SDCC Homecoming. So if you missed it this year, you will have a chance to join in on the fun next year!



Costume winners Max Boxdorfer as Andy Cross and Colette Morton as Freida Kahlow.



Leah and Sunil Kumar.



Onika and Cartan Mosley of Star Photo.



Larry and Bob Molina.

St. Vincent Greenway Dedication

On Saturday, October 20, hundreds of area residents gathered in Ruth Porter Park, along Delmar near DeBaliviere, to celebrate the opening of a new trail that will provide residents living in this West End neighborhood with vital connections to other communities, parks, universities and public transportation. Ruth Porter Park, once a hub of crime and gang violence, now has a fresh look and a brighter future thanks to expansion of the Great Rivers Greenway District's trail system in the area.

In 1968, the nine-block park was named in honor of Ruth Porter, a civil rights and fair housing advocate, and was a gathering place for area residents. In time, however, it fell into a state of disarray and became a dangerous blight in the community.

"There was gang activity and drug use," said Alderman Frank Williamson, a supporter of the Great Rivers Greenway Project. As he looked over the many significant changes within the park, he remarked, "Ruth Porter is smiling down on us today."

The St. Vincent Greenway will tie together North County near the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus to Forest Park when it is complete. The newest section that just opened is a 1.3-mile long asphalt trail, which runs north from Delmar and DeBaliviere through Ruth Porter Park and then west to Skinker and Etzel.

When initially planning this section of the St. Vincent Greenway, the staff at the Great Rivers Greenway District was determined to improve the quality of life for residents along the trail, many of whom had avoided the park for fear of their safety. The District added safety measures to the trail for the protection of area residents - including ADA grading at each intersection along the path, brighter lighting and flattened paths with enhanced visibility

for residents, trail users and law enforcement.

Mayor Francis Slay, who attended the ribbon cutting, remarked on the progress of the trail, "A number of years ago, I met with [Alderman] Frank Williamson and Joe Palm, the committeeman. We were out here. Alderman Williamson said, 'I want you to see Ruth Porter Mall, the park. This place is in bad condition.' We walked the length of the park and back."

The mayor told the crowd that after seeing the condition of the park, he and Alderman Williamson and Committeeman Palm reached out to Great Rivers Greenway hoping to get the District involved in a plan to transform and revitalize the West End neighborhood, only to find that they were already hard at work on a plan that would transform neighborhoods throughout North County.

"I think it's something that's going to really help this neighborhood long-term, but more importantly this is going to be something that families and children in this neighborhood can enjoy in a safer, cleaner environment and one that is going to make this neighborhood safer and better as well," said Mayor Slay.

Joe Edwards of the University City Loop attended, announcing the kickoff of a greenway path alongside the Loop Trolley, a proposed streetcar system that is slated to open mid-2014 and would give residents additional transportation options.

As he reflected on the newest section of the greenway that opened on Saturday, Edwards said, "For many years, we as a community have worked to extend the vitality of the Loop into the City of St. Louis and bridge that artificial city/county border. Today marks a time when we're going to bridge that north/south border."

Residents attending the St. Vincent Celebration had the opportunity to witness the



dedication of a neighborhood peace pole by Bishop Charles White, Jr. of the nearby Mount Carmel Full Gospel church. The pole, a part of an international movement to inspire conversations and action focused on peace, was inscribed with the words "May peace prevail on earth," written in Swahili, English, Spanish and Hebrew, to reflect the various cultures of the area. A variety of organizations turned out to celebrate this addition to the West End Neighborhood, including Better Family Life, which held a farmer's market; West End Neighbors, which held a neighborhood yard sale to raise funds for a neighborhood police substation, and St. Vincent Greenway, Inc., which held an afternoon jazz festival called "Jazz on the Greenway."

Great Rivers Greenway, as part of its mission to make St. Louis a better place and in support of its commitment to the neighborhoods along the St. Vincent Greenway, broke ground on the next phase of the project at Skinker and Etzel. Once completed, the section that opened on Saturday and the new phase that broke ground the same day will offer residents two community gardens, a splash pad for area children and easy access to more than 9 Metro stops.

On Saturday, Oct. 20, local officials and nearby neighbors joined Great Rivers Greenway in a ribbon cutting at Ruth Porter Mall on Delmar to officially open a new 1.3-mile trail that runs through Porter Park and then West to Skinker and Etzel. Pictured with several neighborhood children who gathered to celebrate are, from left to right: Senator Joe Keaveny; Joe Edwards of the University City Loop; George White, member West End Neighbors and director of St. Vincent Greenway, Inc.; Shameem Hubbard, Committeewoman for the 26th Ward; Mayor Francis Slay, City of St. Louis; Alderman Jeffery Boyd (hidden behind Mayor Slay); Comptroller Darlene Green (holding scissors), Comptroller, City of St. Louis; Malik Ahmend (in white hat), CEO of Better Family Life; Lewis Reed, President, City of St. Louis Board of Aldermen; Alderman Frank Williamson (back row); and Alberta Dillard (front in blue hat), Carol Klein & Rob Epstein (in back), all of whom are members of Great Rivers Greenways' Board.



Dog Rescue inspires

photo and caption by Tim Smith

At about 8 or 9pm on 12/5/12 the woman pictured came to my door asking for a flash light to be able to see and rescue a young dog that slipped into the sewer in the N. W. corner of Westminster and Rosedale.

It was not on a leash when it was being walked. It wrangled with another dog being walked also. The small dog somehow fell into the sewer. A ladder, rope, and more flash lights were brought from other neighbors.

She got a sewer lid lifter, went into the sewer, and the muck, and pulled up the un-injured dog with help from street level. A rope and a ladder were also brought. 911 had been called, but was canceled.

The subject here is not unleashed animals, but positive neighbor response.

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From Senator Joe Keaveny



Sen. Keaveny helped serve meals at the Kookin for Kids fundraiser for abused and neglected children, which restaurants teamed up to raise money for St. Vincent Home for Children at the "Kookin for Kids" event, raising more than \$125,000 for services for children who suffer from abuse and neglect. St. Vincent Home for Children has served children and families since 1850 and offers residential treatment programs and community-based counseling programs to those who need help. If you'd like to learn more about how you can help St. Vincent Home for Children, visit www.saintvincenthome.org or call (314) 261-6011.

4th Annual Skinker DeBaliviere Homecoming
An Evening of
"Artistic License"

A Round of Applause for Our Sponsors and Friends.
A big thanks to all those that contributed their time, talents and of course financial support to make the 4th annual Skinker DeBaliviere Homecoming a work of art. And a very special thanks to our sponsors who helped make it all possible.

sponsors

Senate Bill 636, which I sponsored in the 2012 legislative session, was enacted into law on August 28. The legislation improves Missouri's judicial process by revising trust law, making the St. Louis circuit Clerk position an appointed position, rather than elective, allowing video conferencing for parole hearings, establishing a joint committee on child abuse and neglect, and revising the law regarding lawsuits against corporations.

Also taking effect, Senate Bill 576, which will hold charter schools to the highest academic standards and at-risk students will have the chance to earn a high school diploma.

On the subject of education, the Missouri Department of Education announced that about 700 students from 25 public schools in Missouri were among more than 50,000 students participating in the country's first national computer-based writing test.

The writing assessment was conducted in grades 8 and 12 at selected schools across the country. The students' writing was evaluated on the basis of three criteria: development of ideas, organization of ideas, and use of language. State-level results have not yet been announced, but on a national level, 24% of students scored at a "proficient level."

Ensuring that children receive a quality education in our state is crucial for their well-being, as well as for the future of our state. I will continue to advocate for the expansion and funding of early childhood education programs to make certain students are prepared to learn and have a successful academic career.

To listen to an interview I gave regarding education in Missouri and the Joint Committee on Education, click here or visit my Multimedia page at www.senate.mo.gov/media/12info/keaveny/Multimedia.html.

Skinker DeBaliviere Master Planning Process Commences November 13

The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council is beginning an Urban Design and Development Planning process for the entire Skinker DeBaliviere community. The first of four public workshops will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, Tuesday, November 13 at New Cote Brillante Church of God, 6195 Washington Avenue at Skinker. This workshop will engage members of the community in articulating the Vision and Livability Principles for the community. Other public meetings will be held in Febr. and March, with a final public presentation of the plan in May. Details for the future meetings will be carried in the February issue of the Times. Please plan to attend these workshops and make your voice heard.

The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council completed its Strategic Plan in 2011 and the community is currently engaged in an Identity and Marketing Plan. However, the community's Master Plan dates to 1988, the Housing Strategy to 1991, and the Delmar Link Plan to 1994. "With planning activities (and opportunities) occurring all around us" says Executive Director, David Whiteman, "the Council believes it is time to undertake an Urban Design and Development Plan to guide future improvements to, and development of, the Skinker DeBaliviere Community."

The Council's Master Planning Steering Committee has selected H3 Studios with Development Strategies, Inc. to lead the planning and community engagement process. That team recently completed the Neighborhood Sustainability Development Plan for the Parkview Gardens neighborhood, just north of The Loop; and H3 Studios served as the urban design consultant for the Delmar Loop Area Retail Plan & Development Strategy.

The Council is grateful for the financial and strategic participation of the following institutions to make the planning process possible: Washington University in St. Louis, RHCDA, the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation, and the East Loop Special Business District.

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Walk of Fame Addition

photo by Hope Edwards



Ntozake Shange was recently honored with a star on the St. Louis Walk of Fame. Born Paulette Williams, the writer lived on nearby Windemere Place until she was 13 years old. Her experiences in St. Louis infuse her work, and she won an Obie Award for her play "For Colored Girls who have considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf," now considered a standard of the American theatre. The Broadway hit was adapted into a major motion picture in 2010. A prodigious author of poetry, as well as plays, her work combines technical innovation and lyric exuberance with a passionate feminine voice writing from an African-American perspective.

—from the plaque on Delmar.



Linda Edwards and Joe Edwards flank the spectacular cake celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Blueberry Hill. photo by Hope Edwards.

Miss M's Candy Boutique

Text and Photo by Kathie East

Walking into Miss M's Candy Boutique on a recent evening, I was greeted by a delicious aroma – simultaneously fruity, chocolaty, and flower-sweet – and shelves of colorfully wrapped candies and candy-themed toys. My inner child clapped her hands; my outer adult smiled broadly. Owners Sharon and Lee Echols opened Miss M's two years ago for that very reaction. In a stressed and frazzled world, they wanted to create a business that was fun and made people happy when they walked in the door. Mission accomplished!

Miss M's (named for the Echols' daughters Megan and Morgan) is located at 6193 Delmar, just east of Skinker and next door to the Pin-Up Bowl. The Loop location was chosen after a year of site scouting and careful observation. According to the Echols' research, spaces for rent in higher-end malls are expensive, generic, and unevenly traveled. The Delmar Loop business district, by contrast, is vital, unique, and growing, thanks to the expansion of commercial development eastward on Delmar and the attractiveness of the area to tourists.

A devoted following of neighborhood kids has been an unexpected and delightful bonus. Both Sharon and Lee Echols grew up in St. Louis – she in the city proper and he in University City – but neither realized just how many families lived in the neighborhoods near Delmar. Local children of all ages drop by regularly, both on foot and – thanks to the new lollipop-shaped bike rack in front of the store – on bicycles.

The evening of my visit, third-grader Jaliyah Battle was carefully selecting small wrapped candies to transform, with the help of a glue gun, into colorful necklaces and bracelets. The young entrepreneur, a regular at Miss M's, sells her pretty and delicious creations to classmates and friends.

Miss M's impressive candy collection accommodates a wide range of tastes and dietary requirements, including sugar-free, kosher, and organic sweets. Miss M's also carries a mouth-watering selection of specialty chocolates and old-fashioned, cane sugar-based treats like Tootsie-Pops and Chic-O-Stix. Curious, I asked Sharon Echols what her youngest customers are craving these days. She replied that sour candies are most popular: Best-sellers include Sour Patch Kids, Pixie Stix, and something called Toxic Waste. Yes, Toxic Waste.

In addition to sweet and sour edibles, Miss M's carries a large selection of candy-themed merchandise, including electronics, board games, jewelry, purses, tote bags, and candy-scented lotions and lip balms. The shop also takes custom orders for candy centerpieces and arrangements. The Echols' candy creations for weddings and other special events have drawn rave reviews across the St. Louis region.

Happily surrounded by Miss M's colorful and delicious bounty, I purchased a bright yellow candy-wrapper wristlet and filled it with a big handful of... Hershey's Kisses. Next time, maybe, I'll try the Toxic Waste.



Megan Echols and Jaliyah Battle, third-grade candy lover and jewelry entrepreneur.



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IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr, Commentary in the TIMES for more than 32 years.

By the time you read this, the presidential election will be history. Assuming Florida doesn't go waffle on us, we'll know who the next chief executive is during the first week in November, maybe even on the seventh. Come December, the forty-fifth prez will be beyond the champagne and high-fives, and busy selecting cabinet officials and setting priorities for the next four years. So far, so good.

And realistically, it may be that it doesn't make all that much difference about whether we're looking forward to the January 2013 swearing-in of President Obama or President Romney. Now, don't get me wrong. I'm not suggesting that I lack a preference. I'm not even suggesting that the country wouldn't be better off under one particular candidate. No, my biases are unbiased. Color me donkey all the way.

What I am suggesting is that the challenges of the job don't leave much wiggle-room. There's less space to maneuver than in O.J.'s glove. Starting from the outside in, our country's foreign relations are a mess. The Middle East is a tender-box: Iran is furiously working to develop an atomic bomb; the Arab spring will soon become the Arab summer; our ally Egypt is maybe not our ally, and the price of oil increasingly increases.

China is now the world's largest manufacturer, stealing our ideas and products and paying workers penurious wages. And we wonder why our jobs are going there! Then there's Europe; more accurately, then there's the Euro. Sooner or later that gaggle of geese is going to fly in different directions, and we'll pay the price. Oh yeah, don't forget Central and South America. I'm sure there are problems there, too, I just can't think of them right now.

So the foreign policy options for #45 are limited. Guess what: it ain't much better at home. Foreclosures have slowed but more homeowners are under water than Captain Nemo. Unemployment is too high, and would be even higher if we counted the folks who stopped looking for jobs. Schools are costing more and producing less. Even the Missouri History Museum gets into the act by overpaying for a property that no one wanted in the first place.

Speaking of overpaying, the deficit yells at us, and that will only get louder. Who would have thought that you can't go to war and cut taxes without increasing the deficit? Prez Bush, #43, clearly thought that. Wise citizens that we are, gulp, we re-elected him. Yeah, go figure. Anyway, we're going to be spending so much of our taxes to un-dig ourselves that we probably won't even be able to buy a new shovel.

It's clear that he next president is going to inherit quite a mess, and that's largely because the current president inherited quite a mess. My bias will show here, I know, because "inherit" is the correct word. President Obama

didn't cause much, if any, of this. Rather, he has spent four years trying to clean up the mess of W's eight years. It's pretty clear that the mess of 2012 is less than the mess of 2008, but a mess is a mess.

So with all of this, with such little opportunity to truly change things, what's a president to do? Foreign policy options are limited as are domestic opportunities. Sure, the new prez can throw out opening pitches, pose in the Rose Garden, rise in the Pose Garden, and give speeches at the U.N. But how can the prez shape the future? What can he do to bring his values to change our lives? Don't give up, hope springs eternal: think Supreme Court!

The next prez is likely to appoint two or three, maybe even four, Supreme Court justices. There's no guarantee, of course. We never know when a Supreme will quit (think Diana Ross) or be overtaken by some unexpected event, like death. Still, my actuarial friends, actually, suggest that two appointments are likely, three are possible, and four aren't out of the question. The right replacements could tip the balance of the court back to the left, a position that is favored by every clear-thinking American.

So, you clear thinkers, as a public service, In Your Ear offers some candidates for the impending openings on the Supreme Court. And forget all those people with J.D. behind their names! You see, I have a bias. There are too many lawyers in the court room. Necessarily, they are tied up in notes, knots, what's, and dots. Let's step out of the box and appoint some people who are bright, logical, have rich life experiences, and will look out for the common woman and man. (By the way, you should know that high officials in D.C. often check The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere to get a feel on what is happening in the heart of the country. There's no guarantee that these suggestions will make it to the next prez's ear, but readers will good memories will recall that it was in this column that Harry Truman was first suggested as a V.P. candidate for Franklin Roosevelt.)

OK, so who? (Or is it whom???) Which person should prez #45 appoint when that vacancy on the Supreme Court pops up? Here's Hawkeye's list of noted notables:

Joe Edwards. The owner of Blueberry Hill and the Loop visionary would be a great addition! Regardless of where he stood on any issue, regardless of what he said, Joe would do wonders for the LOOK of the court. We'd see his beard and pony-tail, and his sandals would peek out from the robe. Can you imagine the look on Clarence Thomas' face at Joe's swearing in? But beyond appearance, Joe's head for decisions and his sense of culture would be wonderful for the court. I want the justices thinking about affirmative action while sitting

in Blueberry Hill. I know that deciding on campaign financing would have to be better if done while playing darts. And don't you love the idea of the nine judges entering their chambers while background music plays Maybelline?

Vince Schoemehl. Vince was maybe the best mayor we ever had. He was charismatic, aggressive, filled with big ideas, and worked to make the City a better place. Oh yeah, he wasn't boring either. I'd like to see his entrepreneurial spirit being infused into the dialogue while the court deliberates. Sooner or later some case will get to the court which will cause school financing to be questioned. I'd love to hear Vince making the case that the quality of a child's education shouldn't be determined on whether she lives east or west of Skinker. Vince would shake them up for sure!

Oprah. Think about it. The justices would sit on a couple of giant couches, open up and let their inner-selves out, actively listen to one another, and they'd share books and recipes. With this degree of harmony, all of their decisions would have to be better. If not, they'd invite Tom Cruise to help counsel them.

Albert Pujols. He's a major league baseball star, but there's more. Since the Supremes don't run bases or swing at curveballs (other than metaphorical ones), you may be wondering why Albert would be good there. Simple: We need principled people on the court, those who are immune to avarice and greed, and that's Albert. After all, when he became a free-agent last winter, he told us "It's not about the money." He then refused scores of millions of dollars from the home team Cards so that he could go to L.A. for even more scores of millions of dollars. We're not sure why he went, but we know it's not about the money. That's the kind of guy I want on the court, someone who is beyond greed. Besides, if he's working in D.C., maybe he'd be amenable to loaning the federal government a hundred million dollars or so at a greatly reduced interest rate. Remember, it's not about the money.

How's all that sound? Our new president does the best he can to work at problems that, really, have no solution. But then, when the openings at the Supreme Court occur, he introduces Joe, Vince, Oprah, and Albert as his nominees. I guarantee that the senate hearings would be so interesting, someone might actually watch C-Span.

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