

The *TIMES* of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

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Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

Planning Workshop February 13

by David Whiteman

The community is invited to participate in the second of three public planning workshops to be held from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, Wednesday, February 13 at Hamilton Elementary School, 5819 Westminster Place. Please use the secured parking lot to the east of the school.

The Skinker DeBaliviere Urban Design and Development Planning process kicked-off on November 13, 2012 with the first of 3 public workshops held at New Cote Brillante Church of God. H3 Studio and Development Strategies, our planning consultants, presented survey and historical analysis of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community to illustrate the physical structure of the neighborhood and how its historical development patterns influence the community today.

Preliminary Ideas that came from the first Public Workshop

1. DES PERES AVENUE, improve Des Peres school property & the four corners

2. Increase development & strengthen the DEBALIVIERE CORRIDOR

3. SKINKER BOULEVARD improvements

4. Increase development & strengthen the DELMAR CORRIDOR east of Hodiamont

5. INFILL development & rehabs

6. LUCIER PARK and surrounding properties

7. MetroLink station TODs

8. Enhance interior CONNECTIVITY and neighborhood ENTRANCES

9. Improve CONNECTIVITY TO FOREST PARK

10. Beautify the MetroLink and Forest Park Parkway right-of-ways as environmental art

11. METRO DEBALIVIERE GARAGE site

12. Improve neighborhood INFRASTRUCTURE

At the Second Planning Workshop on February 13, H3 Studio and Development Strategies, will present the Draft Community Vision, Livability Principles, and Plan Framework Options for the Skinker DeBaliviere community. The goal of the second Public Workshop is to identify and/or create a preferred Framework Plan Option with community consensus from the Plan Framework.

The third public workshop will be held at 6:00 PM, Tuesday, March 26 at Grace United Methodist Church; and the final presentation scheduled for 6:00 PM, Tuesday, May 15 at Crossroads College Preparatory School.

The Skinker DeBaliviere Urban Design & Development Plan will provide a roadmap to foster the Community

Continued on page 7
Planning Workshop

Neighbors' Day at Bear's Basketball - Sun., Feb. 10, 12

On Sunday, February 10, Washington University Neighborhood Initiative invites you to attend Neighbors' Day at the Bear's Basketball games. The Women's game begins at 12 p.m. and the Men's game starts at 2 p.m. Both teams will be hosting University of Rochester. In addition to free admission, there will be food, giveaways, a balloon artist and much more family friendly fun.

Show Love for Your Local Police & Firefighters on Valentine's Day!

Thursday, February 14th, 2013 is the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood's annual luncheon to thank the Police and Firefighters who take care of the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood. Please stop by the SDCC office at 6008 Kingsbury Avenue (from 11am-4pm) to say hello and thank the police and firefighters personally for their hard work. Volunteers Needed! If you are available to donate a dish and/or volunteer during the police & firefighter luncheon please contact Ruth Johnson at 314-367-7267.

The Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council's 21st annual Commemoration of Martin Luther King was held on Sunday, January 20, at Grace Methodist Church on Skinker. Special recognitions were presented by Alderman Lyda Krewson for two great neighborhood residents who were long-time members of the Board of SDCC and who passed away last year. Shown here are: Shirley Polk's husband Al Polk, Ronie Halliburton's son Sherron and daughter Brenda Halliburton, Alderman Krewson, and SDCC President Alice Stanley. Also recognized was the late Dave Schmidt.



photo by King Schoenfeld

Arts Council Update

By Tim Woodcock

The West End Arts Council is holding a 2013 kick off meeting at 7 p.m. Feb. 25 at the SDCC office. Anyone who would like to take a role in organizing future arts-related events in the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood is invited to attend. The arts council is committed to "presenting cultural, educational, and entertainment programs that enrich the Skinker DeBaliviere community."

The events already planned for upcoming year are as follows:

1. Summer concert series at Four Corners Park - concerts in June, August and September

2. Wintermarkt - a local reimagining of a German Christmas festival in early December

3. A hands-on art workshop for neighborhood children in early June

Other events are possible, if more people step up to take leadership within the organization.

The arts council is looking for neighbors who are excited about volunteering with regular events, as well those willing to share ideas and take a leadership role in organizing events. Tasks typically undertaken by arts council members include: grant writing; creating publicity materials; booking musical talent; setting up various booths at events; planning, preparing and serving food and drink.

Also on the table for the Feb. 22 meeting is a proposal to change the name of organization. For historical reasons, the arts council includes the neighborhood immediately to the north called the West End (although sometimes thought to refer to the better known Central West End neighborhood). However the West End Arts Council's mission and identity is really focused on Skinker DeBaliviere and it is perhaps time to change the name to better reflect that fact.

Please e-mail sdcc@skinker-debaliviere.com if you are interested in getting involved with this group.

The Arts Council Wants YOU to Help Us Select a Musician/Band for the August 2013 Neighbors Choice/National Night Out Concert!

By Jessica Eiland

Here's How It Works:

- 1) Send us your suggestions for 2013 concert series musicians: The Arts Council will accept suggestions for musicians from anyone in the neighborhood until February 28th. You can send us as many suggestions as you would like—we just ask that you include a link to the band performing, if possible. Suggestions can be sent to the SDCC Office at sdcc@skinker-debaliviere.com or 314-862-5122.

- 2) Cast your final vote: After receiving your recommendations, we will create a poll with the names of the top 3-5 musicians. This list will be based off of the frequency of suggestions for a musician and the musician's availability.

- 3) Look out for an announcement of the Neighbors Choice Winner: After the voting closes, we will announce who the neighborhood selected as the featured performer for the Neighbors Choice/National Night Out Concert in August.

- 4) Come out to the Neighbors Choice/National Night Out Concert!: The concert featuring the musician/band selected by a vote of the neighbors will take place on Saturday, August __, 6-9pm at Greg Freeman Park (6000 Kingsbury Ave. at Des Peres).



Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

*How many deaths will it take till he knows
That too many people have died?*

– Bob Dylan

Unlike other living creatures, the human being can kill his or her own species without direct contact. Purportedly, this removal of direct aggression makes it easier to kill. Bombs, drones, poison are all removed methods. So especially are guns. Guns take many forms and have multiple uses. Nonetheless they remain an economic means to end life. The most pernicious of these are semi-automatic and automatic weapons, which allow the shooter to fire multiple rounds rapidly without reloading.

There will always be disturbed persons among us who may wish to turn on relatives, friends, acquaintances or most horribly, total strangers. Their disorders and horrific visions have led to a number of mass killings in the United States and abroad. Their delusions certainly necessitate diagnosis and treatment. However, the extent of the problem may not be that identifiable nor may there be a magic solution to tame their mania.

The question we need to ask ourselves today is would the tragedy in Newtown have occurred if Adam Manza did not have ready access to semi-automatic weapons? Are such weapons fit for hunting? For target shooting? No, they are military assault weapons.

For too long, legislators in the nation and in the 50 states have either believed the mantra of the National Rifle Association or feared retribution at the polls if they questioned the legality of a semi-automatic rifle. The NRA has vast resources and calls upon its network to prevent any kind of gun or ammunition control in our nation. For various reasons, we have a long history of individual gun ownership in this country. Hunting and sport shooting are valued traditions. Many also desire firearms as protection. Missouri and many other states allow gun owners to have a permit to carry concealed weapons.

For a brief moment, our nation had the Brady bill, banning assault weapons. Congress term-limited the legislation and it died several years ago. Either fear or belief prevented our senators and representatives from acting to insure that these weapons of mass destruction stayed out of private hands. Various instances of mass murder did not affect the stance of many elected officials.

The NRA's rubric has been that guns don't kill people; people kill people. My caveat would be: Would death have occurred if guns were not present or, especially, if semi-automatic weapons had not been close at hand?

Any death by an unknown gunman is a death too many. But when the carnage touches 6 and 7 year old children, can we finally say enough? In St. Louis, shootings occur on a regular basis. Most often, the victim is known to the shooter. Chicago set records this summer for drive-bys that killed teenagers, sometimes innocent bystanders. Again, this is not hunting game or target shooting. These are homicides that probably never would occur without readily obtainable firearms. "Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose." How can we weigh life against the ability to obtain any firearm? Is that freedom or is it complicity in tragedy?

President Obama has proposed a number of measures to curb gun violence. We in Skinker DeBaliviere have heard the unwelcome sound of gunshots over the years. Perhaps we could take the time to inform our elected officials that we support measures that might stem future tragedies.

Commenting on Skinker DeBaliviere as a Community Development Nonprofit

by Lana Stein

Todd Swanstrom, a political scientist, is the E. Desmond Lee Professor for Community and Public Policy at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He has been in St. Louis for over 11 years and previously taught at Saint Louis University. He is engaged with the Community Builders Network of St. Louis. This network includes all community development nonprofits and attempts to increase their capacity by providing training. As a part of his role in this endeavor, Swanstrom has looked at Skinker DeBaliviere and its community council.

I asked the professor to assess Skinker DeBaliviere at this time when we are engaged in a planning effort. He said, "I don't worry about Skinker DeBaliviere." He feels the neighborhood is very well-situated close to the Loop, Washington University, the coming trolley, the greenway, and Forest Park. He feels Skinker DeBaliviere will keep going up. It is one of the best neighborhoods in the region in the last 10 years.

We seem to be addressing the Delmar Divide question—that Delmar is the line of racial division in this city. Swanstrom said that the area north of the Loop has things happening and there is cooperation between the expanding Loop and West End leaders.

Skinker DeBaliviere, in consortium with University City, the Loop and the West End has been chosen to explore further for an arts initiative by the Kresge Foundation. It joins Grand Center and several other areas in this venture.

Swanstrom also commented on the planning for the Delmar Metro Station. Along with trolley construction there will be the laying of a special cable that will link business and neighbors in an incredible interactive spread at much lower cost.

Swanstrom feels our neighborhood is still affordable and continues to be diverse racially, economically, and by age. He touted the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, which he sees as very active with many events. Swanstrom hopes that continuing development will link neighborhoods and continue progress eastward along Delmar. He spoke very positively of Design Alliance's construction for housing and commerce on Delmar at Hamilton. It was nice to hear such a positive picture of our neighborhood from a recognized scholar of community development.

Bowling for Skinker DeBaliviere on February 18th – Presidents' Day

Looking for something fun to do on your day off?? Family and friends of all ages and skill levels are welcome to come out and bowl with the neighborhood on President's Day at The Pin-Up Bowl on The Loop (6191 Delmar)! \$10 for unlimited bowling, shoe rental included. Lanes will be shared, two-game rotation. The Pin-Up Bowl will be selling food and drinks. All ticket sales benefit the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council's activities. For more info or to purchase tickets in advance contact the SDCC office at 314-862-5122 or sdcc@skinker-debaliviere.com

Urban League of St. Louis Weatherization Program

On December 3, 2012 Tim Dolan, Director of Weatherization at the Urban League of St. Louis, led a Skinker DeBaliviere community workshop on the topics of weatherization and energy efficiency. Residents from around the neighborhood learned about the City's free weatherization program and received practical tips about making their homes more energy efficient for both the hot and cold weather seasons. The Urban League accepts applications for their FREE Weatherization Assistance Program year-round. If you are a renter or property-owner interested in learning more information about the program (including eligibility requirements), please contact Melissa Davenport at mdavenport@urbanleague-stl.org or (314) 615-3646. You can also pick up an application at the SDCC Office (6008 Kingsbury Ave.).

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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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: March 15, 2013. Please send copy by e-mail to jvatcha@gmail.com or by disc to 6008 Kingsbury, St. Louis, MO 63112.

News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Happy new year! I am happy to report that the new year is beginning with some exciting news from some of our Skinker DeBaliviere neighbors! On December 13th, Governor Jay Nixon announced the appointment of Associate Circuit Judge Elizabeth (Beth) Byrne Hogan to serve as a Circuit Judge on the Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit, which covers the City of St. Louis. Judge Hogan has served on the bench in St. Louis since 2005, and has presided over civil, criminal, domestic, juvenile and drug court dockets. Judge Hogan resides on the 6100 block of Kingsbury with her husband Joe and their two children. Congratulations Beth! We are so thrilled for you!

Salute also to Randy Vines, of the Forest Park Condos on the 6100 block of Washington, who has been elected to the Board of Landmarks Assn. of St. Louis. Randy was part of the effort to save the "flying saucer" building on Grand and owns the great STL Style business on Cherokee St. He is also a member of the Delmar Commercial Committee.

Skinker DeBaliviere DeGiverville residents Richard Bose & Ryan Murphy have been in McMurdo Station, Antarctica conducting experiments for Washington University. Richard



Bose reported that they launched the Super-Tiger (Super Trans-Iron Galactitic Element Recorder), with the Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility team. Richard (shown here with the St. Louis flag) is back from the trip but Ryan (who is a graduate student and has been blogging about the experience) is still there. They are set to continue the experiments and are to go around the continent again.

Congratulations to our incredible St. Louis Public Librarian Charles Lamkin, honored recently for 20 years with the SLPL. We are



truly lucky to have him at our local branch, conveniently now on Delmar at Rosedale.

Now may not be the best time to highlight this (as many people may have resolved to watch their diet this new year), but delicious food should always be featured, right? Skinker DeBaliviere resident, Melissa Von Rohr, took center stage in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch recently in an article about a birthday cake that has been tradition in her family for years. The article included the recipe for the Parsons Family Chocolate-Mayonaise Birthday Cake and the Parsons Boiled Icing. The cake sounds delicious and we love to see our neighbors, their recipes, and traditions carry on! Perhaps we can get Melissa to share her cake at an upcoming Skinker DeBaliviere function?

The Van Ripper family would like to recognize and thank good neighbor and dog guardian



angel, MONICA. "Monica took in our Lab on Halloween morning when he busted out of our back gate without his tags. The whole neighborhood was out raking leaves for street sweeping that morning and everyone was so friendly and concerned for us as we searched for him in our pajamas. Of course our vet, Kingsbury Animal Hospital, was alerted right away and facilitated our reunion later that morning when Monica walked into their clinic with our dog. To all who kept an eye out and shared in our worry, thank you! We wanted to pass along that everything turned out fine. Thank you KAH! Thank you Monica, you're the best!"

Yeah, another baby! Congratulations are due to Gene and Kim Gladstone of the 6100



block of Westminster on the birth of their granddaughter on January 15 at Missouri Baptist Hospital. Gianna Marie Barbaglia weighed in at 8 lbs, 7 oz and 21 inches. The proud parents are Michell and Paul Barbaglia of Maryland Heights.



We are also so proud of all our youngsters who participated in Wintermarkt, with many fledgling artists producing unique and beautiful items, such as these candles. What an amazing turnout!

On a final note, I have some sad news to share. Donnie Lottes, who lived for many years on the 6100 block of Kingsbury passed away on Friday, November 30 at the age of 81. Donnie and her husband Richard (Dick) Lottes raised their children on Kingsbury and were long time members of St. Roch Parish. She was also involved in "The Paper" (the original name of The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere) for many of the early years of the neighborhood newspaper. Our condolences go out to her family.

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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Shiloh Venable, Neighborhood Liaison.

Meet Shiloh Venable

As part of a Washington University campaign to educate students on how to be good neighbors and live in a vibrant community like Skinker DeBaliviere, an initiative to strengthen relationships between permanent and student residents living in the neighborhood began last fall. As part of WU's Neighborhood Initiative, Shiloh Venable, Assistant Director of the Community Service Office at Washington University, who also lives on Waterman, filled the new position of Skinker DeBaliviere Neighbor Liaison in August. Shiloh has been working to make students

aware of their impact on the community, and offer support to permanent residents who interact with student residents in various ways.

The purpose of the Neighbor Liaison role is to provide neighbors with a go-to person when issues related to Washington University come up in Skinker DeBaliviere. Washington University is committed to building positive relationships in the neighborhood, including creating a true sense of community and ownership in the area. Shiloh will be planning a Spring Neighborhood Party with the intention of bringing permanent residents and students together.

This will be a time for introductions and community building between neighbors (not to mention the free food!). Keep an eye out for more information about the event in upcoming newsletters. Neighbors are encouraged to email Shiloh at skinkerdebaliviere@wustl.edu with any issue they would like to address or victory they would like to celebrate!

Shiloh Venable, Assistant Director for Community Service
Community Service Office • Gehardt Institute for Public Service, Washington University in St. Louis
(314) 935-3943
Danforth University Center, Room 150
<http://communityservice.wustl.edu>

Aging in Place: SDCC Survey Results

By Kathie East

Last fall, the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council (SDCC) conducted a survey of senior residents aged 60+. The survey, commissioned by the Neighborhood Services Committee (NSC), was designed to get direct feedback from residents about the challenges and rewards of "aging in place" in Skinker DeBaliviere. The results of the survey will help SDCC investigate volunteer-based programs and services to help ensure the neighborhood remains a safe, welcoming place for residents of all ages.

Forty-eight residents completed the survey, which represents about 6% of the total population of residents aged 60+ in Skinker DeBaliviere. Most respondents were from the Rosedale and Washington Heights sections of the neighborhood. To get a general idea of the survey demographic, 33% were men, 67% women; 70% were between the ages of 65 and 74; half of respondents were married and living with a spouse or partner; 70% of respondents were white/Caucasian, and 28% were black/African American.

The majority of respondents have lived in Skinker DeBaliviere for more than 25 years. They have deep ties to the community, have raised families here, and in some cases have grown up here.

Overall, Skinker DeBaliviere gets excellent marks as a place to live, and all respondents expressed a clear preference to remain in the neighborhood as long as possible. However, most respondents agreed that some changes and improvements could be made to make the neighborhood and their homes more senior-friendly.

Most respondents are homeowners who have lived in their residences for many years. Many have older homes with charming idiosyncrasies – steep staircases, polished hardwood floors, narrow doorways, and upstairs bathrooms only – that are beginning to seem a bit less charming as mobility becomes a concern. Outdoors, uneven sidewalks, slippery steps, and stairs without railings also increase the fear of falling. This is not an idle concern. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, one out of three people 65 and older fall in or near their homes each year.

Most respondents expect to remain in their homes for the foreseeable future. However, many acknowledge the significant burdens of homeownership, including expense. They also cite concerns about moving, including the enormity of the task of downsizing and moving from a home full of years' worth of

possessions and memories. Most significant, respondents who might consider moving to a smaller home express concern about the lack of suitable housing for seniors in the neighborhood, an option that might lift some of the responsibility and cost of home ownership.

While crime is a concern for some, a majority of Skinker DeBaliviere respondents feel safe or very safe in their homes and in the neighborhood. Most respondents have smoke detectors and well-lit porches and yards, as well as someone to call in case of an emergency. However, a significant number of respondents do not have carbon monoxide detectors in their homes. According to the CDC, carbon monoxide poisoning claims nearly 400 lives and causes more than 20,000 visits to the ER each year.

Most respondents do not require assistance with personal care, but yard work (including ice and snow removal) and transportation remain a challenge for some. Thirty percent of respondents provide caregiving assistance – an average of 12½ hours per week – most often to a spouse, older relative, or neighbor. The financial and health impact of caregiving varies. While the majority disagree that the impact is negative, a significant number of respondents acknowledge some strain, particularly when looking ahead to the future.

The majority of survey respondents are retired, with a third of those now working part-time. While extra income is a factor in the decision to work, mental stimulation and social interaction are also desirable byproducts. In addition, a majority of respondents volunteer an average of 12 hours per month. For those who volunteer, civic or social organizations,

neighborhood beautification, and neighborhood governance via service on the Council are the preferred activities. Other interests include social support for seniors, food drives, and cultural activities or arts and crafts.

While 85% of respondents can access the internet and use it to communicate with family and friends, most information about social services is still obtained by word-of-mouth from family, friends, and neighbors. In addition, approximately half of respondents – even those with internet access – prefer to receive communications via U.S. Mail.

Happily, most respondents report significant personal well-being. Very few have experienced social bias attached to getting older, and most express contentment and satisfaction with their lives. Some concerns persist, particularly when considering the future: Having enough money to live comfortably and maintaining physical and mental health are of paramount importance. The greatest asset for well-being, according to respondents, is connectedness to other people – family, friends, church, and community.

A more complete analysis of the survey is underway. A final report will be available from SDCC in early February, with recommendations for volunteer initiatives to address concerns and respond to interests expressed in the survey. If you would like to weigh in on these early results or volunteer to lead an initiative for seniors, please contact the SDCC office at (314) 862-5122 or check the community calendar at www.skinker-debaliviere.com for the next meeting of the Neighborhood Services Committee (NSC).



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Skinker-DeBaliviere Business Spotlight

Fork and Stix Debuts

by Jo Ann Vatcha

Fork and Stix is a welcome addition to the dining scene on Delmar. Located just "off Delmar" on Rosedale, near the Forest Park Condominiums, the new restaurant marks the hard work and entrepreneurship that has brought new life to this area of Delmar. Just around the corner is Tavolo V, Gokul, Horseshoe House, and another restaurant coming soon. Nearby Regional Arts Commission and Pageant Theatre are the anchors of our own Delmar success story.

The owners/operators of "Fork and Stix" are sister/brother Pat and Ken Wanna. Their mom performs magic in the kitchen. Natives of Thailand, the family also spent several years in Japan, hence their expertise in many Asian cuisines. The menu includes such familiar favorites as Shrimp and Veggie Tempura (\$6) and Thai Stix (\$4), their version of the Chinese Restaurant staple, crab rangoon. But the menu also introduces us to new flavors and some especially spicy sauces.

Pat Wanna mentioned that among the most popular entree choices are the "Chiang Mai Classic" Khao Soi (\$8), a Thai curry noodle soup that comes from Chiang Mai, the family's home city in Northern Thailand. Pat said that most Thai restaurants in St. Louis feature southern Thai dishes, so this will be a somewhat different taste. A very different but also popular dish is Hung Lay Curry (\$8), a pork curry served with Jasmine rice.

A recent Friday night saw our family enjoying many of the tasty dishes at the Fork and Stix, ranging from Red Curry (\$8) to several stir-fry dishes, including Pad Thai (\$7), a lovely noodle dish, to Crispy spring rolls (\$3) and Tempura (\$6), served with an interesting tentsuyu sauce. The grandkids enjoyed everything, especially the appetisers and the plentiful Fried Rice (\$7). Next time, they plan to try the Hoy Jaw (\$5), described as "deep fried dumplings served with sweet chili sauce". We were also inspired to learn that Pat is planning to add "Thai Ice-Cream Sandwiches" to the menu when the weather warms.

The new restaurant will also be obtaining a liquor license in the near future. Drink choices at

this time include Thai iced teas and coffees as well as juices and soda, and hot tea is also available.

The restaurant's decor is open and bright, with one wall a chalkboard decorated with welcoming sayings and impromptu art. Pat mentioned that she is eager to include the work of other artists as time goes by, and invites others in our neighborhood's arts community to stop by and talk to her about this opportunity.

Pat is a charming host, and you'll be glad you stopped by to enjoy her family's cuisine and learn more about not only Thai culture, but also the growing diversity of our own dining choices on Delmar. Fork and Stix is located at 549



Fork and Stix Restaurant's Pat Wanna is shown with the paintings of Michael Anthony, local artist and art teacher.

Rosedale, with parking on the street (or just walk over!). The phone number is 863-5572. They're open every day for dinner and for lunch Tuesdays through Sundays.

The Kitchen Sink:

American Food with a Cajun Twist

By Kathie East

Anthony Ellerson, Jr., opened The Kitchen Sink at 280 DeBaliviere for the same reason Kevin Costner built a baseball diamond in the movie Field of Dreams: An unwavering conviction that "If you build it, they will come!" And, like Costner's character, Ellerson's hard work and perseverance is starting to pay off.

Since the restaurant opened its doors in September 2012, The Kitchen Sink has developed a devoted following within Skinker DeBaliviere and beyond. Neighborhood residents, college students, and employees citywide are drawn by Ellerson's creative and flavorful take on American Cajun cuisine: Burgers, wings, salads, and specialty sandwiches, as well as etouffee, jambalaya, seafood gumbo, and a shrimp po'boy that one recent customer said was the best he'd ever eaten.

Ellerson honed his cooking skills and his interest in owning a restaurant while working at Rigazzi's on The Hill. During a break in employment a couple of years ago, Ellerson was looking for a place to eat along DeBaliviere but couldn't find one that appealed to him. He decided then that the time was right to provide such a place himself, and The Kitchen Sink was born. A true entrepreneur, the venture is entirely self-funded by Ellerson and his mother, an investment in the neighborhood in which he grew up and where he still lives.

Ellerson renovated the restaurant himself, and the space is modern and spare. Sleek gray walls and black accents are enlivened by bright red booths, with a roll of paper towels on every table. The Kitchen Sink has free WiFi and plenty of outlets for laptops at the counter beneath the large front windows, providing a great place to work (particularly between the hours of 2:00 and 5:00 p.m.) and watch the human drama unfold on the sidewalks outside. And Ellerson acknowledges there has been some drama.

Some community members have questioned whether his location – directly next door to the busiest MetroLink station in St. Louis – is a help or a hindrance. Ellerson admits it has been a challenge at times to ensure the right ambiance outside the restaurant and a "Good Manners Required" sign has been placed inside the front door. He must be doing something right, however, because many residents and business owners have already noticed a positive impact on the DeBaliviere corridor. Ellerson is optimistic about his location, and envisions opening another restaurant nearby, possibly a sports bar, within the next five years.

For now, Ellerson has his hands full with The Kitchen Sink: He has been working 15-hour days since the restaurant opened. All of his food is made from scratch and cooked to order, and a full breakfast menu is available all day long.

The greatest rewards for all this hard work, he says, are the clean plates of satisfied customers and the gratitude expressed by residents who are glad he's there. And he says he's there to stay.



The Kitchen Sink
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2012 SDCC Report

by David Whiteman

The Skinker DeBaliviere community and the Council had another strong year in 2012. The Council is fiscally sound, having operated with transparency and within a balanced budget for three consecutive years.

In 2012, we made great progress in developing the community's Identity and Positioning Plan and securing funding so we could begin the Skinker DeBaliviere Urban Design and Development Plan (see related story).

Through its committees and volunteers, SDCC presented more than 30 events throughout the year. The community celebrated its 20th annual MLK Commemoration in January. The West End Arts Council sponsored a Youth Arts Workshop with a focus on recycling in June, three terrific and well attended concerts in the

summer and fall, and another spectacular Wintermarkt. The 2012 Homecoming celebration at the Regional Arts Commission provided yet another opportunity for Skinker DeBaliviere neighbors to meet, mix and party; and raised almost \$15,000 to support the work of the Council.

In January 2012, the Council promoted Jessica Eiland to Associate Director. In addition to her many roles within SDCC, she has increased Skinker DeBaliviere's connectivity to and visibility within the St. Louis community development network. Through her work, our E-newsletter has a new look and a distribution of 550, the SDCC Facebook page has more than 350 followers, our website continues to expand, and we created a new Calendar of Events.

Through the work of two Brown School of Social Work interns, Mary Margaret McMiller and Kathie

East, we were able to develop and present more than a dozen educational workshops, reestablish the Neighborhood Services Committee, and study the needs of Skinker DeBaliviere's senior population (see related article).

With the uptick in the economy, Skinker DeBaliviere saw the renovation of a number of its historic homes and apartment buildings. These important projects also brought new neighbors into our community. And, by partnering with Rebuilding Together, SDCC was able to secure home repairs at no cost for five income-eligible senior families.

Major goals for 2013 include the completion of the Identify and Positioning Plan and the Urban Design and Development Plan; and continued advocacy for our seniors and home repair programs. Additionally, the Council will continue the Workshop series to present timely, informational

programming; and will continue to support the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, our two Community Gardens, and the Lucier Park Committee. And this spring, thanks to the efforts of 28th Ward Alderman Lyda Krewson, we will see much needed repairs to Greg Freeman Park where so many of our community's events are held.

We are pleased that many of you are engaged in the activities of the community. From serving on committees, to volunteering at neighborhood events, to expressing your concerns and offering ideas, to providing financial support - all contribute to making Skinker DeBaliviere such a desirable place to live. We ask you to join the 2013 Friends of Skinker DeBaliviere Campaign so that the Council can continue to be a vital resource. A Friends letter is included with this issue of the Times of Skinker DeBaliviere.



MLK service.

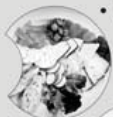
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St. Roch School Mental Math – Middle School Project

The Norman J. Stupp Foundation awarded \$8,750 to St. Roch, St. Francis of Cabrini and St. Cecilia schools for the Mental Math – Middle School Project. The grant was written by Dr. Richard Lodholz who consulted with principal Gloria Openlander, and teachers Paul Shaver and Tim Cummins. St. Roch is the custodian of the funds.

The Project goals are:

1. To increase student computational proficiency and numerical understanding by creating and implementing periodic lessons depicting key strategies with related daily 3 minute practice exercises throughout the school year in grades 5, 6, 7, and 8;

2. To strengthen teacher and principal knowledge of mathematics by professional development through collaboration with teachers and principals in other schools and the project director;

3. To develop a researched based mental math/estimation program across grades 5-8 through the medium of Power Point lessons and printed daily exercises on Word software that can be disseminated to other schools in following years.

The schools involved are excited about this opportunity and look forward to working together throughout the school.

We appreciate the efforts of Dr. Lodholz!

Gloria Openlander
St. Roch School
6040 Waterman, St. Louis, Mo 63112
314-721-2595



Planning Workshop

Continued from page 1

Council's stated Goal for Skinker DeBaliviere to be an inclusive, cohesive, sustainable and vibrant urban community.

H3 Studio is a local urban design and planning firm located in the Central West End. H3 Studio is working with Development Strategies to complete a Market Survey overview and economic analysis of proposed new

developments and commercial opportunities.

The planning initiative is funded by the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council and the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation; and by grants from Washington University, the Regional Housing and Community Dev. Alliance, and the East Loop Special Business District.

From Senator Joe Keaveny



Senator Joe Keaveny is back in Jeff City working on many issues, including those affecting children. He recently visited Mason School in St. Louis and is involved in ongoing efforts to fund and improve pre-school education in the City of St. Louis.

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- 28th Ward Regular Democrats -

Meetings for 2013: February 21, March 21, April 18

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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>

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IN YOUR EAR

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

Welcome to 2013! Yes, it's PREDICTION TIME. Granted, while I write this in the waning days of 2012, I recognize that you won't read it until later in 2013. Hey, that's your problem!

Hawkeye's annual predictions, something he does every year, are a tradition, and rumor has it that many wise readers plan their year around his prognostications. (Do you know how much more profound this sounds when I refer to myself in the third person? He likes it!) In truth, however, one can never accurately predict the future. As all too valid evidence of that, I thought it would be appropriate for me to share my five predictions from 2011, the prognostications that I made for 2012. A year ago, I predicted:

1. Oprah Winfrey would be elected president of the U.S. Alright, I can see how far-fetched that seems now, but back then, it was a good call! Obama's numbers were in the tank, and it was clear that the Republicans didn't have any presidential candidate more credible than a pillar of salt. I envisioned a scenario where Oprah was nominated in a groundswell at the Green Party convention, then carried the day in November. Think of how much fun it would have to see Brad Pitt as Secretary of Defense.

2. The Cardinals would finish in last place. This was a very safe prediction. Losing Pujols plus LaRussa, I figured that the Cards might be the first team to go 0-162. Oh well. So much for the importance of leadership, eh? Once again, it all comes down to good pitching. Hey, maybe that's what's wrong with congress!?

3. Global Warming would cease. Given all of the national attention to the issue and all of the wise minds working on a solution, I figured the problem would be solved by now. Last fall I read about a plan to put millions of tiny mirrors in a rocket which would be shot into the atmosphere, where the mirrors would be released to orbit around the Earth. Logically, a lot of the mirrors would wind up facing the sun and would reflect its rays. That made a lot of sense to me, plus think what cool sunsets these mirrors would create! (Confidentially, I have been emailing scientists to tell them that all we need to do is release more Freon into the atmosphere - that's the magic ingredient that causes air-conditioners to work - and the temp would drop a bit. Oddly, no one replies.)

4. The Republicans and Democrats would end the year by working harmoniously together. Boy, was this a bad call! Sure, I thought Oprah's guidance would help, but mostly I figured that the D.C. knuckleheads would see that there is more to be gained by collaborating than by fighting one another. If Congress had been on the Titanic when it hit the iceberg, they would have all drown while arguing about which lifeboats should go in the water first.

5. The City and County of St. Louis would merge. What was I drinking? Enough said.

And now, drumroll please, here are my predictions for 2013. I'm going to do a better job this year; I can feel it! However, I must again caution our dear readers that the future is never certain, even when seen through the rear-view mirror. (See: Revisionist history, Oliver Stone, Richard Nixon, Willie Nelson.) Here goes with the predictions for 2013, and can we amplify the drumroll a bit?

1. Reality television shows will lose their favor. I mean, how often can we watch people fending off snakes, trying to lose weight, crashing into obstacles, or singing off-tune? Honestly, it reminds me of being at a meeting of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen. People will tire of watching these kinds of shows. Meet the Press will begin showing nightly.

2. The printed book will disappear, new ones at least. The prices of Kindles and Nooks will continue to plummet, and they'll soon be available at Walgreen's for \$9.99 (\$4.99 if purchased with Hostess Twinkies). Likewise, your favorite ebook will cost \$2.99. Think of all the trees we'll be saving. Like your parents' 78 RPM records, your real books will stack nicely in the basement until you get rid of them at a garage sale. This prediction will make many traditionalists uncomfortable, I understand. It's hard for book-lovers to accept that there's nothing sacrosanct about holding a book and turning pages. Change is hard! The monks felt the same way in 1455 when Gutenberg invented moveable type and the printing press. The traditionalists can hang on, though, and read a real book while listening to music on their 8-track tape players.

3. New cars will have mechanisms that enable them to park and to drive themselves. Google already has prototypes for this, so it's not IF but WHEN. This is good news, no more fender-benders or

colossal crashes, except for the companies that have spent millions of dollars inventing mechanisms to go on steering wheels and prevent drunks from driving. With this new technology, alcohol content won't make any difference. Topsy Teresa or Inebriated Ivan will simply slur their destination to the dashboard, and the car will safely deliver them to their appointment. Walking up the steps, however, is another matter.

4. Steve Jobs will come back to life. Yes, I recognize that this is a bit of a stretch, but think about it: If anyone can do it, Steve can. Think of the cool Apple press conferences, Steve in jeans and black t-shirt, hovering above the stage! Of course, we may never be sure whether it's him or a hologram, but either way, both the vitriolic abuse to employees and cool new features on future generations of i-Phones will remain the same. By the time we get to the iPhone 17S, we may all be able to come back to life!

5. Oprah becomes Queen of the U.S. Actually, this is more likely than you might think, you pedestrian-minded advocate of democracy! We all love democracy because it works. The premise of democracy is that people deserve a voice and can influence the actions of their representatives. But we don't and we haven't. Need I say more? As I write, the congress isn't going to make the December 31 budget deadline and, when you think about it, this is just typical. Congress-people are most concerned with getting re-elected, not doing what's good for the country. Queen Oprah would be a benevolent leader, I am sure. And since Queens don't run for re-election, she would make decisions that are good for the country. Plus, think of her appointments to the Supreme Court. I can't wait to see Lady Gaga and Dr. Phil in the flowing robe!

OK, dear reader, you now know what the future holds. Batten down the hatches!

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