

The TIMES of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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Feb. - March, 2014

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

FREE

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

Better Block Project Coming to Skinker DeBaliviere

By Liz Pund

In 2014, the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council will be bringing a lot of people together to re-imagine part of our beloved neighborhood for a unique large-scale street event called The Better Block Project.

The Better Block Project was started in Dallas, Texas by Jason Roberts and Andrew Howard in 2010.

Frustrated by a lack of vibrant streets in Roberts' neighborhood, Oak Cliff, they took matters into their own hands and helped create a low-cost, temporary, demonstration of what a walkable, active block could look like.

Neighbors, artists, business owners and other people who cared about the community came together to participate in creating ideas and implementing the Better Block. Temporary sidewalk cafes, art galleries, shops, bike lanes, landscaping and more "popped-up" and operated for a one-day festival that included food and live music. The community came out to have fun, experience the transformed block, and provide feedback on what they wanted to have there on a more permanent basis.

According to BetterBlock.org, "Better Blocks are now being performed around the world and have helped cities rapidly implement infrastructure and policy changes." Along with Skinker DeBaliviere, three other neighborhoods in St. Louis City will create their own Better Block this year: Hamilton

Heights, Dutchtown South, and Tower Grove. Here in our neighborhood we will use the Better Block to build on our recent Urban Design and Development Plan, also called the Master Plan, which is scheduled for completion in the next few months. SDCC is undertaking many activities in 2014 to begin to promote the Plan's implementation, and the Better Block will temporarily implement some of what the plan calls for in one section of the neighborhood - with the goal of creating lasting change.

A Better Block can be transformative for a neighborhood, and it takes a lot of people and their creativity to make it great. SDCC is putting a call out for area artists, crafters, Do-It-Yourselfers, community activists, musicians, photographers, videographers, designers, gardeners, business owners, or anyone else who cares about the community and may be interested in participating. An open kick-off visioning/brainstorming session will be held on Saturday, February 22 at 10am the SDCC Office, 6008 Kingsbury Ave. (RSVPs are nice, but not required.)

More information about the project, including a TEDx talk by Jason Roberts, is available on the SDCC website <http://www.skinker-debaliviere.com/> or by contacting the office at sdcc@skinker-debaliviere.com or (314) 862-5122.

Final Public Meeting for Master Plan

The final public meeting for reviewing the draft master plan for the neighborhood will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 6:00 p.m., Grace United Methodist Church, 6199 Waterman. Consultant H3 Studio will present the final draft of the master plan for the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood, including facilitated Q&A and polling about sustainability priorities. This will be the final public meeting in more than a year-long process that included multiple public meetings (as well as the Transit Oriented Development planning process for the Delmar and Forest Park/DeBaliviere Metrolink Stations). We encourage you to attend and invite your neighbors! To review the planning documents from past meetings, read planning articles, and send feedback, please visit the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council website.



February 14th is Skinker DeBaliviere's annual luncheon to thank the Police and Firefighters who take care of the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood. Please stop by the SDCC office to say hello and thank the police and firefighters personally for their hard work. For more information, including how to get involved, watch the SDCC website or contact the SDCC Office at 862-5122 or sdcc@skinker-debaliviere.com.

Washington University Announcement

Greetings neighbors! My name is Stephanie Weiskopf and I am part of Washington University's Neighborhood Initiative. I live in Skinker DeBaliviere and look for ways to build relations between permanent and student residents. Specifically, I am here to advocate for any needs/issues you all are having with students in the neighborhood, and I am here to encourage students to be a part of the thriving Skinker DeBaliviere community.



This past semester we hosted our very first block party at Skinker and Waterman featuring a henna tattoo and caricature artist. You may have also seen students volunteering at the Food Drive in October as well as Wintermarkt in December.

WU Neighbors' Day at Bear's Basketball - Sun., Feb. 23, 12 - 4 p.m., Washington Univ. Fieldhouse

On Sunday, February 23, Washington

University Neighborhood Initiative invites you to attend Neighbors' Day at the Bear's Basketball games. The Men's game begins at 12:00 p.m. and the Women's game starts at 2:00 p.m. Both teams will be hosting Carnegie Mellon University. In addition to free admission, there will be food, giveaways, a balloon artist and much more family friendly fun.

ThurtenE Carnival - April 12-13, Washington Univ. Brookings Hall

ThurtenE Carnival is designed to bring together a multitude of Washington University student groups and the St. Louis community for a weekend of good food, fun rides and great entertainment.

Feel free to reach out to me at SkinkerDeBaliviere@wustl.edu or on the phone at 935-5038 with any questions/comments/concerns. Thanks and I look forward to seeing you around!

Stay In Touch!

Pick your favorite way(s) to stay connected to the pulse of our neighborhood.

- Visit our website: www.skinker-debaliviere.com
- Skinker DeBaliviere Community on Facebook
- Follow us on Twitter: @SkinkerD
- View the Skinker DeBaliviere public calendar for dates and times of meetings and events
- Visit The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere's website, <http://sdtimes.org/>, to read current and past issues of our neighborhood newspaper
- Email: sdcc@skinker-debaliviere.com
- Call: 314-862-5122
- Stop by the SDCC Office: 6008 Kingsbury Avenue (between Greg Freeman Four Corners Park and Joe's Cafe)

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

The Problem with Problem Properties

Although I have lived in the neighborhood for almost a quarter century, one particular problem has just recently surfaced on my radar screen. What happens when a neighboring property becomes derelict? What action can be taken to get it repaired? What can the city do?

I'm discovering that options are quite limited. Based on complaints, a building inspector can make a site visit, examine possible violations, and cite those deemed viable. If the property owner does not address the problems, he/she can be fined. Some pay a fine and still don't address the problem, beginning the cycle again. If the fine isn't paid, it can double to a maximum of \$500. The matter may also be referred to housing court. In the meantime, nearby neighbors suffer, aesthetically and monetarily. Who wants to buy a home, however nice, next to a derelict property?

There may be a plethora of reasons why properties become derelict. Nonetheless, there ought to be a quicker and surer way to bring them back into compliance and not mar the street and neighborhood.

In regard to the property in my area, a longtime neighbor passed away after a lengthy illness. There may be a dispute over title. Although the lawn has been cut, other building problems remain unaddressed. I know this case is not unique. But, it is frustrating, particularly in a neighborhood that has done so much to stabilize amid many kinds of diversity.

Our NSO and alderman have been of considerable assistance but the framework for action is inadequate. Twice the city tried to raise maximum fines but the voters did not concur. It seems to be time for citizens and elected officials to revisit procedures, time limits, and fines and also to locate mechanisms to help those with insufficient financial resources to address needed repairs to their premises.

SDCC Security Committee

by Lana Stein

A security committee was formed a number of years ago. It has been consistently active for the last 7 years, under the tutelage of Paul Michaelson, Melissa von Rohr, and now Mark Gorman. A neighborhood resident is always the chair. The security committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 5:30 to 6:30pm at the SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury. These meetings are open to all residents and many attend when there is a pending matter involving their particular part of the neighborhood. Also in attendance is Officer Steve Orbals, the beat cop for our neighborhood. He is joined by Lt. Jim Roth of the Washington University police, a representative of the Circuit Attorney's office, and at times members of METRO's security force. The Neighborhood Stabilization Officers for both the 26th and 28th wards attend regularly and are often joined by the 28th ward alderman.

The committee reviews crime that has occurred over the past month and everyone receives a printout. That shows where calls for service took place. The chair or a law enforcement representative can discuss individual cases in greater depth and answer neighbors' concerns. The circuit attorney's office provides a list of those apprehended for neighborhood crimes and shows when trial will occur or another outcome.

According to current chair, Mark Gorman, the committee serves as a link between police, council, and community. Too often we hear rumors about recent events; committee meetings help everyone to understand what happened and who was involved. The meetings also add to the continuing cooperation between the St. Louis Metropolitan Police and other law enforcement entities.

Residents who have witnessed transgressions or have heard about certain happenings are welcome to attend and secure more information.

As Officer Orbals told me, our most frequent crimes are larceny to cars and an occasional burglary. We are basically a very safe neighborhood. Everyone agrees that if you witness possible illegal behavior, call 911 right away. Some people report things on the list serve Next Door. That informs some neighbors but it is a 911 call that gets the matter immediate attention and enters the problem on the list of service calls. Liz Pund, interim director of the SDCC, also is a valuable liaison with the police and Washington University. She may be reached at 862-5122.



Arline Webb is shown with Liz Johnson, MLK Committee Chair and Alice Stanley, SDCC Board President; Gwen Lazard was also presented with 2014 Neighborhood Steward Awards at this year's MLK Day celebration at Grace United Methodist Church.

by Demetrius Webb



THANK YOU TO OUR LOYAL TIMES DONORS

Thanks to all the neighborhood residents who gave a year-end donation to the TIMES. Over \$ 1,400 was raised from the following donors. Thanks, too to our new business manager, Linda Cross, for taking on the job of managing the finances of the oldest neighborhood newspaper in the St. Louis area, now in our 44th year.

2013 Year-End Appeal:

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The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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For a complete list of sizes and rates, write: The Times, 6168 Westminster, 63112, or call 727-6630.

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.

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: March 15, 2014. 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! We have had an interesting start to the new year as far as weather, and of course, as always, it is an interesting year for the people of the Skinker DeBalviere neighborhood. Let's catch up on some of the news of our neighbors and don't forget to send any news you have to me for upcoming issues.

Let's begin by welcoming our new neighbors on the 6100 block of Pershing, David and Lisa Cepero. David and Lisa are originally from Florida, but recently moved from Dixon, California to St Louis for work. They have two dogs; Millie, a miniature Schnauzer and Boo, a miniature Schnauzer and Westie mix. They have never lived in a city before and are looking forward to exploring St Louis. This is certainly the right neighborhood for that! Be sure to welcome them when you see them.

Long overdue in this column is the news that Ligaya Figueras was promoted from Senior Staff Writer to Executive Editor for *Sauce Magazine* in May. Ligaya began as a freelance writer for *Sauce* in 2008 and has 12 years of publishing experience. She has been published in *Vegetarian Times*, *Better Nutrition* and



Cheers as well as in local publications *St. Louis Magazine*, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *the TIMES of Skinker-DeBalviere*, and the *Ladue News*. She has also penned business management and lifestyle articles for *Art Calendar*, *Children's Digest*, *Family Circle*, *Missouri Life*, *Silent Sports* and *The Writer*, among others. Ligaya lives on the 6100 block of Washington with her husband and two sons. Congratulations Ligaya!

Skinker-DeBalviere neighbors Anne Marie and Dan Lodholz, of the 5700 block of DeGiverville, are also *Sauce* writers. They currently write for *Sauce's Meatless Mondays* online column and, beginning in January, a new online column called *Step By Step*. It's for all those home cooks who love a good weekend cooking project. Both columns can be found at saucemagazine.com/blog. Many of you have probably enjoyed Dan's delicious barbecue and smoked meats at concerts during the summer months at Greg Freeman Park too.

Judge Michael Noble of the 5700 block of McPherson reports that his son Mike Jr., was selected by the Associated Press to be their freelance photographer in Bowling Green, Kentucky and the surrounding area. Mike, is a sophomore majoring in Photo Journalism at Western Kentucky and seems to be off to a fantastic start with his career.

The Underwood family of the 6100 block of McPherson has a lot to celebrate in the new year. Daughter Britney became engaged to Sammy Luderman on top of a mountain in



Richmond, Virginia, on Thanksgiving. Britney has also been accepted into the accelerated nursing program at UMSL. She begins the program in June. Best wishes to Britney on all the news and the exciting year ahead!

Glenda Underwood also reported that her grandmother turned 106 years old in October and that they were able to get six generations of the women in her family



together, including Glenda, her grandmother, and her granddaughter Sydney. Sydney was actually born 100 years after her great, great grandmother! Glenda's grandmother, Effie Barbour, has been written up several times in her local North Carolina newspaper.

There is more than one way to be welcomed to our neighborhood. Many of our new neighbors are the people who are born here. With that, allow me to introduce William Ellis Bordeaux Kohn, born on September 16, 2013 at St. Mary's Hospital, weighing in at 6 lbs, 9 oz.

Proud parents are Paul Bordeaux and Sophie Kohn of Dogtown. Paul works for Answers.com in U. City, and Sophie just graduated from BJC nursing school in June. Ellis will be walking the streets of our neighborhood soon enough with Grandma Pat Kohn, of the 6100 block of Kingsbury. Pat is absolutely beaming with pride with her first grandchild.



And baby makes FOUR on the 6100 block of McPherson. Congratulations to Gabe and



Lenee BienWillner on the birth of Phoebe who was born November 10th.

Congratulations to Jim Holzer, of the 6100 block of Westminster, for his gallery showing of his fine art photography, called "Holy Places," at the Space Gallery in the Grove, this fall.

More Westminster accolades to mother/daughter Anne Posega and Emma Posega Rapplye, who live with brothers and dad Chris Rapplye on the 6100 block. Emma achieved a perfect 36 on her ACT test. She is a senior at MICDS. Mom Anne, who is head of special collections at Washington University. Anne was recently recognized for her work in acquiring and designing the Henry Hampton Film Archive. Retired Associate Dean of the University Libraries B.J. Johnson said Anne "made this amazing collection possible." The Hampton archive is reflected in the monumental work, *Eyes on the Prize*.

While we love to welcome neighbors, we unfortunately have to say goodbye to neighbors as well. It is with great sadness, but also gratitude (for a wonderful life), that I say goodbye in



this column to my Pop, Albert "Rick" Bender. Pop lived a wonderful life for 87 years, 42 of which were spent living on the 6100 block of Kingsbury. Pop's list of accomplishments were far too long to even fit in his obituary, but highlights included a distinguished teaching career (including Saint Louis University), membership and leadership in the Forest Park Handball Club, two terms served on the St. Louis Public School Board of Education, and a lifetime of service and membership to the Boys Scouts of America; serving for many years at the Troop Leader of St. Roch Troop 98. I can say the entire Bender family was touched as people reached out to us, perhaps the most meaningful messages coming from former scouts or students (many we did not know), who shared stories of how pop had mentored them in the lives. He died on October 23rd, back on Kingsbury, surrounded by his wife, Joan Bender, and many of his children and grandchildren and a service and celebration of his life was held on November 2nd. I have no doubt my family will honor him again at our 18th Beach Week over the summer! We love you pop!

And as hard as it was to share the previous death with you, this is without a doubt much more difficult. I have never had to report the death of any neighborhood youth before, but today we ask you to remember Meredith Littlejohn of the 6100 block of Kingsbury, a vibrant and beautiful girl who lost a courageous battle against cancer. Meredith passed away on November 23rd. Steve Littlejohn and Stefanie London, and sister of Michelle and Edward, Meredith graduated near the top of her class at Crossroads College Preparatory School, Class of 2013 and had been accepted to Emory University Early Admission. Meredith excelled in mathematics and while at Crossroads, was involved in student government, basketball, volleyball and theatrical productions, and also served as a volunteer tutor. Our deepest sympathies go out to the Littlejohn/London family for their loss.

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 DeBalviere office. Be sure to mark it "News of Neighbors".

2013 SDCC Report

By David Whiteman and Liz Pund

The Skinker DeBaliviere Community and the Community Council continued to see progress in 2013. The Urban Design and Development Plan for the neighborhood and the Transit Oriented Development Plan for the Delmar and Forest Park Station Areas continued with four Public Workshops throughout the year. Final presentation of the Neighborhood Plan will be February 25, 6pm at Grace United Methodist Church. The Delmar East Loop saw the completion of the Gotham project at Delmar and Hamilton, the opening of five new eateries, and groundbreaking for Washington University's Lofts projects which will include the Global Foods grocery store.

In April, SDCC bid "farewell" to Associate Director Jessica Eiland as she departed to become President of Northside Community Housing – and welcomed Liz Pund as the Council's new Community Engagement Coordinator. Liz has worked hard to maintain and increase the Council's engagement with the community through the newsletter, articles in the Times, the Events Calendar, social media and just getting to know members

of the community. Additionally, Liz is engaged with the Community Builders Network and the broader community development network in St. Louis.

The Council's Committees and the dedicated neighborhood Volunteers collaborated with staff to produce more than 30 community events in 2013. Highlights include the well attended summer BBQ concert series, the first annual Skinker DeBaliviere State Fair, Wintermarkt, Homecoming, and many informative workshops including the Youth Art Workshop, gardening workshops, and workshops regarding the neighborhood's issues and history. In addition, the neighborhood identity plan took another step forward with the introduction of the new Skinker DeBaliviere logo. We thank the community for supporting these important community development activities.

We thank our many funders including the Council's Institutional Members: Washington University, St. Roch Church, Grace United Methodist Church, New Cote Brillante Church of God, and Pulaski Bank. We thank all who supported the 2013 Friends Campaign, those who sponsored and contributed to the success of Homecoming, and those who contributed your

tireless hours volunteering to make our community activities a success. Additionally we thank the Regional Arts Commission for its grant to support Arts programming in the community; and the funders of the Urban Design and Development Plan who include Washington University, Rise (formerly RHCDA), the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation, and the East Loop Special Business District.

Major goals for 2014 include the completion and promotion of the Urban Design and Development Plan, producing a Better Block event (see related article this issue), collaborating with Citizens for Modern Transit to promote the revitalization of Wabash Station as the primary access to MetroLink (through a grant from Rise), managing the development of a Community Improvement District for the East Loop, sponsoring an Energy Efficiency Program for the community, and identifying long-term sources of funding for the Council.

We ask you to join the 2014 Friends of Skinker DeBaliviere Campaign so the Council can continue to be a vital resource for the community. A Friends letter is included with this issue of the Times of the Skinker DeBaliviere.

The suggested 2014 Friends Donation Levels are:

Contributors of \$100 or more will receive an attractive black mug featuring the new, colorful Skinker DeBaliviere logo.

How to Donate: Donations can be submitted online through our secured PayPal site (www.skinker-debaliviere.com) or make checks payable to the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council and send to Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, 6008 Kingsbury Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63112. *Donations are tax-deductible.* SDCC thanks you, most sincerely, for your continued support of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community and Council!

From The Keaveny Connection

by Joe Keaveny, State Senator

With the federal Health Insurance Marketplace now up and running, Missourians have the opportunity to become part of the growing population of Americans who have affordable, quality health care coverage within their reach. This marketplace, made available by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), allows Missourians to compare health care options using side-by-side information regarding price, quality and benefits for each health plan under consideration.

To sign up visit www.healthcare.gov. Users will then create an account, fill out the application, compare plans and get coverage. The website is shutdown for repairs from 1-5 a.m. daily, until the repairs have been completed.

- Enroll by Dec. 23, to be covered by Jan. 1, 2014.
- Enroll by March 31, to avoid a penalty.
- Penalty for not having insurance is \$95 a year or 1 percent of household income. There will be a new box on your W-2 tax form to verify health insurance.

- Fill out an application at www.healthcare.gov to see if you qualify for a discount or tax credit.

There are several ways to learn more about the ACA or the federal Health Insurance Marketplace:

Visit www.healthcare.gov for live chat assistance.

Call the Marketplace Call Center: 1-800-318-2596, it is open 24/7. Visit www.covermissouri.org.

Call 211 for local social services assistance to find a federally qualified health center that will provide in-person assistance to fill out forms and find a certified navigator.

Download a paper application that can be printed and mailed. (If choosing this option, please utilize the guidance of live chat or phone or local navigator to ensure accuracy.)

There are no fees to use the marketplace and no one should solicit health coverage to you. Report fraud to the Missouri Attorney General's office, by calling

1-800-392-8222.

Here is a checklist of information you will need when you sign up:

- Social Security numbers (or document numbers for legal immigrants)
- Employer and income information for every member of your household who needs coverage (for example, from pay stubs or W-2 forms/Wage and Tax Statements)
- Policy numbers for any current health insurance plans covering members of your household
- Completed Employer Coverage Tool for every job-based plan you or someone in your household is eligible. (You'll need to fill out this form even for coverage you're eligible for but don't enroll in.) Visit www.healthcare.gov to view this form.

The federal government has already announced that the timelines for enrollment for 2015 coverage will be pushed back one month, to allow consumers more time to compare the plans. Enrollment will continue through Jan. 15, 2015.

For information on health care seminars in the St. Louis area go to: <http://covermissouri.org/tools/events/events.php>. To learn more about the ACA or the federal Health Insurance Marketplace, visit www.healthcare.gov or call 1-800-318-2596.

Missouri Should Expand Medicaid

The Senate Interim Committee on Medicaid Transformation and Reform voted not to include Medicaid expansion as one of the formal recommendations in its report. This decision by the majority party serving on the committee was made despite what most witnesses who testified before the committee recommended:

Missouri should lower the income eligibility for Medicaid in order to receive matching federal funds and increase health care access to the neediest Missourians. Currently, citizens can only earn up to 18 percent of the federal poverty level to be eligible for Medicaid, or MO HealthNet. This is far too low of an income threshold in order to have healthy families in Missouri. The General Assembly should consider waiver options for expansion to 133 percent of the federal poverty level, allowing Missouri to accept the federal money promised with Medicaid expansion.

The Kaiser Commission released a new survey stating states not expanding Medicaid income limits are expecting a larger increase in their state budget portions dedicated to Medicaid. The commission also indicated that state spending growth will be lower for 25 states that are moving forward with the Medicaid expansion (4.4 percent) compared to the remaining states (6.1 percent). The committee has until Dec. 15 to issue its final report with its recommendations to the General Assembly for legislative action. I am disappointed in the committee's failure to include expert testimony in the recommendations to the Senate and its failure to present a fiscal analysis of the benefits of Medicaid expansion in the report. The 15 recommendations in the report are insignificant considering the short window of opportunity that states have to receive federal money that Missouri will do without. For more about the committee go to www.senate.mo.gov/medicaidtransformation.

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Kids Corner

by Suzanne Knese & Heather Hoganson

March 2nd is Dr. Seuss' birthday so in his honor here are some of his more infamous quotes (according to Quotery.com):

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go." - *Oh, the Places You'll Go*

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." - *The Lorax*

"A person's a person, no matter how small." - *Horton Hears a Who!*

"The more that you read, The more things you will know. The more that you learn, The more places you'll go!" - *I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!*

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CARDS STVALENTINES HUGS
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Kids Corner Calendar

Kid Friendly Events around our Neighborhood:

Science Center - Harry's Big Adventure: My Bug World! Titans of the Ice Age at the Omnimax

COCA - March 22-23rd--Snail and the Whale performance

St. Louis Zoo -

February 16th, 11a - 4p Winter Zoo days includes games, activities and crafts

February 23rd 11a - 4p Winter Zoo days includes games, activities and crafts

March 2, 11a - 4p Mardi Gras at the Zoo includes mask-making and a parade

St. Louis Art Museum Family Sundays includes activities, crafts and kid focused tours

February 2,9,16 and 23; 1-4p Africa Speaks

March 9,16,23 and 30; 1-4p Call of the Wild

QUESTION FOR NEXT KIDS CORNER: April 22nd is Earth Day. **What do you do to help Mother Earth? Recycle? Reuse? Walk? Use public transportation? Pick up trash? Plant trees?**
 Please submit drawings and answers to kidscorner@sdtimes.org or drop them at the SDCC office at Four Corners by March 10th! Kids share with us activities your school, club, scouts and sports teams doing. This is YOUR corner, so make it what you want!



Halloween Winners

The annual Skinker-DeBaliviere Halloween party at St. Roch gym was again hosted by Art Santen with entertainment, too. The 14 winners were:

- Trinity Odinaka (20 months)
- Bumble Bee; Jonathan Taylor (3)
- Allied Waste Truck; Alaura Taylor (2)
- Halloween Hello Kitty; Cal (3rd grade) and Will (1st grade)
- Kreuter, Minions from Despicable Me; Roman Anno (1)
- Peter Pan; Noor Anno (4)
- Tinkerbelle; Gabbi Gordon (7)
- Candy Wrapper; Alex Rumpel (8)
- Pants; Margaret Moore (6)
- Queen chess piece; Simon Moore (3)
- Knight Chess Piece; Colton Teide (8)
- Zombie Ninja; Jack McDowell (7)
- Lab Rat from Disney.



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Piccione Pastry

by Cristina and Sean McGroarty

Piccione... you had us at hello. Or was it at cannoli? Either way, this pastry shop, in the space formerly occupied by a barber shop at Delmar and Skinker, is not to be missed. The people are as friendly as the pastries are delicious.

Piccione describes itself as "a late-night pastry shop which embraces the time honored traditions in Italian baking." Richard Nix and his wife Elizabeth see their pastry shop as a way to honor Richard's Italian heritage and his family's long history with the neighborhood. Richard's grandmother, Grace Piccione, grew up in University City in the early 20th Century, and was the inspiration for our newest favorite pastry shop.

Our own history with Piccione started soon after it opened last spring. For the past few years, we have made a commitment to go out, just the two of us, once a week, if our schedules can possibly permit it. Happily enough, we settled on Tuesdays. Happily, because Piccone began offering half-price cannolis on Tuesday nights from eight until nine. Because we like to walk, more often than not, we end

up walking past Piccione on the way home. This, and the cannolis that we brought home, became such a pattern that our neighbor and regular date night babysitter, Gretchen Boxdorfer, declared Tuesdays to be "The Greatest Night of the Week!"

Have you had a rough week? Is your sweetie feeling blue? Your kids struggling through Hump Day? Run yourself over to Piccione, grab a half-price cannoli on Tuesday night. Pop it in the fridge and Wednesday morning slip it into the above mentioned family member's lunch box. Hump day becomes a very happy hump day and you, my friends, get nothing but love!

Cannolis are Piccione's specialty, but their expertise only begins there. If you have walked or driven by the pastry shop, you might remember the friendly signage and the brightly lit interior. Once you enter, the staff greets you warmly, with smiles fit for Disney World. You will never see excess staff waiting idly behind the counter; those who are not busy come out to the tables along the window to relax with a cup of coffee and talk to their customers. Piccione makes you feel so comfortable that it is almost as if a world-class

pastry chef borrows your kitchen and serves you pastries in your own living room. The kitchen is all within sight, and more than once, if our favorite cannoli was sold out, they have happily pulled out the fresh cream and custom made our own cannolis, just for us.

Back to the cannolis. They are fantastic. They make them in six permanent flavors, and in several seasonal flavors. Whenever we go, we have to wait for them to make more chocolate chip cannoli, because everyone seems to like them as much as we do. The Marsala Black Cherry adds just enough sweetness to the ricotta cream to remind you that it is there without overwhelming your taste buds. One of their current seasonal flavors, with a sweat pastry cream instead of ricotta cream, is fantastic.

On our latest visit, Piccione also offered neopolitans. Very few things are worse than a bad neopolitan, leaving you with dry pastry, tasteless, processed cream, and far too much bland chocolate. Very few things are better than a good one, however, and Piccione hit this one out of the park. The pastry parts are flaky, yet moist enough that you could eat it by itself. The cream is smooth, sweet,

and absolutely fresh.

Anything Piccione does with cream, they do very, very well. The cream puffs are outstanding, as is the tiramisu and pasticciotti. If you are not in the mood for cream, try the bombolini: bite sized, lightly fried, with cinnamon sugar and your choice of dipping sauces (whipped lemon curd, whipped raspberry curd, or chocolate). They are a great bang for your buck or a cheap, easy and delicious way to feed the six kids you left at home.

Really, the only thing not to like about Piccione is that it is not open early or late enough. The shop opens at 9 in the morning, too late to pick up bombolonis to take to work. On a couple of occasions, we have pulled up to Piccione's just minutes after they closed at 9 in the evening. But when they are open, there is no better place to go for pastries.

Piccione now also recently introduced a lunch menu, which we are eager to try. They are available for large orders, in case you need to sweeten up a party a bit. For more information, check out their website: <http://www.piccionepastry.com>.

Landmarks Map of Neighborhood Available Online

by Marj Weir

A long time ago (1983) a study of the buildings in our neighborhood was undertaken by the Landmarks Association of St. Louis. The study resulted in a map showing each building with the year it was built and a code for the name of the architect or builder. For many years this map resided at the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office. It suffered over that time and until now existed at the SDCC only as a Xerox copy somewhat blurred and smudged because of recopying. After our meeting in November on House Histories we found that people found it interesting, so we decided to try to improve the quality of the print and also to make it available online. Landmarks retained a much better copy of the map (although someone borrowed the original and failed to return it) and generously allowed us to borrow it for a few days. We had it scanned and copied again. We have provided access to the scanned version on our Centennial website. We broke it down into manageable sections to make it easier to use and to allow easier printing.

To get to this map and its parts, first log onto <http://Centennial.citywestend.org/index.html>.

From the Centennial home page select the maroon button that looks like this:



This will then display this page

House History 101

Saturday, March 1 | 9:30 am
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Reservations required; call (314) 361-9017
Maximum of 20 participants

Missouri History Museum Associate Archivist Dennis Northcott introduces you to the vast array of resources at the Library and Research Center to learn about the history of your home and its former residents.

The rest should be self-explanatory, but if you have questions or problems, you can contact Marj Weir at 863-7558. Enjoy!

KO Koverly and The Mural Room

by Jo Ann Vatcha

Of all the larger-than-life characters who are part of the colorful history of what was known as the "DeBaliviere Strip," an entrepreneur named K O Koverly stands out. In the 50's, his restaurant was one of the great places to go for music and dining, to see and be seen.

KO Koverly was actually Godjo Kovacevitch, who had a wrestling

was the victim of theft of a three 1/2 carat \$ 4500 ring by "a girl from New Orleans" in a hotel in Louisville, saying "she must have given me a Mickey Finn." Even at his restaurant, the Mural Room, Koverly managed to get in trouble. In 1951, he was arrested for "selling intoxicating liquor on Sunday."

The Mural Room began

the basement...was only an old sewer, covered during recent remodeling...Koverly revealed that the club had been having difficulty with its electric lights for several months."

After the fire a bit of mystery issues: It appears that Koverly moved next door once again, this time to 419 DeBaliviere, where the restaurant became The Terrace Lounge. That name and address are listed in business and phone directories all the way to 1970, when it, too, was destroyed by fire. Perhaps some of our neighbors/readers will remember those days!

Marj and Brad Weir, who have lived in Skinker-DeBaliviere since 1961, remember the spot well: "When Brad and I were dating in 1959 and 1960, we dined and danced at the Terrace Lounge which was overseen by the host, K.O. Koverly. It all seemed very proper. Neither of us remembers it as the Mural Room, but that must have been its earlier incarnation. It was a dignified place where you went "dressed up." I suppose it's too late to worry about confessing that we were served "adult beverages" without benefit of identification. We hadn't made it to 21 at that point, needless to say."

Globe "society" columnist Jerry Berger remembered it on his blog as part of the DeBaliviere Strip Club Scene: "George K.O. Koverly's Mural Room, where the rotund former wrestler beckoned customers to his almost private club."

By 1970, so much had changed on DeBaliviere; the fire at 419 destroyed not only the Terrace Lounge, owned by then by Al Singer, but the original offices of the SDCC and many others. The gap that now is the parking lot next to Pulaski Bank once throbbed with life as part of the legendary DeBaliviere Strip.

NOTE: More memories and details about the DeBaliviere Strip are coming in our next issue: The Stardust, featuring Evelyn West and her \$ 50,000 Treasure Chest; the Apollo Art Theatre; Talayna's, Sorrento's; Little Las Vegas; the Orchid Lounge; the Holy Barbarian; and several more! Let us know if you remember any of these or other DeBaliviere nightspots as we document that memorable time in our neighborhood's history. Contact me at jvatcha@gmail.com or 726-6974.



Photo from the archives of the St. Louis Globe Democrat, 1956. Special thanks to Charles E. Brown, Assistant to the Director, St. Louis Mercantile Library at the University of Missouri-St. Louis

career in the 30's. According to the Pro Wrestling Hall of Fame website, in a chapter called THE HEELS, by Greg Oliver and Steven Johnson, Koverly was "a colorful guy who used fisticuffs liberally...For many years, Koverly ran a popular St. Louis restaurant called The Mural Room, which out-of-town sports teams frequently habited. Even there, he could pack a punch. On one occasion, a man entered the Mural Room, brandished a gun in front of alarmed patrons...and threatened to shoot Koverly for an alleged dalliance with a woman. George, in his calm way, said, 'let's not create a disturbance here. Let's step outside.' So they stepped outside the door, and George knocked him cold with one punch and told him to be on his way. He was a legitimate tough guy."

Throughout the 40's and 50's and into the 60's, Koverly made the St. Louis newspapers repeatedly. In 1945, there was a verdict of "unavoidable accident...by a St. Charles County Coroner's jury in the death of Eddie Campbell, a professional wrestler who was killed when a car driven by George (Kayo) Koverly... struck a bridge abutment... Koverly had been scheduled to meet Champion Wild Bill Longson at Kiel Auditorium Friday." In 1950, he said he

its colorful life in 1950 at 401 DeBaliviere, now site of Pulaski Bank and originally home to the Dorr Zeller Catering Co. The night spot was advertised in the 1950 program for the St. Louis Auto Show being held nearby at the Winter Garden.

The Mural Room moved from 401 to 411 DeBaliviere in 1952, when the building became home to regional postal office (who presumably didn't want a bar beneath their accounting offices!). 411 DeBaliviere had been home to Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store through the 30's and the Whirley Corp. toy manufacturer in the 40's. Koverly's restaurant and lounge was successful, with an annual St. Pat's Open House party, where he had "a covey of horses tethered outside the door all day as an attention-getter." He moved to 415 DeBaliviere in 1953; that building had been home to an A&P grocery in the 30's. It was called a "plush cocktail lounge and restaurant" by the Globe Democrat Newspaper. Our picture is from a Globe feature on DeBaliviere Strip from 1956.

In 1957 The Mural Room had a devastating explosion and fire in which St. Louis Fireman Frank Rychlink died. The Globe quoted testimony that a "hole found in

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IN YOUR EAR

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

Hi there, dear readers. How are your antlers doing? (Get it???)

Last month, you will surely recall, I wrote about change. WOOSH was that sound you heard as you read my pithy and profound column. WOOSH again! No, WOOSH is not WASH mispronounced – did you go to WOOSHINGTON UNIVERSITY? WOOSH is the sound you heard because things are changing so quickly around us. WOOSH still.

(Hey, you're reading words and I'm describing sounds. Give me a break!)

Anyway, I wrote about change today – from the designated hitter to wearable computers to frozen Twinkies. Ponderfully (a word that I just made up), I wondered if Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and George Washington were to come to life today, what would be.

Try as I might, I cannot communicate with the dead – although it sure feels like that at some meetings I lead – so I can't ask them. Instead, I asked some friends how they think the founders might respond. No surprise, the answers were interesting. My friends never let a lack of information inhibit them from forming an opinion.

Pastor Jeff and Eric noted that Franklin, Jefferson, and Washington would be most surprised to see their faces on money. Of course, chances are they'd be using credit cards so they may never see themselves on the bills. Likewise, Matthew said, "All three founders may be shocked to know that today most males associate their historic names more with microbreweries and love of home distilleries than with the formation of the Quite a Few people noted that these founders would be struck by things we take for granted. Barry pointed out that they would be blown away by the number of people everywhere. The presence of big cities would be a big surprise for them, and they'd be amazed that Skinker served as any sort of a political boundary. Hey, that amazes me.

Sort of relatedly, since the Appalachian Mountains represented the Western boundary when these guys were alive, they'd be blown away to learn

of California, much less to think that our country extended that far, and even more that Arnold Schwarzenegger was elected governor. That also amazes me.

Of these founders, Jefferson died most recently, in 1826. Think of how astounded and gratified they would be to learn that their grand experiment still exists (at least thus far).

It would boggle their minds to learn that the U.S. now consists of 50 states, is occupied by hundreds of millions of people, and, get this, has an African American president! Prez Obama might be the biggest surprise of all to them. WOOSH!

Technological advances were cited by many, including the microwave oven, television, airplanes, birth control, instant coffee, big box stores, penicillin, and Michael Jackson.

Each of these creations amazes me, but then I'm not a good technology barometer; I'm still trying to figure how to program my VCR.

Several people mentioned how stunned the founders would be to see all of the ways that we communicate and the speed with which messages can be sent. Today we are drowning in inner-connectivity. We have e-mail, smart phones, texting, Tweets, Skype, on-line instruction, and virtual conferences. So much for solitude, reflection, and rumination. (Isn't it amazing that the quality of communication has not improved despite its pervasiveness and speed? Maybe the faster and clearer communication channels just make it easier and quicker to misunderstand.)

Clark distinguished among the three founders, and suggested that General Washington would be surprised at military "advances"; the quotes are there because he might question whether it's really progress to be able to kill so many, so quickly. After all, twenty million Russians died in WWII. Jefferson's eclectic interests would range from being stunned at tall buildings to the fact that everyone 21 or over can vote. He wouldn't be alone: Some of my Republican friends are still stunned by who gets to vote.

Franklin would be delighted at the evolution in science and would be amazed at the sexual revolution. Actually, given Franklin's interests, he would probably be amazed at the evolution in science and delighted at the sexual revolution.

Bahram, a friend from Iran, looks at our country from afar, and feels that our country's respect for human diversity would be the biggest change. He's right, of course; the founders would have a very hard time getting their heads around this (right, Presidents Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton?). Of course, perhaps because he is afar he views this respect as a bit more vibrant than someone living here might see it. Yes, we've made remarkable progress but we have a long way to go.

Dan says, "I think they would also be struck with the superficiality of our daily efforts."

You know, I think he's on to something here but I don't have the time to pursue it.

Matt said that the founders would be stunned by all of the old people. In 1789, the average life expectancy was 36.5 years, but it rose to 76.8 in the year 2000. I bet no one was worried about the solvency of Social Security back in 1789!

Marty says toasted ravioli, and Jan says pork steaks. I wonder where sushi falls in the list of foods that would surprise them. Honestly, sushi still surprises me. I mean, here I am ordering and eating RAW FISH!?! What about germs and unsanitary conditions?

Have I lost my mind? The only thing comparably appalling would be eating a bratwurst.

So changes abound. There's that WOOSH again. But a few folks, much wiser than Hawkeye (which isn't saying much), observed that the founders would also be struck by how much has not changed. People are people; most are good but some are knuckleheads. Dogs are loyal and see the best in their owners. No matter what we're doing, we never have enough time. And the Chicago Cubs still are still in last place.

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