

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 44, No. 2

Summer, 2014

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

FREE

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

Wash U to provide new lighting for Skinker

by Lana Stein

On May 6, a meeting open to the community was held following the regular Security Committee meeting to discuss Washington University's proposal for pedestrian lighting on Skinker. Cheryl Adelstein, the Director of Community Relations at the university led the discussion and called on representatives of Randy Burkett Lighting Design to explain the proposal in detail. There actually was such lighting here in 1949 but the existing poles now are geared to provide light to vehicular traffic. Many sections of Skinker are poorly lit for pedestrians. The Wash U plan is designed to make things safer for those who travel on foot. There have been 42 incidents on Skinker in the past year.



Skinker will soon be getting a significant number of new light fixtures, designed to make pedestrians safer.

The university will provide the pedestrian-based lighting, pay for its installation and also pay to maintain it. There will be 12 foot poles, spaced 40-45 feet apart-104 fixtures in all, 52 on each side of the street. There will be CCTV mountings and 6 blue

light phones. Adelstein said the new lighting would be compatible with the historic neighborhoods on both sides and would create more visual appeal, a boulevard look. Illuminating Engineering Society standards for street lighting will be utilized. It will be advanced LED lighting. Adelstein also said that, if approvals are obtained, construction will take place this summer.

At the meeting, there were some questions about the proposed lighting. One woman said it will show her more clearly to criminals. Another person wondered if the light would be too bright in nearby houses. But the SDCC Security Committee members unanimously endorsed this pedestrian-lighting proposal, believing it would increase safety. At its May meeting, the SDCC board also voted to support this project.



A previous tour garden, as it was visited by all the hosts to celebrate the success of the tour.

Breakfast Garden Tour is June 14th.

Join your neighbors for a delicious breakfast in the McPherson Community Garden, then discover beautiful places in our fine neighborhood. Breakfast starts at 8:30, and private gardens open from 9 to Noon. Tickets are only \$10 in advance, \$12 day of tour, children 10 to 15 years old \$5. What a great way to meet your neighbors and enjoy a morning in June! For more info contact the SDCC office 862 5122.

SDCC & WEAC Announce the 2014 BBQ Concert Series

By Kelcy Siddall, Community Engagement Coordinator, SDCC

SDCC and the West End Arts Council (WEAC) are excited to announce the 2014 BBQ Concert Series, featuring Non-Stop Reggae, Miss Jubilee, and the Better Block Project. Non-Stop Reggae will perform on June 28 and Miss Jubilee will perform during National Night Out on August 5.

Non Stop Reggae is one of St. Louis' best - known reggae bands. The band was a crowd favorite at last year's concert series and we're excited to welcome them back this year! Since 1998, NonStop Reggae has been presenting St. Louis, Missouri with the best of Reggae Culture. Comprised of veterans from groups like Reggae at Will, Son of Starchild, Kpangolo and Reggae Revue these five performers have developed a repertoire of hundreds of songs over years of performing. Non-Stop Reggae performs an exciting combination of classic roots rock reggae and modern reggae dance hits.

Miss Jubilee has been entertaining audiences around St. Louis and beyond since the beginning of 2007 with their exciting blend of authentic Hot Jazz, Swing, Rhythm & Blues and R'n'R spanning the 1920's-1950's. Fronted by a high energy female vocalist and backed up by a swingin' horn fueled rhythm section, Miss Jubilee is a favorite among Swing Dancers and fans of all ages who enjoy uplifting and energetic music!

This year, we will close out our concert series at the Skinker DeBaliviere Better Block Project. We are lining up talented local musicians from in and around the neighborhood who will perform in Four Corners Park and other locations along the Better Block route.



Non-Stop Reggae.

Food and drink will also be available for a small donation during the event as well. All proceeds will be donated to SDCC/WEAC to help cover the artists' fees. Skinker DeBaliviere residents and visitors from around the St. Louis area are encouraged to join us for this year's exciting concert series. If you would like more information, or if you would like to volunteer during a concert, contact Kelcy Siddall at 862-5122 or at sdcc@skinker-debaliviere.com.

Upcoming SDCC Events

By Kelcy Siddall, Community Engagement Coordinator, SDCC

Mark your calendars for a fun-filled summer in Skinker DeBaliviere! All events are FREE unless otherwise noted. For more information contact the SDCC office at (314) 862-5122 or sdcc@skinker-debaliviere.com. Check our website throughout the summer for the latest events and announcements! (www.skinker-debaliviere.com)

Upcoming events include:

WABASH STATION VISIONING SESSION - Saturday June 7, 8:30am-Noon (Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience (CSMB), 450 Des Peres Ave.) Come out and share your vision for how the Wabash Station could be revitalized as the primary entrance to the Delmar MetroLink Station.

TRAILNET BIKE RIDE: Invested Neighborhoods Bicycle Tour - Saturday June 28, 9:00am-Noon (Starts at Greg Freeman Park, 6000 Kingsbury Ave.) This ride journeys from Skinker DeBaliviere to the West End to Pagedale and beyond. Grab your bike, hit the St.

Vincent Greenway, and checkout revitalizing communities.

BETTER BLOCK PROJECT - Saturday September 13 (Des Peres Avenue) For one day in September, Skinker DeBaliviere residents will be putting up temporary installations that transform a portion of Des Peres Avenue (from the Wabash Station on Delmar Blvd to Greg Freeman Park at Kingsbury Ave) into the vibrant, walkable & bikable space that the neighborhood wants it to become. You won't want to miss this! See page 7 for ore information.

"A NIGHT OF ST. LOUIS WHIMSY!" Skinker DeBaliviere Homecoming - Saturday October 4. Joe's Cafe & Gallery, 6014 Kingsbury Ave. Celebrate our city's 250th birthday in Skinker DeBaliviere style! This year, we're shaking things up and creating a spectacular evening of entertainment at one of St. Louis's most unique venues. There are a lot of good causes to support, but this one really is in your own backyard!

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

I become extremely puzzled by those who do not acknowledge that our climate is changing. The wildfires in the west, the unprecedented snow falls, increasingly severe storms, and the incredible heat of 2011 and 2012 should help us see that something is going on. Scientists say the changes are in motion and will continue; the burning of carbon fuels is a director contributor to these changes. Denial serves the interests of those in the energy business, but it fails to serve your children, grandchildren, etc.

As an individual, there is not much I can do except substitute light bulbs that are halogen or LED, try to drive a fuel efficient car, and keep environmental concerns in mind when making decisions about policies and candidates.

There is one other thing we can all do that assists the environment in a small way and also mitigates a possible raise in trash removal costs. We can recycle. Yet, we all don't. Does it take that much effort to divide the trash into two bags? Recently, I went to put garbage in the dumpster and saw big cardboard boxes. Those can be recycled as can aluminum and steel cans, plastic bottles and containers (#1-5 and 7), milk and juice cartons, soup and juice boxes, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, scrap paper. Two neighbors indicated to me they didn't have the time or want to bother. I say, get with the program. Be ecological and economical at the same time.

Editors'note: in our April-May 2014 issue, we accidentally omitted this credit for Angie Meara's photo, AbbieTakesPictures.com. We regret the omission.

Computer Camp

Grace United Methodist Church, 6199 Waterman, is once again offering a one-of-a-kind summer computer camp. The camp, sponsored by the Breitmayer Community Ministry arm of Grace, in conjunction with Computer Village, will be held Monday - Thursday from 10:00am - 3:00pm the weeks of June 16, 23, 30 and July 7.

What is this camp? It is the opportunity for students grades 7 - 12 (entering in the fall) to learn all there is to know about computers. The camp is held in the newly renovated computer lab at Grace.

This camp is for students who DO NOT already have a computer of their own because, at the end of the camp, students get to take home a computer of their own!

Half the day is spent on software, including computer aided software drafting and 3-d printing. The other half of the day is spent taking apart and rebuilding computers. Lunch and a light breakfast are included. Please contact Sandy Marsh (314-726-6737) for more information or call the church office

(314-863-1992) for registration information.

6188 McPherson Building Rehab

by Lana Stein



Neville Vatcha, Karleen Hoerr, JoAnn Vatcha, Darlene Davidson, Lyda Krewson, Lana Stein, Liz Pund, and Venita Lake. toured the building with Washington University contractors and architects.

Active reconstruction of the large apartment building at 6188 McPherson, corner of Skinker, will soon wind down. Leasing will begin in mid-June. These apartments are basically studios with small square footage. However, each unit will be furnished and will contain a microwave, dishwasher and very modern kitchen. Tenants will also have wifi, and cable at no cost. The rents will range from \$768-1368. There will be one accessible unit per floor. As a flashback, units will have Murphy beds but in very modern cabinetry. In this redevelopment, a number of historic features have been preserved.

Washington University is the major, but not only, investor in this project. Parallel Properties has carried out the rehab. They have employed historic tax credits. To use the credits, the recipient has to be a for profit entity. (Washington U is a nonprofit.) Thus the 6188 building will be for-profit and subject to taxes. Alderman Lyda Krewson noted that "I am always happy to have properties back on the tax rolls." Occupancy is not restricted to students and the units are ideal for single occupants.

Parallel Properties plans to rehab 11 properties on Pershing



and Waterman in the next 2 years using the same motif.

It is open to everyone, not just students, and the units are ideal for single occupants.

Also of note: Feinberg Real Estate and the St. Louis Public Library Charing Cross Branch will be returning to the first floor of the building in late summer. A third commercial space will soon be available for lease. Parking for the building is still shared with Grace United Methodist Church on the north corner of McPherson and Skinker.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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

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

Deadline for next issue: August 15, 2014. Please send copy by e-mail to jvatcha@gmail.com or by disc to 6117 Westminster, St. Louis, MO 63112.

News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Let's get things started today with a big Skinker DeBaliviere welcome to Gerri Rochon and Andrea Watts who recently moved into their new home on the 6100 block of Waterman. They know the neighborhood well as their two daughters have attended St Roch for many years. Welcome Gerri, Andrea, Madison and Maya!

With summer vacation upon us and kids enjoying the longer days, it might be fun to catch up with what some of our neighborhood children have been keeping busy with the past couple of months. Much like the adults in our beautiful neighborhood; our youth are talented and busy!

Several young residents of the 5900 block of Pershing have performed recently. Seven year old Olive Meara was a munchkin and a flying cow in The Wizard of Oz production at the Stray Dog Theater. Olive is the daughter of Sean and Angie Meara.



Also sharing their talents with the St. Louis community was Nadine and Joseph Helf, eight year old twins. Proud parents are Val and Brian Helf.

Recently, two young Skinker DeBaliviere residents, along with two of their St. Roch classmates, spent a week filming a television show! Clara Barton of Parkview and Madison Fuller the 6100 block of Waterman, along with Alanna Hopson-Morris and Amanda Willingham were interviewed and selected out of over 100 applicants to appear in an episode of Sci Girls, which will air on PBS Kids in the Spring of 2015. The girls spent a week filming throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area in locations such as the Saint Louis Zoo, Shaw Nature Reserve, Forest Park and right in the backyard of the Barton's home in Parkview! The episode centers around frogs and amphibians that are indigenous to the St. Louis area. We will do our best to keep neighbors posted on the exact dates the show airs!



While on the subject of talented neighbors, we have been lucky to have a neighbor who has spent her years supporting the arts in St. Louis. Jill McGuire, of the 6100 block of Westminster, has announced that she will be retiring from her position as the executive director of the Regional Arts Commission at the end of the year. Jill was one of the founders of RAC and has served the organization for nearly 30 years. Thank you Jill for all you have done for St. Louis!

Rachel Ebeling of the 6300 block of Waterman in Parkview continues to keep busy with the Angel Band Project. Rachel is

co-founder and executive director of the Angel Band Project and recently held a fundraiser at Joe's Cafe. Supporters and music fans gathered



on May 10th to enjoy live music, bid on auction items, and support the continued programs that the Angel Band Project is funding.

Rachel was also recently honored by her alma mater, Nerinx High School. On May 2nd School celebrated their

Women of Excellence Awards which began in 1993 and evolved further in 1997 to honor fellow alumna who had distinguished themselves professionally and through volunteerism.

Rachel, a 1988 graduate of Nerinx, received the award for her community service and all that she does on behalf of the Angel Band Project and victims of sexual violence. Congratulations Rachel on this recognition and your continued success and dedication to the Angel Band Project!

Nick Kurtz of the 6100 block of Kingsbury graduated from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. Parents Paul and Katie Kurtz are very proud and happy to report that they are through sending their three boys through college!

Anton Gudiswitz, an eighth grader at St. Roch, participated in the 2014 Missouri Geographic Bee on April 2014. The annual event was held at Moberly Area Community College in Moberly. The event is sponsored by National Geographic Society, Google and Plum Creek. He was one of 100 students around the state to participate in the finals. Students ranged from grade 4 to grade 8. To make it to the finals, students had to have won the geography bee at their school and then take a written exam. The top 100 scorers moved to the finals. This is the second time that Anton participated at the state level. He also participated in 2010 when he was in fourth grade. While at the finals, Anton did not make it past the preliminary round, but he did meet his goal of answering 6 of 9 questions correctly. (Students had just 15 seconds to provide the correct answer.) The winner moved on to represent Missouri at the National Geographic Bee in Washington, DC in May. Anton is the son of Joe Gudiswitz and Ligaya Figueras and resides on the 6100 block of Washington. Great job Anton!

And regular readers of this column are well aware that unfortunately, we have to pass along some sad news about our neighbors. As I often remind myself, I remind you, that we need to celebrate the lives of these friends, and the beautiful ways in which they touched their friends, family, and neighbors.



On April 2nd longtime Parkview resident, Kathy (Duckett) Moldthan, lost her courageous battle with cancer. Kathy grew up in Parkview, and then along with her husband John, raised her sons,

John Jr. and Tommy here in Parkview as well. Kathy's beautiful smile and enthusiasm for life were inspiring, even while she fought her cancer. Our condolences go out to all of the Duckett family, especially her parents, and most certainly to the love of her life, John Moldthan, and their boys.

Just a week later, Skinker DeBaliviere lost another longtime friend and neighbor, Marlene Mestres. Marlene passed away on April 9th. Marlene was mother of seven and energetic supporter



of all things Skinker-DeBaliviere. She and her husband Joe, two of the neighborhood's true urban pioneers, lived on the 6100 block of Kingsbury for many years. In addition to raising seven children and caring for Joe, she also worked at St. Louis Community College for

35 years, retiring as Executive Assistant to the President. Our sympathies go out to Marlene's family and to her fiance, Bill Schiller, with whom she shared a love of neighborhood, St. Roch's and family, for the past five years.

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".



Welcome to new SDCC staff

by Lana Stein

In March, the SDCC hired Mr. Kelcy Siddall to be its Community Engagement Coordinator, working with new Executive Director Liz Pund.

Kelcy is a product of the St. Louis area. He grew up here and graduated from Normandy Senior High. While starting college, he joined the Air National Guard. He spent 6 years in the Guard and after leaving he finished his B.A. at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He was an Economics major. He then enrolled in the Masters in Public Policy Administration at UMSL and completed that degree.

Asked whether he enjoyed his new job, Siddall replied that "This is a wonderful, wonderful neighborhood--very diverse and very welcoming." He is happy to be here serving the community. In fact he has recently leased an apartment in the new Gotham Building at Hamilton and Delmar.

Market News

by Jo Ann Vatcha



Long Acres Farm and the family of Jimmy Schneider have been fixtures at the Market in the Loop for many years. They bring fresh fruits and vegetables to their booth every Thursday-Friday-Saturday from 8:30-5:00 throughout the year. Now they have company on Saturday mornings, as the Midtown Farmers Market moves to the great market in the loop location on Delmar.

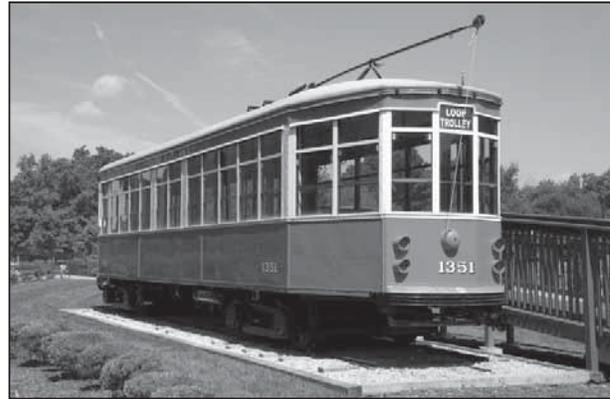
Every Saturday morning this summer, you can look for organic and free range choices and items from nearby farms that will excite your family. Some of the items are Free-Range Eggs; Award Winning Goat Cheeses; 100% Organic Grass Fed Beef; Missouri Rainbow Trout; Piedmontese All Cuts Natural Beef, Woodland and Pasture Raised Pork, Poultry and Eggs, and more.

Farms represented are Baetje Farms, Biver Organic Farm, Buila Family Farm, Elixir Organic Farm, Lily Lane Farms, Riverbend Roots Farm, Rockbridge Trout Farm, Silent Oaks Farm, Southern Breeze

Farm, Sugar Creek Piedmontese, Windy Lake Farm. The names alone make your mouth water!

There are also artisan specialties such as Black Bear Bakery---Red Fox Bakery Little Dipper Chocolate---Del Carmen Foods---Stringbean Coffee---Traveling Tea, and much more.

Neighbor Gale Fitzpatrick emailed a report on her recent visit to the market: "It was wonderful. In recent years we've been going to Tower Grove and Kirkwood to get local produce. I was so happy to see what has been done to the market. It's more than double in size. It's still early in the season for local produce. But, there were mushrooms, lettuce, root vegetables AND strawberries from Ill. Fresh eggs, meats, String bean coffee (Carl- yum), Red Fox bakery, to mention a few. Del Carmen black beans and black bean soup is fantastic - we get them at the Maplewood market. And I'm ready for Twilight Tuesdays with Baetje Farms cheese (Dark Chocolate Raspberry this week)."



Here Comes the Loop Trolley!

By Lana Stein

A major court suit attempting to stifle the development of the Loop Trolley has been dismissed by the federal court. According to trolley proponent Joe Edwards, it will soon be full steam ahead. Edwards told the TIMES that there will be a groundbreaking ceremony in midsummer and construction will be able to start soon thereafter. The trolley will be the first clean electric transit in our region.

The Loop Trolley is a planned 2.2-mile fixed-route electric trolley linking University City and Forest Park in St. Louis, with a stop at the Missouri History Museum. The Loop Trolley is one of only five proposed projects

out of 65 nationwide to receive a \$25 million Urban Circulator Grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The FTA grant is the major funding source for the \$43 million project. There is also significant funding from a one cent transportation district sales tax, which has been in effect for some years, creating a fund to match the federal dollars and assist in maintenance and operating costs.

Visit www.looptrolley.com and sign up for email updates by clicking on the "Join Email List" button. You can also "like" the Loop Trolley's new Facebook page at www.facebook.com/looptrolley.

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2014 Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program

By Liz Pund, Executive Director, SDCC

Now in its 4th year in the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood, the Lee Farms Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program delivers a weekly share of produce to SD residents - and nearby neighbors! - who have signed up to receive a box all season.

Share boxes contain 6 to 10 items and weigh approximately 7 to 10 pounds. The weight of the box will fluctuate across the season as a box containing the early season lettuces and greens will not weigh the same as a box containing potatoes and melons or winter squash and pumpkins. Boxes are delivered for twenty weeks, June thru October. You may take one "vacation week" to skip a delivery and get your final box in the 21st week.

The Lee family will again be offering the popular farm tour in 2014 so you have the opportunity to see first-hand how and where your food is grown and experience some fun on the farm! They take

pride in the fact that everything you receive in your Lee Farms CSA share box is grown by the family right on their farm in Truxton!

The 2014 CSA is now accepting signups for new and returning members. To reserve your spot in the 2014 Lee Farms CSA, just send in your registration form along with 50 percent of your share price. The remaining 50 percent balance will be due by June 30th. The sign-up period will remain open until the program reaches capacity. A note from the Lee family about changes to this year's program and the registration form are available on SDCC's website, www.skinker-debaliviere.com.

If you have any questions about the 2014 CSA, please don't hesitate to email the Lee family at rusty@leefarms.net or call Rusty on his cell at (314) 954-0551.

"We are looking forward to growing food for your family again this year!" -Rusty, Teresa, William & Doralynn Lee

Kids Corner



By Andy Cross

The traffic barrier posts behind the playground at Greg Freeman Park were revitalized on April 4th with the help of the St. Roch Troop 2637, 5th grade, led by Molly Rater. The SD Beautification Committee sanded, primed, and repainted the posts, then cut new stencils similar to the original designs. The stencils are a colorful collection of birds, frogs, butterflies, skinks, lizards, snails, and even a few grasshoppers. When the posts were originally installed, just after the construction of the playground, the beautification committee designed and cut stencils and recruited the St. Roch Girl Scout troop #3528 for the original decorations. Through the years, rust and weather had taken a toll on the posts and the artwork as well. This year we used a new kind of marine quality paint for the basecoat. Thanks to the charming choices of color and the handiwork of the Girl Scouts our playground posts are beautiful once again.--Andy Cross



Dog Show! -

Tuesday June 10, 7:00pm (Greg Freeman Park, 6000 Kingsbury Ave.) You & your pup are invited to a Dog Show! Folks who don't have a dog are also encouraged to attend!

There will be prizes for fluffiest dog, biggest and smallest dog, best trick, & more!

Alley cleanup was again the focus for some of our neighbors on Brightside Blitz Day, May 7. Here are (foreground) Leah Nguyen with little Jenna Tiede and Jenna's grandparents, Jim and Ginny Hartley at work in their alley in the 6000 block of McPherson.

by Kim Schoenfeld



Nextdoor Skinker DeBaliviere

By Katie Kurtz

It all started with a badly worn wood floor in our kitchen. Although it is only fourteen years old, due to a variety of mistakes, it was looking older and we were starting to get splinters. The way our house is laid out, the kitchen is open to the dining room, front hall and basement (where the dog door is as well as where their dishes are). As a family of adults, we could have the discipline to avoid the kitchen for the three days (extra frig and microwave in the basement), but the dogs, not so much. We considered boarding them, which not only would add to the cost of the project, but Jordan is pretty much deaf and we weren't certain how he would do. Somewhere in my memory I remembered getting an email about a new social network which was pretty much limited to the neighborhood. I thought if I could get several baby gates, we could keep them off the floors. So I joined Nextdoor Skinker DeBaliviere and

within a day I had offers to borrow several. We were able to keep the dogs out of the kitchen and off the basement stairs leading up to it. The floor looks better than when it was first laid.

Posted subjects have ranged from free brick pavers, requests (and subsequent recommendations and negative reports) for HVAC companies, painters, handymen, plumbers, etc., as well as comments about dogs off leashes, alley dumping, and neighborhood swimming pool memberships. It's a national network, which is organized by local neighborhoods. It's pretty private, the user can determine the amount of personal information available, although one does need to provide an email address and street address in order for the data base to locate the exact neighborhood. Responses to queries can be public to the entire group or individual. To start, go to nextdoor.com.



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I'm a five year Skinker-DeBaliviere resident who graduated from Washington University School of Law in 2012. My legal experience includes: estate planning, small businesses, real estate, landlord/tenant, traffic, family law. The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements.

Rachel Boxdorfer

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*I live in the city,
I sell the city,
I love the city!*



Remembering My Mom

by Cristina McGroarty

You may remember from our column last May that it is one crazy month here at the McGroarty house of mayhem. Not a whole lot of restaurant eating going on this month. So indulge me if you will as I write about my mom and honoring her memory this month of May.

On September 28, 2014, Saint Louis Ovarian Cancer Awareness (SLOCA) will hold its sixth annual Rise n' Shine, Yoga for SLOCA event in the World's Fair Pavilion in Forest Park. This event has come to mean a great deal to me, and I would like to share this story with the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood.

My own unfortunate involvement with ovarian cancer began 11 years ago this August, when my mom, Mary Fleener, was diagnosed with stage 3C Ovarian Cancer. Before then, I had no familiarity with the disease that eventually took her life.

Ovarian cancer begins silently, and is the deadliest of gynecologic cancers. Each year, almost 22,000 women are diagnosed with the disease, and each year, more than 15,000 die from it. Few women know the symptoms, and medicine has not yet developed an early screening test. As a result, when the disease is finally caught, it typically has progressed to the point where treatment options are limited.

75% of ovarian cancer patients are diagnosed in Stage 3 or Stage 4. At that point, the disease has a 70 to 90 percent rate of recurrence after treatment. It is very difficult to cure; many patients can only hope to manage it as a chronic disease (statistics available on SLOCA.org).

My mom's diagnosis (stage 3C) in August of 2003 took her completely by surprise, and turned our family's world upside-down. Despite the shock, her spirit did not waiver. Friends referred to her lovingly as, "The Hurricane." Mary Denise did everything at full speed, and battling cancer was no different.

Nothing would stand in her way. She vowed to beat this disease, and for five years, she did.

A year of surgery and chemotherapy kept her alive, but it also weakened her immune system, leading to an even deadlier diagnosis: melanoma. Still, she battled on. But, after four years of ping-pong treatments between both diseases, her battered body could no longer keep up with her ferocious will.

One more task remained. On Labor Day weekend of 2008, we traveled to Chicago for her



Cristina, Molly, and Mary Fleener

grandson Henry's (my sister Molly's oldest) baptism. Her body was severely weakened from years of treatment, but that was not going to stop her from missing Henry's big day. As we left the church in Chicago, she leaned on her walker, smiled, and exclaimed, "I MADE IT!" She had indeed! Most people as sick as Mary Denise was would have sent their regrets, crawled into bed, and refused to come out. Not my mom.

My mom's body had just enough strength. That same day, she was hospitalized in Chicago. She made it back to St. Louis in October, and then to her beloved little home in Parkview in December. Mary Denise died January 27th, 2009 surrounded by her cherished family and devoted friends.

A year and a half later, my emotional wounds were still pretty raw, and I wanted nothing to do

with this horrible disease. Then my friend and Skinker-DeBaliviere neighbor, Nancy Kramer invited, me to a yoga event to raise awareness for ovarian cancer. It was called Rise n' Shine, Yoga for SLOCA. The idea intrigued me because it combined some of my favorite things: good friends, yoga and Forest Park. The fact that it was an event for ovarian cancer awareness made it a good fit for a Sunday morning.

I did not really know what to expect. What I found on that muggy August morning in Forest Park was

many hearts and bodies connected in the cause to raise awareness of ovarian cancer. Some come just to witness the event and soak in its healing power. There is a small silent auction, and all money raised will benefit SLOCA.

My friend and Yogi instructor extraordinaire, Michelle Abounader, started Rise n' Shine in 2009 after ovarian cancer touched her life. Michelle's dear friend Amy Bell's maternal aunt was diagnosed with Stage 4 Ovarian Cancer. Amy wanted to put on the event to raise awareness but wanted to do something different than a 5K. Six years ago, yoga was not as popular as it is now, so it felt different and appropriate. So Rise n' Shine was born, and six years later, it continues to thrive. This year, to honor my mom, I am on the planning committee and I feel mom's presence.

The 6th Annual Rise n' Shine, Yoga for SLOCA will take place this year in Forest Park in the World's Fair Pavilion on Sunday September 28th. You can go to the SLOCA.org website. Look under the EVENTS section for more details and to sign up.

For more information about the event, or if you would like to sponsor me as I complete 108 SunSalutations, please contact me at mcgroarty@sbcglobal.net. I would love for you to join me!

Love and miss you mom!

Do you know the signs of Ovarian Cancer?

For years, women have known that ovarian cancer was not the silent killer it was said to be. Over the past decade, science has confirmed what women have long known: ovarian cancer has symptoms.

The symptoms are:

- Bloating
- Pelvic or abdominal pain
- Difficulty eating or feeling full
- Urinary symptoms (urgency or frequency)

See your doctor, preferably a gynecologist, if you have these symptoms more than 12 times during the course of one month and the symptoms are new or unusual for you (www.ovariancancer.org).

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce "Adelante Award" for Civic Leadership given to Cecilia Nadal, Gitana Executive Director

The theme of the Adelante 2014 Awards held on April 25 was CONNECT, COLLABORATE, CULTIVATE. For those of you who know Cecilia, this was a theme dear to her heart and indeed constitutes the central strategy for Gitana Productions. She was recognized for the work of Citana Productions that champions cross-cultural engagement through the arts in St. Louis. Cecilia was in great company with a "Life-time Achievement Award" given to Jaime Torres, "Member of the Year" to Tony Maldonado, "Business Person of the Year" to Carmen Jacob and "Emerging Business of the Year," Ke Buena Radio to name a few.

Cecilia is Afro-Latina with both African American and Latino

heritage so the Adelante award was an immense honor for Cecilia for many reasons, including the fact that her father was Puerto Rican and her dearest cousin Luis Torres Nadal, a well-known Puerto Rican playwright believed in artistic works that promoted meaningful change. As Cecilia puts it, "I was blessed when I came to this earth with mixed heritage because it has given me a vision that does not see



color or ethnicity as the defining factor in human relations. On the other hand the very best qualities that come from Latin culture and African American experience have made me a passionate soldier for cross-cultural engagement and problem solving."

Kudos to Karlos Ramirez, President of the Hispanic Chamber and volunteers for an evening described by Cecilia as "totally awesome in every detail!"

On June 14 Gitana will present Karamu: Fiesta of Latin and African American Music at Union Avenue Christian Church. The best Latin and African American Jazz artists in St. Louis will be brought together near the so-called Delmar Divide and our objective is to contribute to more unity and cultural sharing. The pre-show events that evening includes Salsa lessons and dancing, an art exhibit and 10 Mexican restaurants will compete for the "Best Salsa" in St. Louis. For those of you who are fans of Denise Thimes, (I am definitely a fan!) you will hear her sing in Spanish for the first time. Tickets for KARAMU event are available at www.gitana-inc.org.

Ready to Start Researching a St. Louis Ancestor?

By Venita Lake

As part of its participation in the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of St. Louis, the St. Louis Genealogical Society is scheduling workshops for individuals or families who want to learn about their St. Louis ancestors (or maybe more about the families who have lived in their St. Louis house). These free workshops are aimed at those who may have very little knowledge about researching family history. In a scheduled one and a half-hour meeting with a genealogy expert, you can learn how to complete some basic forms, see what records are available for your research, and discover what steps to take next.

Current dates are Saturdays, June 14, July 12, and August 9, 2014, and will run from 10:00-11:30 or 11:30-1:00. Advance registration is required, and participants are asked to submit answers to some basic questions

about the person you wish to research.

Registration forms are available on the St. Louis Genealogical Society website at <http://www.stlgs.org/>.

My husband, Rick, and I had thought our own St. Louis heritage was fairly recent, my grandparents and his parents being the earliest that we were aware of for a long time. Rick's mother, however, had said that one of his great grandfathers on her side had farmed in Forest Park. While it took more than an hour and a half, we have found James W. Elley, a great-great-grandfather, living in the Thomas Skinker household as a "laborer" in the 1850 census in Central Township, marrying a Welsh immigrant, and later, owning land on Manchester before he moved to central Missouri. Following up on family stories and bits of information has been fun.

The 2014 Skinker DeBaliviere State Fair: City Farming at its Best!

By Kristina Stierholz



by Diana Urnsley - West End Word

We invite residents of the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood and other City neighborhoods to submit entries for competition. Now is the time to begin your work growing, canning, sewing, sawing, and (practice) baking! The bounty of the summer will be on display on September 13th at our annual State Fair. This year, the State Fair will be part of the Better Block event as we consider ideas about how to incorporate all of our city agriculture into our neighborhood's fabric.

Entries must be grown, raised, or made within the City of St. Louis. We will also offer separate judging for "junior" entries for children under the age of 16.

The categories for entry are: Produce (Vegetables, Fruit), Livestock, Flowers, Preserves, Baked foods, Needlecrafts, Handcrafts/Industrial Arts.

Judging will be based on the National Center for Home Food Preservation guidelines, available at http://nchfp.uga.edu/publications/nchfp/tech_bull/OJudging_Preserved_full.pdf We plan to use the DanishSystem for judging, with the addition of a Best in Show prize. Experts will be offering lectures on food preservation (canning, drying, brewing, fermenting).

Nursery Caregiver Position

Grace United Methodist Church is seeking an enthusiastic and compassionate individual to help lead our Children's Nursery program on Sunday mornings from 8am until Noon. Applicants are required to complete an online training course and background check, for which they will gladly be reimbursed. A boundless imagination and willingness to learn from the wonder of children is highly encouraged. Interested persons are welcome to contact the office of Grace UMC at 314-863-1992, or via e-mail secretary@graceumc-stl.org.

August 23 House History Workshop

The Missouri History Museum Library and Research Center holds a wealth of resources to help you learn about the history of your house and its former inhabitants. These resources include city directories, census records, neighborhood histories, photographs, maps, and much more. Missouri History Museum associate archivist Dennis Northcott will show examples of these resources and provide instruction on how to get started researching the history of your house.

The next house history workshop takes place Saturday, August 23, at 9:30 a.m., at the Library and Research Center. Reservations are required; call 314-361-9017.

Des Peres Better Block Event Takes Shape!

by Anders Carlsson

The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council is organizing a Better Block event along Des Peres Avenue, on September 13, 2014. What is a Better Block event? Officially, it is "a demonstration tool that acts as a living charrette so that communities can actively engage in the buildout process and provide feedback in real time." In plain English, it is a way for residents to imagine different (re)uses that might be found for underused lots and buildings in our neighborhood. Some of the projects underway embody ideas that come out of the Skinker DeBaliviere Urban Design and Development Plan that was developed last year. For inspiration, check out the YouTube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntwqVDzdqAU>, which gets across the big picture nicely.

Under the leadership of Liz Pund and Kelcy Siddall of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, a group has been meeting regularly to get a number of projects going. Each project will be a "mock-up" of a potential use for a particular place. Michael Whisenhunt is working to drum up interest in reading, by getting a bookmobile to the event and putting a Little Free Library at the Four Corners. A Little Free Library is a box (fancy or simple) where anyone can go to donate a book or to take one. Check out <http://littlefreelibrary.org/ourhistory/>, which gives some background.

For refreshments, we will have both food and drink. Andy Cross will be assembling a pop-up restaurant with cuisine yet to be determined. Bob Oesch plans to run a "Beer & Beer" garden, including a pop-up microbrewery (remember, the Merriam Webster definition of "skinker" is "one that serves liquor!") Bob plans to get neighborhood brewers involved as

well, and also to serve non-alcoholic beverages such as root beer, so we can have a real "sip of Skinker-DeBaliviere". Katrina Stierholz will be running the Skinker DeBaliviere State Fair, where residents of all neighborhoods in the City, and Parkview, are invited to submit entries for competition. Leah Nguyen plans to run a Community Art Activity, where she will both paint and help participants paint. She plans to make "Mandalas" - circular artworks on the ground made from a clay slip material. Stephanie Weiskopf, resident, is working on the dog park and a yoga demonstration. Dan Schesch will do a mock-up of a separated bike path along Des Peres Avenue. The Neighborhood Services Committee will distribute information about our neighborhood. Anders Carlsson (yours truly) is recruiting musicians/bands who are willing to contribute their time and skill to the event, and is investigating possible uses for a proposed redevelopment of the Wabash Station on Delmar, next to the Metrolink stop. Nate Johnson will be mocking up buildings on some empty lots along Des Peres where the zoning calls for residential buildings. The day will conclude on a high note with the final installment of our Summer Concert Series.

We need help! If you can contribute your time (or tools/materials) to any of the above efforts, please contact Kelcy Siddall at kelcy.siddall@skinker-debaliviere.com, and/or come to our next planning meeting at the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office, 6008 Kingsbury. Also, consider attending the visioning session for the Wabash Station on Saturday June 7, 8:30am-noon, at the Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience, 450 Des Peres Ave.

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Garavelli's Grand Tradition

by Jo Ann Vatcha

The corner of DeBaliviere and DeGiverville is (for now) a plain old strip mall, but for more than seventy years it held a magnificent German-style building that housed an Italian man's American Dream. Garavelli's was one of the jewels of the DeBaliviere Strip.

Joe Garavelli came to the US from Italy in 1901 at the tender age of 17 to join his brothers in NYC. His father was a government official in Bassignana in Northern Italy. "I got so homesick I couldn't stand it, so I told my brothers they had better send me back home. They did," he told Post-Dispatch writer Dickson Terry in 1964. "Before he boarded the ship, he stopped in Macy's and bought a new hat, a handsome felt of dark blue. 'When I got back to Italy, my friends all laughed at me,' he said. 'They wanted to know why had I come back? I told them I had just gone to America to buy myself a new hat.'"

He returned to the US in 1903 and became a citizen in 1909 while working at Cafferata's Cafe, just north of DeBaliviere on Delmar. He soon began to scout locations for his own restaurant and tavern. He found just the spot at the corner of DeBaliviere and DeGiverville, and the owner of the land was none other than the Anheuser-Busch family. The brewery actually built the original Garavelli's for his business in 1914 (see the traditional stork on its chimney nest?), and they promoted it relentlessly in their Bevo Tattler Magazine for the brewery trade.

Of course, this was during the time that the Anti-Saloon League was promoting prohibition, and it took Joe three long years to gain the support of the neighborhood to even sell beer. He recounted in later interviews how he survived by making sandwiches for the "motormen" who saw the place from the streetcars and started coming in.



Missouri History Museum



"Here they are - men, women and children - all Joe's friends."

and its marble fountain,... Garavelli's became an institution," said the Post-Dispatch. Many of these pictures are in bound collection by photographer C. Trefs, circa 1930, and preserved by the Missouri History Museum. They include the formal portrait of Garavelli himself we've shown here.



Missouri History Museum

During Prohibition, which lasted until 1933, and throughout the Great Depression, Garavelli's survived and thrived, with Joe greeting everyone with "Hello, my friend." During the worst years of the depression, "Joe never turned down a man because he was broke. Word



Garavelli's Restaurant, St. Louis. Built in 1926. Corubia and Henderson, St. Louis, Architects. A.B.M. Currubia, Designer.

Missouri History Museum

of this got around, and when the depression was at its worst there was a steady stream of the hard-up to Joe's back door, all of whom received a sort of box lunch Joe had devised to meet the situation. He handed out as many as 150 box lunches a day...the WPA workers in Forest Park and other places in the West End had reason to be grateful to Joe, too. Every day a WPA truck pulled up to the back door with orders for sandwiches and pie, orders Garavelli filled at reduced prices--10 cents for a big sandwich and 10cents for a man-sized slab of pie."

The restaurant was clearly a popular hangout for students at Washington University, seen in this ad in the WU yearbook in 1930. He even donated \$ 10,000 to buy a collection of rare books there. The donation stayed anonymous until WU asked permission to add new bookplates in 1944.



"Don't this scene make you want a juicy sandwich and a bottle of 'Bud'? On a raw November afternoon more than 1,000 girls flocked into Joe's place for such a treat."

Missouri History Museum

catering manager of the Chase Hotel, but Joe stayed on. In 1952, the business was again sold, this time to baseball great Stan Musial and his partner "Biggie" Garagnani, who said "we are aware that it is a St. Louis landmark, and we're going to do the right thing by it." Their

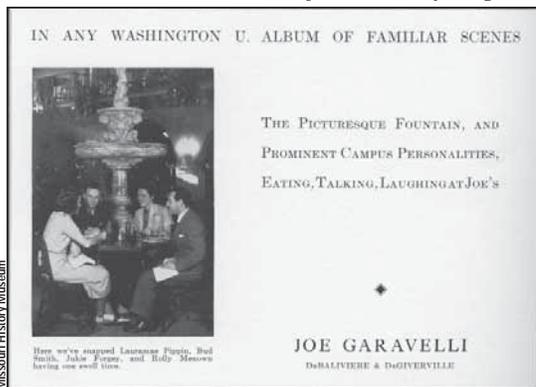


The Garavelli fountain was sold and moved in 1955 to the Ladue home of businessman Sid Salomon, Jr., and donated to the City of St. Louis in 1973 by then-owner Morton Zalk. Southwest Bank helped sponsor the installation of the fountain at the Kingshighway-Vandeventer intersection. It now graces the entrance of the St. Louis Public Library Branch at that location. The magnificent chandelier sold at auction in 1974 for just over \$ 5,250.

Missouri History Museum

plans never materialized, but instead Byron Tompras leased the property, and, for the next 18 years, he continued many of the Garavelli's traditions, including Joe himself, who lived nearby on Pershing and came to the restaurant nearly every day.

Joe Garavelli died in 1968; the area itself was in decline, with the Stardust and other dubious businesses accelerating the downhill slide. Tompras left in 1973 and shortly after, "the death knell for a St. Louis landmark was sounded"...when the contents were sold at public auction...the 84 foot bar was knocked down for \$ 70." For more than a decade, the building remained abandoned and suffered inexcusable decay. In the mid 1980's, a restoration project was announced, amid the deservedly heralded redevelopment of DeBaliviere Place by the Pantheon Corporation, but by July of 1987, they had sold the property to Mestman-Restnik Development, who applied for a demolition permit. Many neighbors



Missouri History Museum

protested as the Heritage and Urban Design Commission debated and finally approved demolition of the historic buildings. The May, 1987, issue of the TIMES gave the details, with heartbreaking photos by King Schoenfeld. But by July, all the Post-Dispatch could do was cover the demolition. Rita Cohen, who lived next door during the 20's, recalled the wonders of this great restaurant and how she sat and watched the grand "touring cars" that parked on DeBaliviere. The beautiful restaurant made DeBaliviere a famous destination.

The Girl Who Owned DeBaliviere

By Marj Weir and Jo Ann Vatcha



Family of Rita Cohen

Rita Marie Weslik lived on DeBaliviere during the 20's. There will be more of her memories in a future issue about DeBaliviere's trains and streetcars.

In the 1920's the five blocks of DeBaliviere were a distinctly different place. Families were raised in the apartments above the store fronts that filled the street then. One small girl of eight was living at 311a, above Charles Young's grocery store. To Young's on the south was Ted's pool room, which was much later to morph into the Stardust Lounge. South of that was Garavelli's lovely and elegant restaurant and the Garavelli's Tap Room.

Our young friend's free time was spent leading her little "gang" of neighborhood friends. Returning home from St. Roch's School, she would rollerskate a circuit from home, around the block onto DeGiverville, up to Waterman, back east to DeBaliviere, in a triangle requiring no crossing



Missouri History Museum

This photo reveals the garden at Garavelli's at the rear. Perhaps the carefully spaced holes in the center are part of the birdhouse display Rita remembers.

of streets. On her way she would stop at Garavelli's, where Joe, who called her "Jimmy," would give her a treat from his side door entrance on DeGiverville, from the marble counter where he cut cheeses and meats for his famous sandwiches. She might go up the stairs to where the pie lady worked in the heat baking



Family of Rita Cohen

Rita with son Jim (Jacques) and daughter Renee L'Ecuyer.

pies. This was during Prohibition when Joe Garavelli transformed his bar into a soft drink attraction and focused on making his restaurant one of St. Louis' best.

Later she might skate to Petmueller's Waterman Pharmacy at the corner of Waterman and DeBaliviere, passing the Chinese laundry and Schoenfeld's shoe store (later the Apollo Theater), she might have looked across the street to see the a group of large sign boards. Next to it she remembers a "Putt Putt Golf Course", and later, the Parkmoor Restaurant. Further north, near the intersection with Waterman was a Shell station which had a soda machine where the kids would collect bottlecaps to get a free soda.

Her block of DeBaliviere was home to what we would call "Mom and Pop" businesses, like Louis Lopresto's shoe repair owned by a gentleman from Palermo, Italy. Velvet Freeze was near the Wabash RR where a "little man came out of a little house to lower the arm to pass."

The children would sit on the fence right by the tracks. Another Italian family, Tony and Helen Viviano had a clothing store in the old hotel at the corner of Pershing where one could see people lounging on the porch and watching the trains.

She became a favorite of a Greek couple named Kollias who ran a watermelon garden in the summer on the east side of DeBaliviere at Pershing.

Steve Kollias' restaurant was listed in many directories of that era, along with the fabulous Garavelli's restaurant directly across the street.

In the summer from her back porch she could see and hear the exotic birds that were presented in a huge cage at the rear of the main dining room of Garavelli's, virtually in her back yard. From the front stairs, she could see the "touring cars" that brought the rich from Lindell and beyond to have Garavelli's great food delivered to their cars, daydreaming about the day she would be in one of those grand cars. She remembers the incredible decor of Garavelli's with its brass doors she thought were gold.

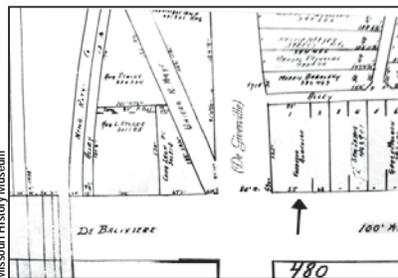
She and her Irish mother would walk over to the Jefferson Memorial and see Lindbergh's trophies and all the treasures. Once the girl and her club found a cardboard valise buried in the ground and filled it with garden snakes to scare her mother. But mother had the last laugh when she told the kids that "those snakes have families" so they had to be returned to their "home" in the park!

During her teen years, while living on Waterman, she recalled "cashiering" at Grace Piccone's Apollo Theatre and babysitting for the Piccone's daughter, Anita. This was years after she and her gang sat on the Piccone's "stoop" at 5710 Waterman to share the treats she had gathered in her roller-skating tour of DeBaliviere.

In the 30's she lived at 5748 Kingsbury, near the Jewish Temple on DeBaliviere. When she grew up, she married and moved to Clayton.

Her first two children were Jacques and Denise L'Ecuyer. For those who haven't been in the neighborhood for a long time, it should be mentioned that Jacques (Jim) L'Ecuyer was the first Executive Director of The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. He and his wife Glorianna raised their family on the 5700 block of DeGiverville, where Glori still lives. She arranged for our interview with her mother-in law, a much-appreciated privilege.

These years made her feel proprietary about the street, and she said she felt she "owned" DeBaliviere. Her name is Rita Marie Cohen now, and she is 93 years old. She remembers those years vividly and generously shared some time with us.



Who knew?

The 1905 Plat books for St. Louis show that Eberhard Anheuser, founder of the Anheuser-Busch dynasty, owned the property later occupied by Garavelli's bar and dining room. (see arrow) The plat found at the Mercantile Library, where this photo was taken, shows his first name as Eberhade, but another plat at the Missouri History Museum shows it clearly as Eberhard. Thanks to both Mercantile Library at UMSL and the Missouri History Museum--Marj Weir.

Upcoming History

Author's Note:

Our series about the history of DeBaliviere will continue in upcoming issues. We have been gratified by the response we've received from neighbors and former neighbors alike, leading to several personal interviews, such as the wonderful conversation detailed in this issue with Rita Marie Cohen. Those interviews are not only essential to our "getting it right", but also enlightening and enriching. There have also been reminders of what we haven't yet covered. One unsigned note to the TIMES mentioned more than just names of restaurants, but also the notation "whites-only". We are working on that research and plan to delve into that in upcoming articles. In addition, we have scheduled interviews that will explore the exciting but complicated music scene that made DeBaliviere an important part of our city's history. That's all still to come as we continue our exploration. We are also working on a new SD History Website, which will enable us to include many more photographs and data. If you have information to impart or would like to be interviewed or know someone who would, contact us at jvatcha@gmail.com or call 726-6974. Notes written to SDCC at 6008 Kingsbury will also reach us. Thanks for reading!

It's easy to view the above photos in a larger size when you view the TIMES online. And you can also let us know if you have comments or wish to be informed about the future history website. Go to "Contacts" on the home page: <http://sdtimes.org/index.html>.



STL VILLAGE CELEBRATES GRAND LAUNCH

STL VILLAGE showed its new model for "aging in community" while staying active and socially involved at its Grand Launch April 12, 2014 at the Missouri History Museum (Lindell and DeBaliviere in Forest Park). Arthur J. Culbert, PhD, Interim Executive Director of STL Village described the formation and benefits of the Village here in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

STL Village is part of a national network of 125 Villages throughout the United States. This nonprofit grassroots membership organization was created to assist people 50+ who desire to reside in their homes and continue to be active in their community and remain socially connected. This membership based organization will offer its members 24/7 access to supportive services provided

by trained volunteers and vetted service suppliers to assist them with their transportation needs and household and personal care. In addition, STL Village will organize a wide range of social activities that will promote and encourage lifelong learning and physical activity.

According to Arthur J. Culbert, "STL Village will address the needs of the rapidly increasing senior population in our service area who desire to "age in community. It is our plan to serve as a model for other neighborhoods that want to start a Village in their community. We have done the groundwork and are excited to assist with the development of other Villages in the area."

To learn more about STL Village, visit www.stlvillage.org.

Shake38 Reading of King Lear held in Skinker DeBaliviere



On Thursday, April 24th experience needed" reading of Shakespeare's King Lear. The event was part of Shake38, a celebration of Shakespeare's 38 plays presented by 38 groups at 38 different locations that is sponsored by the Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis. Most of those in the SDCC group have never been drama majors or actors but everyone enjoyed picking a part from a hat then reading (very dramatically!!!) that character's lines. Many in the group came from our neighborhood but we had several people from other areas who heard about the reading and wanted to participate including our State Rep, Karla May, and our

youngest Shakespeare lover – the 5 month old daughter of one of our cast! She did not have a speaking part this year but who knows what will happen in 2015!

After the performance, cake, in honor of Shakespeare's 450th congratulated each other on a stellar performance. None of us have plans to quit our day jobs yet we might be persuaded to participate again next year. If so, we hope that additional friends and neighbors will want to join the "Not Quite Ready for Prime Time" Thespians, a group of friends and neighbors gathered for a "come-as-you-are," "no birthday, was enjoyed by all."

Crossroads Art Festival – Recap

By Kelcy Siddall, Community Engagement Coordinator, SDCC



On May 8, Crossroads College Preparatory School held their 3rd annual Arts Festival at Greg Freeman Park. Crossroads is a private school for students in grades 7-12, located in the Central West End near DeBaliviere. The talented students put on an impressive series of performances complete with visual art, live music, Improv

comedy, Shakespeare and dance. Despite rainy conditions, the park was filled with spectators that witnessed a highly entertaining event. SDCC would like to thank Lee Anne Mathews, Director of Theatre at Crossroads, for coordinating this year's event and holding it here in The Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood.

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Ivory Perry Park Concert Series Still Going Strong

Free Outdoor Community Concerts Every 4th Sunday

Union Communion Ministries proudly presents the 12th Concert Series, compliments of the Whitaker Foundation, Commerce Bank, The Regional Arts Commission, The Missouri Arts Council, Great Rivers Greenway, The First National Bank of St. Louis, Westminster Presbyterian Church (USA), Pilgrim Congregational Church (UCC), Union Avenue Christian Church (DOC), the 26th Alderman, Frank Williamson; The Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy, the City of St. Louis, and many others. This is a unique and special event that brings people from all walks of life, race, and class together for an enjoyable family experience.

The series kicks off Sunday, June 22nd at 6 p.m. with what will be an unforgettable musical and dance performance by Kreative Pandemonium.

Kreative Pandemonium (KP) was founded in 2008 by Weedie Braimah and Andrea Peoples as a West African drum and dance company. Kreative Pandemonium is a big band like none other that blends traditional African rhythms and instrumentation with funk, jazz, hip hop, gospel, and rock to create a unique sound they call Djembe Soul. Djembe Soul has been well received on the local music scene



and is quickly gaining recognition nationally and internationally. Kreative Pandemonium is truly a must-see act that is sure to leave any audience captivated, and begging for more.

The events will be held outdoors at Ivory Perry Park, located at 800 N. Belt, two blocks north of Delmar and Belt (down the street from Connect Care). On Sunday, July 27th Ptah Williams' Trio will be performing. Ptah Williams is St. Louis' most revered pianist. He has won the Riverfront Times award for best pianist many times. He has performed with Freddie

Hubbard, George Benson, James Moody, and many other household names of jazz. He has performed at many festivals including a few in Europe. He is one of St. Louis' finest jazz pianists who has the unique ability to make the piano and his audiences' ears breathe and dance.

Now if dancing is what you want to get up and do, then join us Sunday, August 24th for The Uncensored Band. This new and upcoming band has come onto the St. Louis scene and proven themselves to be a quality band. Their music is a mixture of Funk,

Soul, Disco, Jazz, R&B and Classic Rock. The band has performed at some of the most prestigious venues and events in St. Louis. Their inaugural performance took place at The Ball Park Village Hilton, for the St. Louis Cardinals Baseball Team for their 2013 National League Playoffs and World Series.

So grab your friends, neighbors, congregation members, and family and head on over to Ivory Perry Park with your lawn chair or blanket to experience good music and a good time on Sundays: June 22, July 27, and August 24. There will be food and beverages available for purchase and a number of free activities for children.

Support a local food pantry and bring a non-perishable food to any of the concerts.

For more information, visit the web site at www.ivoryperry.com or call Archilla Buford at 314-367-2112. In the event of inclement weather, the concerts will be Sunday, June - August 6-8 p.m.

From Senator Joe Keaveny

The Missouri Department of Conservation will hold the third annual Discover Nature Girls Camp for girls aged 11-15 years old from July 22-24 at Cuivre River State Park in Lincoln County.

This is a free three-day, two-night camp to introduce girls to different outdoor skills in a supportive, yet fun, learning environment.

Campers will participate in a hands-on hunter education class, shoot firearms and archery equipment, walk through a safety trail and take the hunter education test. Throughout the camp, the girls will participate in a variety of outdoor skills such as canoeing, orienteering and fishing.

Campers learn about all aspects of fishing, from fish identification, casting, tying knots and cleaning fish. All activities take place in group settings. Girls are taught by knowledgeable instructors. The camp is limited to 60 girls and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

To apply, contact the St. Louis Regional Office at (636) 441-4554 to request an application form. To reach Joe Keaveny, go to www.senate.mo.gov/keaveny or call him toll-free at 866-783-1534.

From Circuit Attorney Jennifer Joyce's office Controlling "Robocalls"

It's happened to us all. The phone rings. It's a strange number. But you pick it up and sure enough, it's a recording. A robocall.

The majority of robocalls are designed to accomplish certain tasks, some of them legal or legitimate - airlines call you with flight changes or cancellation or your child's school calls notifying you of an early dismissal.

Things get trickier, though, when the robocalls are trying to sell you something. New laws now prohibit recorded sales pitches, unless you have given prior permission in writing. Most robocall originators, however, ignore these laws and rely on rapidly changing technology to protect them from law enforcement.

What's worse, some of the calls do have nefarious deeds driving them. People may be trying to collect your information to scam you or steal your identity.

When you receive a robocall, your phone may display the word "Unknown." More likely, it will display a "spoofed" number. These numbers are outright fakes, stolen from legitimate sources. Dozens of spoofed numbers can be used in a single robocall campaign. Usually, you are not being personally targeted. While lists of actual phone numbers are sometimes used, most often a sequence of numbers is programmed so that the computer dials a certain number of calls within selected area codes. Often, the scammers do not know who owns the called number, whether or not they are on the "do not call"

registry, or even if the number is actually in operation.

The call is made by an automatic voice system and the robocall cannot identify you or determine anything about you unless you respond by voice or by pressing a number. The best way to get rid of the call is to hang up without responding, but only after you write down the number that called you. If you let the robocaller know there is a live person on the line, your number could be sold or otherwise distributed to other scammers, leading to even more calls.

In order to protect yourself against robocallers, remember the following:

Keep a pad and pen next to the phone. Record each robocall from your caller ID. Get the time, date and number. Even though most caller ID numbers are spoofed, report them to www.ftc.gov/ complaint, or call 1-888-382-1222 toll free.

Never respond to a robocall by voice or by pressing a number, even if the caller claims this will stop future calls. Never speak to the robocaller even if he or she addresses you by name or seems to be offering a product or service you might want or need. Once you let the robocaller know there is a live person at that number, the number will be sold or otherwise distributed to other scammers.

Block robocall numbers. You can block numbers from which you receive robocalls, but remember that most of these numbers are spoofed, and change frequently.

Therefore, do not attempt to block these numbers if your phone carrier charges for this service.

Go to www.nomorobo.com for a possible free alternative to blocking numbers. Some, but not all phone service providers use this service to block robocalls at no charge to the phone subscriber.

The Circuit Attorney's Fraud Prevention Task Force aims to give St. Louisans the tools and education to protect themselves against fraud, theft and scams. If you believe you have been targeted by a scam, want more information on how to protect yourself from fraud, or would like to request a fraud prevention seminar for your organizations, neighborhood or office, call the hotline at 314-612-1412.

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28th Ward Democrats 2014 meetings:

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July 17

September 18

October 16

November 20

December 8

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

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.

One of life's overlooked lessons is that the little things are really the big things. Think about a toothache or an ingrown toenail. In the scheme of things are those little, yes, but not really. Other little things are terribly important, too, like having a scorpion in your pocket when you reach for your pen, wearing a life jacket when the boat overturns, and playing a Prince DVD as an alternative to listening to Rush Limbaugh. And then there are Hershey's dark chocolate kisses. Those puppies are tiny but powerful.

Yep, savvy reader, you guessed it, this month I will talk about a little thing that isn't little at all. It's what jump-starts most of us every morning and what braces us to face the scary world. Yep, I'm talking about coffee. If I don't begin the day with caffeine-laden coffee, I'm crabby all day. Having two or three cups at Kayak's to start the day, though, improves things a lot for me, and I'm only crabby until noon.

Coffee has changed mightily in recent years. Now there's coffee tastings, iPhone apps for coffee shops, and more brands and flavors than you can imagine. There are only two things consistent about all of these coffees. First, coffee always smells better than it tastes, and second, all fancy coffees are expensive. But, hey, I figure that an expensive cup of coffee is still cheaper than falling asleep at a meeting later in the morning (especially if I'm in charge of the meeting).

This is all pretty amazing when you consider that coffee is still coffee. It grows as beans in hot and muggy places; think swamps or Forest Park in August. The world has changed but coffee remains what it was, pure and nutritious, like baloney or pickle-loaf.

What's different is how we brew them beans. Technology has changed the brewing of coffee. If television had evolved as rapidly as coffee, we'd all have sets with colored images and we'd be able to record programs to I'm old enough that I remember the vertical and clunky electric coffee pot that used to percolate. You'd open the lid, put in the grounds, add water, and wait. And then you'd wait some more. Did you remember to plug it in? Sooner or later, mostly later, the coffee would erupt within the pot; it was tiny caffeine volcano followed by tiny caffeine volcano, all visible through the tiny crystal ball. Is anyone else old enough to remember this puppy? If so, did you also vote for George McGovern?

For decades those were the only

kinds of coffee makers you could get. The variation was two-fold: big or bigger and silver or silver. There weren't a lot of choices. A decade or so later, someone invented colored coffee pots. They came in white, lime green, or yellow. Fortunately, the color of the pot didn't affect the flavor of the coffee. On the other hand, it was a pain to paint your kitchen walls to match the color of the coffee pot. Raise your hand if you still have a lime green kitchen.

Then Mr. Coffee came to the market and the coffee world turned. Touted by former New York Yankee great Joe DiMaggio - he also married Marilyn Monroe; is that, like, a double grand slam??? --- the Mr. Coffee machine was perfection. You put the Folger's coffee grounds in a filter in a plastic basket, poured, and waited. This wait wasn't as long; of course, absent the volcanoes, it wasn't too much fun to watch either. But there were rip-off copy-cat pots too. Cheaper than a Mr. Coffee was Rx Coffee (but you needed a prescription to buy one). A joint pot, Mr. and Mrs. Coffee, also known as "Dueling Caffeines," was designed for big families. If you loaded them right, you could watch the drips racing to the pot. Believe me, I've spent many a Saturday night aside a pot, watching the coffee drip. And there's no truth to the rumor that the drops circulate in different directions depending upon whether you are in the northern or southern hemisphere. So much for my social life, eh?

I like my coffee strong and I discovered a Mr. Coffee trick to make it even stronger.

Before adding water, I'd put a couple cotton balls in the basket with the grounds. Yep, they'd absorb so much water that the coffee that drained through the filter was much more powerful. Kaboom! I wouldn't be crabby until 3pm! (The only downside to this is that occasionally the cotton would slip into the coffee. It took me a while to figure out where those soggy marshmallows came from and why they tasted so bad.) Stronger coffee is better coffee. The strongest coffee will put hair on your chest! Why you would even want a rabbit under your shirt is a question for another column.

So me and my buddy, Mr. Coffee, we're groovin' away. I'm making coffee every morning, drinking a pot or more, and am cheerful all day. OK, let's go with semi-cheerful. Penny's has a rip-off coffee maker that looks the same but it doesn't have a name, much less a title of Mr. It's not that I'm a coffee snob, mind you, but being served coffee

from the Penny's rip-off would be grounds for divorce. (Get it?)

Technology marches on, and advances in technology make Mr. Coffee even better.

New models not only make coffee, they have a clock that tells you the time. Right: GET OUT! It's a digital clock that tells the time plus the temperature in the room. What next?

Well, next is a timer that allows you to load the coffee at night, hit the sack, and the drip and brewing begin automatically 15 minutes before you're alarmed (get it?).

You awaken to the smell of freshly-brewed coffee. It doesn't get any better than that (unless you live next to an iHop). But clever me, I rigged up the timer so it's tied to my television. Sometimes I am awakened to the smell of coffee and the sound of a CNN commentator. It doesn't get any better than that.

But there's more! Mr. Coffee with a clock that is really a timer now comes with a radio so you can listen to NPR while it drips. Newer still models are a combined coffee maker and popcorn popper. (I thought that was an odd combination too, but what do I know? I'm still chewing on the odd-tasting marshmallow that I found in my coffee.)

Yesterday the recent Crate & Barrel catalogue arrived. Sure enough, when I checked out the pages on coffee makers, I was blown away. The new Mr. Coffee (now, thanks to further education, he's Dr. Coffee) is solar-powered, contains a small television, a TiVo for recording, and a computer game that serves as a crossword puzzle. The coffee is actually sort of incidental to the whole experience.

Now I have a new Keurig coffee maker. It's a single cup brewer which means that the coffee is even more expensive, hard as that is to imagine, and you can get it faster.

How's that for a formula for profit: higher cost and speedier delivery!

Looking ahead, if you want to be blown out of the water, try Googling coffee + transportation. Self-driving cars are nothing. You see, the automatic, computer-driven cars that Google is creating are going to have coffee makers in them. But these coffee makers will have a GPS chip and will actually steer the car. You'll say your destination to the coffee filter, lean back, and drip to your destination. Mr. Coffee has become a chauffeur. Futurist that I am, I can't see coffee makers improving beyond this. Coffee technology has reached its limit and no more progress can be made. Now if I could just get someone to invent a way to record television programs.

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