

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 44, No. 3

September, 2014

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

FREE

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

2014 Homecoming: A Night of Saint Louis Whimsy in Skinker-DeBaliviere Style

By Wanda Evans, Homecoming Chair

Skinker- DeBaliviere (SD) is a wonderful, diverse and historic neighborhood in the City of Saint Louis. While most of you already know that, perhaps you may not know what helps keep the neighborhood thriving and vibrant. A large part of the success of the neighborhood is owed to the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council (SDCC). The staff at SDCC, together with a wide representation of local institutions, organizations and citizen volunteers make up the backbone of the Council to support its mission "to be the connector, coordinator and facilitator of all aspects necessary to maintain and enhance our diverse, desirable and thriving community."

The sixth annual Homecoming on October 4th will also celebrate the history of our fair city. This year we invite you to attend "A Night of Saint Louis Whimsy: Celebrate Saint Louis's 250th Birthday in Skinker DeBaliviere Style!" Come wearing your best St. Louis themed attire or dress as your favorite St. Louis personality. Anything Saint Louis goes, so please get creative!

This is the biggest fundraiser for the neighborhood. Everyone benefits from the

money raised at this event, but more than that.... It's simply an awesome event in it's own right. The event will be held at Joe's Cafe, an eclectic gem that is like none other in the area. A live performance by Javier Mendoza, a Saint Louis favorite, is sure to light up the stage. You'll dance the calories off from dinner too. What's more Saint Louis than some delicious BBQ catered new Delmar Loop restaurant, Salt and Smoke? The \$50 ticket gets you into the event, all food & fun included, and you'll know that the dollars are going directly to support community development in one of Saint Louis's best historic neighborhoods. A great silent auction and drinks will be available too. Why wait? Buy your tickets before the event sells out.

An additional incentive to buy early this year! Buy your Golden Tickets before October 3 and you'll be entered into an exclusive drawing for a special, mystery goody basket! Don't miss out on this chance to win.

Tickets will be on sale at the Better Block Project, or you can purchase your ticket by cash or check at the SDCC Offices, located on 6008 Kingsbury, or by credit card at www.skinker-debaliviere.com.



George Draper, Ben Gorman, Mark Gorman, Dana Properi at play in last year's St. Roch Golf Classic.

Summer's almost over, and the 2014 St. Roch Golf Classic is almost here!

Join us for the 2014 St. Roch Golf Classic, sponsored by the Women and the Men of St. Roch. All proceeds benefit the school by providing funding for a variety of special needs, including small capital projects, athletics, and enrichment programs.

We still need golfers! We still need volunteers! We still need sponsors! We need YOU!!! Register online at www.strochgolffair.com. For registration details; information about playing, volunteering, sponsorships or making a donation, simply go to www.strochgolffair.com. Questions? Please contact Lenny or Susanne Knese at 314.280.0618 or lknese@live.com.

The Lofts of Washington University Opens

Washington University held a Ribbon-Cutting ceremony on August 5, at the new Lofts of Washington University. Featured speakers included Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton, Alderwoman Lyda Krewson, and University City Mayor Shelly Welsch.

The Lofts of Washington University features residential units for university students and a ground-level grocery store, which will serve surrounding neighborhoods in University City and the City of St. Louis. "After many, many years, the residents of University City finally will have an opportunity to shop for groceries on The Loop," University City Mayor Shelley Welsch said. "The Loop is a wonderful destination for visitors, but it is also our main street. The arrival of United Provisions makes The Loop even stronger."

Lyda Krewson, St. Louis' 28th Ward alderwoman, agreed, adding, "A grocery store that serves surrounding neighborhoods, including Skinker-DeBaliviere, will help meet a critical need in this part of the city. Urban food markets such as United Provisions offer attractive shopping options for both residents and visitors."

United Provisions is owned by the Prapaisilp family. Shayn Prapaisilp, project manager for United Provisions, said the store will carry basic necessities as well as a broad array of gourmet and

specialty items.

"You can get your standard eggs, milk and butter here, but you'll also be



The Prapaisilp family joined Alderman Lyda Krewson, Chancellor Mark Wrighton, U City Mayor Shelly Welsh, and Joe Edwards in cutting the ribbon at the WU Lofts. Next opening will be Joe's Peacock Diner!

able to find kimchi, Indian curry and Turkish coffee," Prapaisilp said.

United Provisions also features a deli counter, sushi and ceviche ar, fresh pastries, a coffee bar, and an array of grab-and-go prepared foods.

Phase One of The Lofts includes four buildings and will house about 400 students in efficiency, two and three bedroom apartments. The project also includes underground parking for residents, open green spaces, a public walkway connecting Delmar to the Parkview Gardens neighborhood as well as pedestrian lightening, new sidewalks and a number of security enhancements.

ATTENTION: ALL ROSEDALE NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS

"What is Rosedale and is it needed now?"

The Skinker-DeBaliviere community is made up of several distinct areas, including Parkview, Washington Heights, Kingsbury Square, and Rosedale. Rosedale includes residents on the following blocks of the 6100-6000 blocks of Pershing, Waterman, McPherson, Kingsbury, Westminster and Washington and the full length of Rosedale from Washington to Pershing. But it is clear that some mechanism is needed to ensure participation from all parts of the neighborhood.

Rosedale has traditionally sponsored the popular Rags to Riches and Halloween events and participates fully in the SDCC.

As current Rosedale Neighborhood Assoc board President, I, Dan Hudspeth, would like to see some of the past members and a Whole lot of new neighbors get involved. Learn about your neighborhood, the people and its activities. There is to be a general meeting to discuss the future of Rosedale Neighborhood Assoc. Who we are, what we do and where are we going.

It is time to pass the torch to a new group of neighbors willing to carry on the programs this Assoc takes part in and to build on its reputation as one of the cities oldest and diverse groups of people.

To find out more and to get involved, please contact me at dghserv@yahoo.com or call the SDCC office and get your name on a list to be contacted. A meeting will beheld the 1st week of October, exact time and place TBD.

FREE Community Health Fair!

Saturday, September 27, 2014 • 9 am - 2 pm

New Cote Brilliant Church of God, 6195 Washington Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63112 • 314-727-3550

Event Coordinator: Tonya Haynes, 314-608-4094 • tnh6663@bjc.org
Pastor Miki Merritt

The health fair is free and will consist of basic screenings for adults (blood pressure, heart rate, weight, cholesterol, blood glucose level, vision, etc.), interactive information tables and booths, and several break out education sessions on various health topics. The Children's Corner will include various activities to entertain our young guests! Special guests include St. Louis Children's Hospital, the UMSL School of Optometry Mobile Van, and the St. Louis Fire Department. Light refreshments will be provided. PLEASE JOIN US!

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

No doubt we have all been caught up by the recent tragic events in Ferguson. The clear disparities between black representation in both the Ferguson and the St. Louis County police forces reminded me of the research I undertook for my dissertation several decades ago.

I surveyed cities of over 100,000 in population to gauge overall minority workforce representation and representation in the protective services. The size of a city's minority population was the best predictor of representation. A minority mayor was also important. If a city had a rigid civil service, that detracted from representation. Because of affirmative action attached to the receipt of federal funds and court suits, minority representation did grow in larger cities.

Why is such representation important? The issue is legitimacy. If someone in authority is from your group, that raises the comfort level a bit. Representation does not necessarily mean that there are substantive policy differences although there may be. Without such representation, minorities may see police as members of an occupying group. In Ferguson and some other North County suburbs, the population has changed but elected officials and bureaucracy have not. If there is little attrition, change is more difficult. It is also difficult if those wielding power do not see the need.

Living in the diverse neighborhood that we do, it has been necessary to try to include people in the activities of the SDCC. That has helped our road to stabilization. It has not always been easy and there has been contention that fell along racial lines but the efforts of inclusion that have been sustained over time have borne fruit.

Newspapers are reporting that St. Louis is a segregated city and that the metropolitan area is one of the most segregated in the nation. Yet, contrary to the conventional wisdom, Skinker DeBaliviere exists as does the Shaw, Dogtown, Southwest Gardens, Tower Grove etc. People forget to mention these diverse neighborhoods, the tasks they face, the obstacles they overcome. Inclusion is not simple nor is it easy but trying to make it work is a bit of progress we can reflect gladly on.

The Editors also note with appreciation that Renni Shuter, one of our longest-lasting advertisers, has retired from Feinberg Real Estate and therefore from advertising. As Renni said, "not from donating to the TIMES, of course!" Thanks to Renni for many years of support for the TIMES and for the neighborhood. Happy Retirement!

Nodiff Writes Third Novel

text and photo by King Schoenfeld

Westminster neighbor Marvin Nodiff presented Dark Condos, his third novel, June 18 at Brentwood Condominiums to a packed room of his fans. No stranger to the more exciting possibilities of condo life, Nodiff, has concentrated his practice in community association law for 25 years, representing hundreds of condominium and homeowner associations and cooperatives in metropolitan St. Louis and throughout Missouri. He was an Adjunct Professor at St. Louis University School of Law for seven years, teaching an advanced course in the field. He was the founding editor of the Journal of Community Association Law, is a charter member of the College of Community Association Lawyers, and served on CAI's national Board of Trustees for six years. His books (No Spitting on the Floor, Special Assessment, and Dark Condos) are available from Amazon (two as Kindle books). Online orders at www.caionline.org

Marvin can also be contacted at his neighborhood office location at 500 N. Skinker, 63112, Contact: Marvin Nodiff, 314-727-8989 ext. 11; Marvin@nodiffcalaw.com.



The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Co-Editors: Lana Stein and JoAnn Vatcha
Business Manager: Linda Cross
Contributors: Rachel Boxdorfer, Susanne Knese, Sean McGroarty, Christina McGroarty, Cecelia Nadal, Tim Voss, Tom Hoerr, Richard Bose, Art Santen, Sen. Joe Keaveny, Cheryl Adelstein, Liz Pund, Andy Cross, Anne Voss, Marj Weir, King Schoenfeld, Lana Stein, Jo Ann Vatcha, Heather Hoganson

The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere is published by the West End Publishing Co., a not-for profit, independent, community organization.

Layout: Kate Klimut Printing: Arcade Printing

Advertising Rates:

Display Advertising:

Column width, 2.25". Minimum ad size 2" x 1 col: \$25/insertion.

For a complete list of sizes and rates, write:

The Times, 6060 McPherson, 63112, or call 726-6974.

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.

Upcoming SDCC Events

By Kelcy Siddall, Community Engagement Coordinator, SDCC

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 for the latest events and announcements (www.skinker-debaliviere.com).

Rock The Block: A Skinker DeBaliviere Better Block Project – Saturday September 13 (Des Peres Avenue between Delmar & Kingsbury)

On Saturday September 13th, an exciting and transformational event will take place along Des Peres Avenue called, "Rock The Block: A Skinker DeBaliviere Better Block Project". SDCC is bringing neighborhood residents & friends together to re-imagine part of our beloved neighborhood using very little money, zero permanent infrastructure and lots of community support. We will demonstrate what is possible in our neighborhood – including a dog park, restaurant, library, revitalized train station, live music, food, and more - and we want to get your feedback on what you see! We hope that you'll join us for this unique, family-friendly event!

2nd Annual State Fair – Saturday September 13 (Joe's Cafe & Gallery, 6014 Kingsbury Ave)

This year, the 2nd annual State Fair will be held during Rock The Block! Let's celebrate what we have grown, raised, and made within the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood. There will be fun activities for kids, informative lectures and exciting contests for all to enjoy! Neighbors are invited to bring their homegrown or homemade items for judging. For more details on the contest, judging criteria and a full listing of events, please visit the Better Block section of our website at www.skinker-debaliviere.com.

Energy Conservation Workshop – Saturday, October 11, 12-3pm (SDCC Office, 6008 Kingsbury Ave)

Skinker DeBaliviere residents are invited to come learn how to lower your energy bills, reduce your energy footprint on the environment, and live more sustainably. Speakers will include experts from Trailnet and from the Earthways Center at the Missouri Botanical Garden. More updates will be posted as the workshop approaches; check our website or call for the latest speaker schedule.

Halloween Party-- Once again, Rosedale Neighbors and veteran Art Santen will sponsor one of the neighborhood's oldest traditions, the Halloween Party at St. Roch's. Children from every part of the community participate in this annual tradition. Don't miss this year's competition, starting at 5:30 on October 31, and concluding at 6:30, time to go trick-or-treating!

Annual block party for the 6000 and 6100 blocks of Westminster will be held this year from 3-7 p.m. on October 4, 2014.

Become a Home Plate Host Family

For some students, heading off to college and being completely on their own for the first time can be an intimidating. Thanks to the Home Plate program, some Washington University students are enjoying a little bit of home away from home.

Home Plate families are asked to host two to three home-based informal dinners over the course of the academic year for a small group of Washington University students. After the first dinner date, students and families will schedule their own dinner plans. All Home Plate host families and students are invited to join Chancellor and Mrs. Wrighton for the annual spring Home Plate reception at their historic University home, Harbison House. This great opportunity enables Home Plate participants to enjoy the beautiful surroundings, great company – and maybe even a frame or two of bowling in the downstairs bowling alley.

You can learn more about this program by visiting the Web site, homeplate.wustl.edu, e-mailing Risa Zwerling Wrighton at zwerling@wustl.edu, or calling (314) 935-5040.

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: October 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

The older I get, the faster the summers seem to pass by. That certainly goes for this summer. It's been a busy one for so many people and it is time to catch up with our neighbors here in Skinker DeBaliviere.

Many of us are very familiar with the good work that continues to be done by Faith Sandler (of the 6000 block of Westminster) and the Scholarship Foundation. Readers of Money Magazine learned this summer about Faith and her work too as Faith was honored as Money Magazine's 2014 MONEY Hero for the state of Missouri.



The award is given to one outstanding leader in each state, in recognition of their efforts to improve the personal finances of others. Sandler was named a MONEY Hero in recognition of her 25 years of service as Executive Director

of The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis. Founded in 1920, the Scholarship Foundation makes higher education a possibility for students through financial assistance, advisory programs, and workshops. The magazine chose a hero from each state and Washington by checking nominations from past honorees, leaders of nonprofit groups, community-service coordinators and readers. Congratulations Faith! Keep up your amazing work!

Another Westminster neighbor, Renee Celeste Flanders, (of the 6100 block of Westminster), was awarded second place in the category of Contemporary Interior Design (Less Than 3,000 Square Feet) at the seventh annual St. Louis At Home Architect and Designer Awards. The winning work is featured in the spring issue of St. Louis At Home. You can see her website at www.renecelesteflanders.com or check out her blog at <http://notesfromflanders.blogspot.com/>.

Best wishes also go out to Renee's husband Bill Yonker, for a happy retirement. Bill was recently recognized as he wrapped up a long career (since 1977) teaching Visual Arts in the Upper School at MICDS. At his retirement, colleague Patrick Huber said, "for the many years he has spent painting, creating ceramics, curating collections and especially for the effect he has had on generations of budding artists and collectors at Country Day and MICDS, Bill will always be a 'Hero' in my art scene." Congratulations to both Bill and Renee!

Another Westminster neighbor and MICDS teacher, Chris Rappleye, celebrated his own 25 year milestone. Chris teaches English in the Upper School. Congrats to Chris!

Nearby neighbor (not actually in Skinker DeBaliviere but close by!), Lew Prince, co-founder and co-owner of Vintage Vinyl in the Loop, is being saluted by President Obama for his efforts to raise the minimum wage. He was honored as one of America's "Champions of Change."

Moving to the eastern side of the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood, we are pleased to introduce Louisa Anna Lodholtz, born August 2, 2014 weighing in at 9 lbs. 8 oz. Little Lulu is the daughter of Dan and Anne Marie Lodholtz of the 5700 block of DeGiverville. This gorgeous girl is undoubtedly being well cared for and looked



after not only by her parents but by her three big brothers, Karl, Nolan and Auggie!

Just down the road from the Lodholtz's, we experienced the end of an era as Susan Storey sold her family home on the 5700 block of Waterman. Susan had done a beautiful renovation of the home several years ago and has now moved to Dogtown and will continue her consulting career. Hopefully we will continue to see her around the neighborhood, as we all know, even if you move away, your heart remains in Skinker DeBaliviere! Good luck to Susan.

Moving in to the old Storey home we have a new family to welcome! Kent and Jess Kershenski have moved in to the neighborhood with their three young children. Jess originally became familiar with the neighborhood when she lived with her dad in the neighborhood while attending graduate school at Washington University. The couple was even married by Monsignor Polizzi. Jess works as a clinical social worker/therapist at Mercy Clinic Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and Kent, who is originally from Batavia, New York teaches Physics at Saint Louis University High School.

The 6100 block of Kingsbury is welcoming new neighbors too. Shirley and Keith Thorn moved to the neighborhood this summer along with their four legged family member, Scarlet. Keith is retired and actively working on restoring their home to it's former glory and Shirley works in academia. The couple who is originally from Canada is enjoying meeting neighbors and enjoying our dog friendly town.

Wedding bells rang on the 6100 block of Kingsbury this summer. For more than 20 years Bob Wiltenburg and Candace O'Connor have served as an International Host Family through Washington University, hosting graduate students. This past year their student was Lei Li, a PhD student in electrical engineering, who is from China. Li and his fiance, Li Li were planning to marry in China this fall, but Lei's parents consulted Chinese astrologers, who said that the most auspicious date for them to marry was

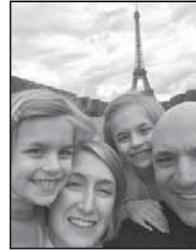


Wednesday, June 25. That meant they needed to find a place for a small ceremony (they will still have the big reception in China) - and the Wiltenburg's home seemed the logical spot! So the ceremony was held in the backyard, with about 20-25 people, largely lab mates of Lei's, plus some relatives of Li's who flew in for the occasion.

Neighbors loaned chairs and agreed to silence their lawn mowers for that hour. Friends of the couple decorated the back yard with paper lanterns, colorful ribbons, etc. Bob became a Universal Life minister and conducted the ceremony. Everything went smoothly and the only unexpected element was a neighbor cat who circled the couple during their vows and then flopped down on the lawn in front of everyone - kind of like the "rally squirrel" of Kingsbury!

In May Susanne and Lenny Knese (6100 block of Kingsbury) attended the German wedding of their cousin, Steffi Ludwig to Marcus Beck, and twins Chloe and Isabella served as flower girls. Steffi had lived with the Knese family in 2011 during her yearlong residency at BJC-WU. The Kneses made the most of their European holiday with Lenny running a half marathon in Hamburg, Germany and the family making a quick four

day trip to Paris to climb the Eiffel Tower, look for Quasimodo at Notre Dame, and enjoy Parisian life, including the many playgrounds!



Sad news spread among neighbors in early August. Timothy Joseph Shea, son, brother, uncle, nephew, cousin, in-law, grandson and friend to many, passed away on August 4 during treatment for leukemia. Tim grew up on the 6100 block of McPherson and later the 6100 block of Kingsbury, attended St. Roch Elementary School, St. Louis University High School and Washington University as a freshman art student undergraduate.



Tim's brother Matt has shared this beautiful tribute with us, offering a glimpse into the magic of the childhood so many of us enjoyed in this Skinker DeBaliviere and the life he shared with his family and friends.

Tim was an object of much affection and admiration, curious and creative, fond of the absurd and humorous; a student, reader, skitcher, Shoe Tree founder, waiter, busboy, deckhand, paper-boy-next-door, Johnny Crossover, fisherman, tamer of cicadas, lightning-bug hunter, buddy to Doobers, Ginos and Bickos, crystal radio listener, butterfly stroker, hitch-hiker, skipper of rocks, river swimmer, painter, right guard, Junior Bill, batter who swung from the hips, digger of 12-bar guitar, the briefest of Mustang owners, fire starter, dare-taker, star-gazer, illustrator, belly laughter, Carson watcher, bee in the helmet imitator, and the talented deliverer of warm, surprising, and intelligent insights into how all the above swirled and settled into the man and mind that he was. Our deepest condolences go out to the entire Shea family.

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

28th Ward Democrats 2014 meetings:

- September 18
- October 16
- November 20
- December 8

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

For up to date info on programs & other news of politics, go to the 28th Ward website: <http://ward28.citywestend.org/index.html>

Alderman Lyda Krewson 367-975• lyda.krewson@pgav.com

U-City Family Church
Engaging minds. Encouraging hearts. Empowering hands.

www.ucityfamilychurch.com
(314) 329-8390

Breakfast Garden Tour Features DesPeres Ave/Better Block Introduction

By Andy Cross

In anticipation of the upcoming Sept 13th Better Block Project, the Breakfast Garden tour in June focused its attention at gardens on and just off of DesPeres Ave. DesPeres is a central corridor of Skinker-DeBaliviere, and we included a number of public



areas which help make DesPeres a reflection of the kind of neighborhood we have in SD.

Tour-goers entered the first garden on 5900 Pershing through the alley, as Brian and Valerie Helt's neighbor-friendly backyard is a welcome sight for anyone walking or driving past to stop and enjoy. Brian designed and built the open fence with a bright sunburst on the alley gate that greets you as you travel by. A chicken coop that their neighbors, the Wimmer-Browns, gifted to the Helts has been added on to, and is now set along the alley for the passers-by to visit the chickens. Peach and apple trees line the fence along with two kinds of blackberries, blueberries, and raspberries, all from Stark Brothers. The Helts grow things so that the children can learn to harvest and enjoy their work. Super-tall peas of green and blue varieties, also radishes, and turnips rarely make it to the table; not a usual fare for a kids' snack! By involving the kids in the garden, they take a vested interest in what they are eating.

From one urban farm to another, the next garden was across the street at Sean and Angie Meara's house. The Meara's yard has a

beautiful and versatile chicken coop which won the Best Woodworking ribbon at the Skinker-DeBaliviere County Fair last year. The coop is big, so the kids can go in, and the chickens can come out to roam the yard freely. Sean and Angie have to chicken-proof their plantings along with the areas the chickens shouldn't get to, like the amazing cloche hoop-house and raised bed, which Sean created with a clever suspended hose, which is perforated to water the plants by a simple turn of the faucet. The hoop-house starts plants early in spring, and crops are rotated through the extended growing seasons so fresh home-grown foods are always available. This kid-friendly, educational backyard was ready for the St. Louis Sustainable Backyard Tour the following weekend.

The Helt's garden was barely one year old, and the Meara's yard had been converted from a field of rubble and broken glass to a green, fertile garden with plantings in the alley to beautify the view of our neighborhood for traffic on the Forest Park Expy.

Later in the tour we visited Hal and Amy Kennedy's large mature yard, which has an open picket fence, so neighbors can look through the front color garden and take in the view of the Japanese Red Maple, Oriental Dogwood, Bald Cypress, Alba (white) Redbud. Amy allows the branches of the knobby old redbuds to descend down low and extend their lovely arrangement of gentle heart-shaped leaves. An herb garden safely resides in a cove of the house and nearby Amy has a thriving vegetable garden. Around their birdfeeders, Hal and Amy have counted over 20 different kinds of birds including goldfinches, hawks, hummingbirds, robins and blue jays, along with their annual residents; a pair of cardinals, eight mourning doves, and a pair of downy woodpeckers.

At the end of the tour, guests received a map of 34 of the STL 250 Cakes which are within walking- or biking-distance of SD. We hope this view of the gardens and neighbors on or near DesPeres helped spark your interest for the Better Block project on Des Peres on September 13th attended the tour, and to all our wonderful gardeners and volunteers.

Diversity Watch: Why People Are Participating in the Ferguson Protests.

By Cecelia Nadal

Ferguson by all appearances was an example of a St. Louis suburb where black and white neighbors and local businesses peacefully coexist and cooperate on mutual interests.

The community appeared to have no race or class problems. On August 9th that myth was ruptured when an unarmed 18-year-old named Michael Brown was fatally shot by a white police officer, Darren Wilson.

The Brown family asked that a prayer vigil be held for their son. That vigil became a protest that would rock the region. I have participated in the peaceful protests over the past week and sought to find out why some of the people were there and what was on their minds.

One young white family including 3 children less than five years of age came out with a sign saying, "We Are A Village." When I spoke to the father of these children he told me that he and his wife were residents of Ferguson and they wanted their African American neighbors to know that they supported them in their outrage over the killing of Michael Brown. I asked if he and his wife were scared and he said no because he knew these people and they were good people. (pictured)

A very pregnant African American woman in her twenties was sitting in a lawn chair holding a sign asking for justice. I spoke with her and asked why she was protesting.

With tears in her eyes she told me that she was unjustly arrested and sexually assaulted by the police several years ago and had witnessed many young black men being harassed for nothing. "I'm just tired of the abuse and want my child not to have to go through what I have been through."

A black woman of 51 named Cynthia who owns a daycare center told me that she did not trust white people at all. I asked her if she had any relationships with white people and Cynthia said no. In the middle of our conversation, a white female protester who was sitting next to us heard what Cynthia said. The white woman named Tracy asked Cynthia if she could share her story. She was raised in Jackson, Mississippi by racist parents and at the age of 12 she witnessed members of her congregation escorting a visiting African American medical student out of the Baptist Church to which her family belonged. Unfortunately the student thought he would be welcomed because it was a Baptist church. Tracy was mortified said that from that moment on she decided that she would live a very different life than that of her parents. Tracy would stand up for

the rights of African Americans. She looked into Cynthia's eyes and said "I not only have fought for the rights of African Americans but the courage your people have shown has been an inspiration for me as a member of the LGBT community." The two hugged each other and Cynthia said, "If you can do what you are doing I surely can find love for you!"

On Sunday, August 17 eight Tibetan monks from India came to stand side by side with the protestors. The crowds of mostly African American protestors were endeared to the visitors and surrounded them with handshakes and hugs. The Tibetan monks raised their hands along with the protestors in a gesture of "surrender" symbolizing Michael



Browns last gesture of surrender before the fatal shots. When I asked one of their representatives why he had come from so far away his simple answer was "to be united with you in love."

Over this past week I have stood on the line of protest with former US Representative, Russ Carnahan and his wife, Louis Reed, President of the Board of Alderman with his wife and son, Alderman Antonio French and State Representative Eric Schmitt. I have met incredible women from Boston and Oakland who are former residents of Ferguson and it has been an honor to stand beside dedicated men, women and children who simply decided that enough is enough.

Going back to my original question, I had to ask myself why I was participating in this protest. I am 64 years old, a steady defender of diversity and equity and have spent my life wrapped around these issues. I made my contributions to the cause! Didn't I deserve to stay home in peace?

Ultimately, my answer was NO. Had I stayed at home I would have missed meeting the extraordinary people who are on the frontline. I would have not met people who want to make a difference for their children and grandchildren. I would have only relied on reporting that could not possibly give me the full reality of Ferguson and more importantly the full reality of continued inequality in our region. These ordinary courageous people have given me inspiration and reaffirmed that we must stay vigilant when it comes to issues of race, class and equity.

Laura McCarthy
REAL ESTATE

29 The Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63117



Katie Kurtz
Broker-Salesperson
Life Member Million Dollar Club

314 725-5100 Office
314 721-5006 Fax
314 721-1777 x 454 VM

Kids Corner

by Susanne Knes

Kid Friendly Activities around our Neighborhood:

Calling all Gamers! - I happened upon a great shop right in our own "back yard" that is perfect for kids of all ages right at 6372 Delmar called The Wizard's Wagon. We LOVE playing card and board games and The Wizard's Wagon gives us a great outlet for



Maddy Boxdorfer, Eve Rosenblum, Chloe Knes, Vera Rosenblum and Isabella Knes enjoying sparklers.

those fun times. They have game nights weekly where you are welcome to "try out" games they have in stock right in their store. They even have game clubs for the more advanced gamers out there, but you have to check out their Facebook page for schedules and details: www.facebook.com/thewizardswagon. They can even order games in for you!

Great Forest Park

Balloon Race and Glow - This annual hot-air balloon event is September 19 - 20th. The Glow is Friday evening followed by the Race on Saturday taking off from Central Field.

Craft Alliance Center - Did you know there are classes offered for kids at Craft Alliance? You get to play and create with clay, try your hand with photography or learn about 3D modeling and more. All this you can walk to! www.craftalliance.org

Do you like soda? What about Soda Floats? - Walk on down to Rocket Fizz (6303 Delmar) for Taste Test Tuesdays where from noon - 8pm you pay on \$5+tax to test and try 10 different sodas, keep your tasting glass and get to take home a fresh cool soda of your choice from that week's choices to take home. Rocket Fizz has also teamed up with Snarf's to create your dream Soda Float. Rocket Fizz supplies your choice of soda then walk next door to Snarf's for your ice cream choice all for about \$5.00.

If you have other kid friendly events you would like included in this section, please email kidscorner@sdtimes.org

Question for November Kids Corner: Have a photo of yourself and your treasures from Rags to Riches? We want to see them! Also please submit pictures and/or write all things you are grateful for to be included in the November edition. Send them to kidscorner@sdtimes.org by October 10.

Pedestrian Lighting Installation Scheduled for the Fall

Washington University will install pedestrian lighting on both sides of Skinker beginning this Fall. The project, endorsed by the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council last Spring, was delayed several months to incorporate design changes suggested by area residents.

The light fixtures, featuring highly efficient LED bulbs, will be installed on 10 foot poles, at approximately 40' intervals. The project will also include 6 blue-light phones, 3 on each side of the street, which enable any pedestrian to immediately access the St. Louis Police Department.

The University hosted lighting demonstrations on August 11 and 12 at the corner of Skinker and Westminster. More than 50 neighbors, representing both sides of Skinker, viewed the fixture and light levels and provided comments. Several of the suggestions will be incorporated into the final design.

Pop Up Dog Park

During the Des Peres Better Block "Rock the Block" event on Saturday, September 13, from 12 to 4 p.m., there will be a "pop-up" dog park sponsored by WU's Neighborhood Care, thanks to the help of smart and talented neighbors in Skinker DeBaliviere! There have been organized groups in the recent past dedicated to developing a dog park in Skinker DeBaliviere and for just one day, come by and see the possibility of what could be. Using temporary fencing near Westminster and Des Peres, let your well behaved, spayed/neutered dog romp around and play. That's right - to participate in the park, pet owners will need to agree to a couple things and sign an "enter at your own risk" waiver. Check out the Skinker DeBaliviere website to review the waiver and rules. In case your pet doesn't meet the requirements or you just don't feel fully comfortable with the idea, still bring them by to complete a doggie art project right next to the dog park. Or learn from a bite prevention specialist about some doggie greeting etiquette. We look forward to seeing you there!

Daniel B. Feinberg Real Estate Company, Inc., your neighborhood broker of residential and commercial properties, announced their return to the 350 N. Skinker Boulevard after the historic building has under gone a 2 year renovation. They are located between Grace Methodist Church and the Charing Cross Library branch. The phone number remains 314-721-5600.

Filling the Blue Pants

by Tim Woodcock

Jellyfish, cats, ghosts, and superheroes filled the offices of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council on Saturday August 9. The reason? A workshop in which kids aged 5 to 13 were invited to make stuffed toys of their own design. The inspiration for the design for stuffies was the over-sized sculpture of blue pants that can be found outside Bill Christman's art studio on Kingsbury, visible from the Community Council office and Four Corners Park. Each of the dozen children who attended was given a coloring sheet and asked to imagine what might belong on top of the blue pants. The array of ideas on display was remarkable - a testament to the creativity of kids, an attribute that tends to be lost somewhere in the journey toward adulthood.

Those drawings were then used to create a unique stuffed toy. Each child chose the fabrics from the available selection, adding eyes and other features as desired.

Local textile artist Kathy Lynott, who had sold her stuffies at the Wintermarkt in December 2013, ran the workshop. As Lynott helped kids refine their ideas, she was aided by two friends who used sewing machines to stitch up the toys. The final step - simultaneously the

messiest and the most satisfying - saw kids filling their toys with stuffing and fully bringing them to life, before handstitching the very last section.

At the end of the morning, some of kids stood next to the neighborhood landmark - the oversized pants sculpture outside the art studio - to show off their soft-toy creations.

The event was organized by the Skinker DeBaliviere Arts



Council, supported by a grant from the Regional Arts Commission. Special thanks are also due to the Community Council staff for promoting the event and allowing their office space to be overrun with kids and stuffing for the morning.



Your Neighborhood.
Your Attorney.

Stuart P. Keating Attorney and Consultant

Cell phone: 405.249.5145
Email: stuart@stuartkeatinglaw.com
Web: stuartkeatinglaw.com

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.



Stephen Mestres
Financial Advisor
First Vice President - Investments

Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC
10369 Clayton Road
St. Louis, MO 63131
Tel: 314-991-7807
Fax: 314-991-7879
Toll Free: 800-999-4448
stephen.mestres@wellsfargoadvisors.com

Member FINRA/SIPC

Rachel Boxdorfer

Nine Time Recipient - Five Star Real Estate Agent, 2006 - 2014

Office: (314) 977-7600
Cell Phone: (314) 691-0538



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



**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices
Alliance Real Estate

Salted, Smoked, Done

by Cristina and Sean McGroarty

When we heard that University City's native son Tom Schmidt had restyled his restaurant on Delmar across the street from Blueberry Hill as "Salt + Smoke," we were intrigued. When he added the propitious words "BBQ Bourbon Beer" to his signage, he sold me. Consequently, when an impromptu date night with the friends and neighbors Jon and Lynn Tiede surfaced, we headed over to Delmar as fast as our legs could carry us. While walking over to choose from many delicious Delmar options I was thrilled when Jon asked, "Have you been to Salt and Smoke yet?" I answered that sadly we had not. He did not have time to form the words "Well then let's go" when I answered "yes!" so as to forestall any possible any derivation of this

rather fortuitous chain of events.

You might remember Mr. Schmidt's previous restaurant, Nico's, formerly in this space. The interior footprint has not changed much, gladly, because it works well, both for traffic flow and for comfortable spacing. The decor, however, reflects the theme of this particular establishment perfectly. The Salt + Smoke website proclaims its intention to bring Texas-style BBQ to the Delmar Loop. Everything is made from scratch, right in the restaurant, and the furniture and decorations accentuate that mission. The hardwood floors run smooth, but not glossy; the tables are constructed from yellow pine, and the napkins are red and white checkered. Instead of the ubiquitous framed artsy posters, floor-to-ceiling chalk boards cover most of the walls. The others are filled

with wooden crates Tetrised into place, displaying everything from enameled water pitchers to antique lamps to firewood. In short, things you would not be surprised to find in a Texas ranch house.

But enough about the decor. If you wanted to spend money looking at something pretty, you would buy tickets to Formula One racing. You want to read about the food. Happily, we managed to order some. With this restaurant's tagline, I could not countenance ordering a drink not aged in a charred oak barrel, so a Manhattan it was. In retrospect, I wish that I had taken advantage of the six (6) pages of bourbons, ryes, whiskeys and scotches. Salt + Smoke has a huge selection of bourbons: one that could only be improved if they added Beer Barrel Bourbon from Holland, Michigan. The Manhattan was sublime: smooth, but not overly-vermouthered - meaning: limited to a few drops. Cristina ordered a Moscow Mule, which she sipped happily and declared one of the best she's had and would return for more. Soon. The menu also features a good variety of beers, many of them from St. Louis, if that suits your mood.

The food menu fits comfortably all on one page. Usually, that spells trouble because you run the risk of nothing sounding particularly interesting or appetizing. I would be more than happy to emulate the character in the film *Diner* who tries to eat every item on the menu in one sitting.

Alas, Cristina tells me that would not be "healthy."

For appetizers, we ordered the

Cheddar Bacon Popovers, although we were tempted to try the Hush Puppies and Maple Butter. A popover reminds me of a roll that just cannot contain its goodness, expanding into a mushroom cloud of bacon and cheddar. This ought to be a staple of every restaurant in St. Louis.

On my friend Jon Tiede's recommendation, I ordered the St. Louis Ribs. I have never gravitated towards ribs; I usually find them too awkward and greasy. These, however, rival Pappy's. The spices rubbed on the outside lead you further on, and your taste buds are not disappointed. The texture (firm, but not dry) is perfect; the spices augment the meat, but do not overpower it. You cannot go wrong with ribs from Salt + Smoke.

Cristina opted for the Pulled Chicken sandwich, on Lynn Tiede's recommendation. She dressed it up with one of Salt and Smoke's signature BBQ Sauces, Mustardolina, and declared it perfect.

For a side, she had the green bean and tomato salad. The salad exemplifies what Salt and Smoke does so well. Simple, delicious food that you will want to come back for, and quickly. Really, I do not think there is a way to make the wrong choice with this menu.

So, if you ever wanted to visit Texas, you do not have to go that far to have a taste. Just step on over to Salt + Smoke. You will not go away either hungry or disappointed. Bring the children, too: Salt + Smoke is family-friendly, and there is no reason to deny them the wonders of the Cheddar Bacon Popovers.

From Senator Joe Keaveny

By 7 a.m., on Saturday, July 26, a line had already begun to form outside of the Betty Jean Kerr People's Health Center on Delmar Avenue.

I am happy to continue working with more than 40 local groups during the health fair. This event assists many low-income citizens who couldn't otherwise afford quality health care services. This year thousands of people attended. Being able to work with these agencies and their employees is one of the highlights of my job as a Missouri Senator. They are the faces who help connect people with the resources who can help them. Nothing is more valuable than a person's health.

Medicaid and CHIP provide no-cost or low-cost health coverage for eligible children so that they can get routine check-ups, immunizations and dental care to keep them healthy. They can also get doctor visits, prescription medications and hospital care when they're sick, and much more. Even if your children have been turned down in the past or you don't know if they qualify, you may be able to get health coverage for them now. MO HealthNet for Kids can be reached by calling 1-888-275-5908, or call a statewide information line at 1-855-373-9994.



Hilary Hitchcock

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Juried, Best of Missouri Hands artist Hilary Hitchcock, who grew up in the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood, where her parents Jim and Helen still live. Hilary is just one of eight Missouri photographers invited to display a piece of her choice at the Governors Mansion in Jefferson City. Hilary selected a photo that she snapped at on a foggy morning at Tower Grove Park in St. Louis just a mile from her home. Please enjoy additional works by Hilary on her BOMH page at: <http://www.bestofmissourihands.org/artisans/photography/hilaryhitchcock>. Tours of the Governors Mansion and a chance to see this special exhibit can be booked at: <http://mansion.mo.gov/tours.php>.

Hilary's work was also highlighted at the City at 250 Exhibit at the Sheldon Galleries. Fellow Skinker-DeBaliviere "alum", writer and teacher, Sarah Hermes Griesbach wrote the following about Hilary's work:

How do you see St. Louis?... A Celebration of St. Louis in Photographs reveals stories of the city, shown with affection. Some of the photographers capture fleeting moments to describe a place. Hilary Hitchcock's images do just this. "You Came Back,"



a photograph she took from a window in her Skinker-Debaliviere childhood home, makes the viewer into a voyeur. The image of a man seen through trees as he walks through snow is frozen in time like held breath.

Despite the heavy competition and without any advantage other than her artistry Hitchcock had three photographs chosen for the final contest selection. She employs a different method of visual storytelling for each. Hitchcock has spent years exploring photographic devices from digital point and shoot cameras to Polaroids to pin-hole and toy cameras. Her photograph of humble South City red brick bungalows, titled *I Notice You*, comes of her love for the "unsung heroes of St. Louis architecture." Hitchcock is sentimental about these charming houses that were "built for a turn-of-the-century working class, not fancy people, yet always include beautiful millwork, a little stained glass window somewhere and a mantle above the fireplace."

Eclipse
RESTAURANT

modern American cuisine

Sunday Brunch
in the New Moon Room
10 am - 2 pm
\$18

- on 8th floor indoor/outdoor rooftop
- complimentary valet parking
- open other times 5 pm - 3 am, rain or shine

6177 Delmar in The Loop • 314-726-2222
EclipseStLouis.com

News from the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council

SDCC Executive Director Liz Pund reports that SDCC has received and is currently reviewing a draft of H3 Studio's final Skinker DeBaliviere Urban Design & Development Plan report. The master planning process was started in 2012 to bring the neighborhood together around creating a shared vision for Skinker DeBaliviere's next 20-30 years. The process included 5 public meetings, a building survey, a walkability survey, and many steering committee meetings. The plan is expected to be complete by the end of 2014. Once the plan is adopted by the SDCC board, tentatively scheduled for the October 13 meeting, the process will begin to have the City of St. Louis adopt it as the official neighborhood plan.

Documents from the planning process can be viewed on SDCC's website, www.skinker-debaliviere.com, under "Planning Initiatives." Comments from neighbors are encouraged.

SDCC also reports that, as part of the SDCC's long-term planning, in May 2014, the SDCC established a Fund Development Committee to examine its long-term revenue sources and projected expenses. Fund Development Committee members include: Cheryl Adelstein (chair), Beth Bender, Gayle Evans, Marquisha Lawrence, and Mary Pat O'Gorman.

Liz reports that SDCC took this proactive step in order to identify funding gaps and prepare for proposed changes to how one of the long-time funding sources, the Community Development Block Grant, distributes funds to neighborhood-based projects. Instead of being allocated equally by ward, these funds are now being distributed through a city-wide proposal process that scores applications against specific activities that are eligible for funding that particular year. SDCC's work benefits the neighborhood in many ways including hosting community events, coordinating resident-led committees, and facilitating neighborhood planning initiatives - however, most of these activities are not expected to be eligible for CDBG funding in the future.

The committee presented its report to the SDCC Board of Directors at the August 11 board meeting. While the committee

believes that existing revenues could be enhanced, such as the Membership Dues, Friends Campaign, and existing special events, it also believes that these enhancements will not fill the funding gap that is anticipated after 2014. The report concluded with the recommendation that the SDCC consider the creation of a Special Taxing District that would benefit the neighborhood. The SDCC board voted to identify a group of people to work on the survey and petition for a special taxing district, and to seek input from neighbors prior to presenting a draft at the September board meeting. If the Board decides to move forward with the petition, additional public engagement efforts will be held over the coming months. The estimated 2015 SDCC budget: is \$130,000, with an estimated gap if we do not receive CDBG funding of \$50,000. A special taxing district issue would appear on the March or April, 2015, ballot. There will be public engagement before the vote to address questions such as: the proposed tax rate, the proposed use of the funds and other questions.

Other questions that the TIMES expects to be asked are: would a property tax be used to augment the SDCC budget or just replace CDBG funds? If there is a special tax, how would it affect other fundraising? Another question will undoubtedly be how does it affect Washington University-owned properties that do not pay property taxes. There will be more information in the next issue of the TIMES.

In August, SDCC applied for 2015 CDBG funding through the Community Development Administration (CDA) for three eligible activities under the "public services" category: food access, elderly, and crime prevention. CDA's funding recommendations are expected to be announced in mid-September. SDCC also reports that it will soon resume publishing minutes from its meetings on its website. Executive Director Liz Pund said, "In the meantime, feel free to call me or stop by to discuss council actions. Once we have information from CDA about the status of our 2015 application, we plan to include particulars in the TIMES."

Grant Green and The Holy Barbarian

by Jo Ann Vatcha

Among the pleasures of delving into our neighborhood's history have been the truly interesting stories of the clubs and music scene that was the "DeBaliviere Strip". The Mural Room, the Tick Toc Tavern, the Stardust Burlesque, and many more, made up the core of the Strip. Reading such wonderful books as St. Louis jazz expert and author Dennis Owsley's City of Gabriels make for appreciation of the individuals and music groups that contributed their genius to St. Louis' history.

One club stands out for its having been the site of a recording by jazz guitarist great Grant Green. His recently discovered and re-released record is called "The Holy Barbarian, St. Louis, 1959." As Owsley learned from Ollie Matheus, the club owner, "the Holy Barbarian was the first interracial club in the city and both of the (musicians) unions gave me a lot of crap over that. But it was the happiest place." Born in St. Louis in 1931, Green left to record with Blue Note Records in 1960, shortly after the short-lived club at 572 DeBaliviere was closed after only a few weeks on DeBaliviere.

night, part of their week-long stand at the Holy Barbarian, a beatnik hangout replete with chess players and a local artist painting portraits. The emcee chats loudly near the stage, then grabs the mic to spout what sounds like a send-up of beatnik poetry."

But, as Armand Lewis says in his Record Collector News website, "Nightclubs come and nightclubs go. Troubles with rents, liquor licenses, attracting enough patrons to cover the overhead and pay the performers and staff are all understandable reasons for high turnover. But when local police start harassing owners, that's a bridge too far. This was the fate of the Holy Barbarian nightclub in St. Louis in early 1960. The club opened in December of 1959 and was a real beatnik hangout.



The album cover for *The Holy Barbarian, St. Louis, 1959*, shows Grant Green with tenor saxophonist Bob Graf.

Abstract art on the walls, poetry readings and a racially integrated policy that got the attention of the (at the time) very segregated city. Local authorities would close the club down within four months, but not before a guitar legend just on the verge of breaking through would be recorded for the only time in his home town."

Because of its recent re-release, several commentators have taken notice. Kevin Whitehead, on NPR (January 11, 2013), said that "The Holy Barbarian, St. Louis, 1959 could be the name of a fine stage play, perhaps based on the actual circumstances of the recording. One musician on the way up, another past his moment in the limelight and one more who had his chance but never quite made it all convene on Christmas

The Holy Barbarian may have been the first interracial club in St. Louis, but its demise tells a bit of the sad St. Louis story. Fortunately for music history, Grant Green went on to New York and recorded multiple albums with Blue Note Records before dying young at just 43. Not so fortunate was the way the authorities shut down the innovation that was happening on DeBaliviere.

Accredited by the Missouri Chapter of the National Federation of Nonpublic Schools

St. Roch School
6648 Waterman Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63112
314-721-2595

Educational Excellence - Timeless Values

Preschool to Grade 8
Catholic and Christian Faith-based Education
Challenging Academic Curriculum
Classical Literature Program - Grades 4-8
Pre-Algebra & Algebra - Grades 7-8
Accelerated Math - Grades 1-8
Junior High Science Lab
Music, Art, and Physical Education Programs
Spanish
Technology Program - Grades K-8
SMART Board Interactive Whiteboards
Morning Care and After School Care
Co-curricular Activities

www.strochparish.com gloria@strochschool.org

SAINT LOUIS NATIONAL CHARITY HORSE SHOW

HUNTER/JUMPER
September 10th - 14th

SADDLEBRED
September 24th - 28th

THE NATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTER
6880 Lake Saint Louis Boulevard
Lake St. Louis, MO 63367
stlhorseshow.com

BENEFITING STRAY RESCUE OF SAINT LOUIS AND TREEHOUSE OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

IN YOUR EAR

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

I'm not surprised by much, dear reader. At my well advanced age, if I've not been there and done that, I've at least seen it and heard it. You can't fool me. I don't respond to telephone solicitations and I don't buy extended warranties on new purchases.

Yes, to be fair, I was amazed to learn that Hostess Cupcakes are not one of the four basic food groups, and I was surprised to learn that some people in the county don't want to be part of the City. Go figure. But I was not caught off-guard when the Supremes made George W. president before all the votes were counted, and I wasn't surprised to learn that carbon emissions are heating up the atmosphere. Yep, I'm usually ahead of the game.

So I was greatly astounded to read the article in the June 21 New York Times, "Rite of the Sitting Dead: Funeral Poses Mimic Life," by Campbell Robertson and Frances Robles. What? How can this be? What have I missed? Where have I been? Those were the thoughts that cascaded through my mind as I took another bite of a Hostess Cupcake and swigged my Urban Chestnut beer. Caught off-guard, am I!

You see, the article – and I am not making this up, truly; you can Google it – described a new phenomenon in funerals. Rather than embalm, dress-up, and lay the dead body in a casket, some morticians are framing the person in a pose and then embalming and dressing up. When visitors come to the funeral home to pay their respects, the deceased person is there to greet them in a life-like pose! Can you believe it? Is nothing sacred?!! What's next? Allowing people to vote without a photo ID?

The trend is taking hold in New Orleans – no surprise there – although it began in Puerto Rico. The article begins by describing the death pose of Miriam Burank, "– who died at 53 and spent her service sitting at a table amid miniature New Orleans Saints helmets, with a can of Busch beer at one hand and a menthol cigarette between her fingers, just as she had spent a good number of her living days." WOW. Other funeral poses noted in the article included a paramedic in his ambulance, a man dressed like Che Guevara (including the cigar), a boxer in the corner of the ring with fists up, and a woman in a rocking chair. WOW again.

Yes, I AM surprised. I've gone to countless funeral homes (more in recent years; I wonder why that is?) and always there are two possibilities: closed casket or open casket. If the casket is open, the deceased person is lying there, nicely dressed, eyes closed, seemingly taking a short nap. While often the body – and, truly, it now is just a body, no longer a person, right? – looks life-like, how often have we seen that person dressed to the nine's, horizontal, sawing logs? It's

simply not natural. Maybe the scene would be plausible if the person was in pj's but who sleeps in a formal dress or suit?

The "posed dead," as I am calling it, has lots of appeal. We can determine how we want our survivors to see us for the last time. Rather than just choosing between them seeing a wooden box with us inside (presumably!) or the eternal snooze pose, we can decide that lasting memory. My mind is alive with my Polaroids for eternity!

Do I want to be standing there in my semi-pro football uniform, #53 on your scorecard but #1 in your heart? What about sitting in my easy chair with a lengthy book on one hand (unread, I want to be fair) and a cigar in the other? Or maybe I'm at my desk, peering into a computer screen, trying to perform alchemy with words? How about behind the wheel in my blue VW convertible with the top down and my hair seemingly flapping in the wind? (As far as flapping in the wind, we do get to have some artistic license!) As you can see, the possibilities are endless.

My Republican friends, both of them, might want to see me standing holding a biography of Ronald Reagan, my palm against my forehead in a pose that suggests, "Now I get it!" My basketball buddies would probably want to see me wearing shorts and a grit t-shirt, posed as if to guard them. The reality – ahhh, reality is so cruel – however, is that I couldn't guard them well when I was alive, so the drop-off after my death probably won't matter much. I might be a bit less mobile but not too much. Alas again.

Beyond positioning myself for the lookers rather than the lookee, the most important question is whether this really comforts those who are spectating. I'm dead and gone; pain is past-tense for me. What about those who are saddened? What could help them? Sure, the blue VW might get a smile, but let's get serious. Maslow's hierarchy of needs is relevant here, folks.

Presumably those visitors are safe and have a place to live that protects them against the cold and wind and rain. So what's next?

Aside from how I am posed or if I am posed, I want to make sure that the funeral home is well-stocked. There will be a plethora of Hostess Cupcakes, Marvin's chocolate-chip cookies, cheap wine, Tanguery and tonic, and calamari. Candidly, with all of that, it won't matter what I look like. Oh yeah, in the background you can hear the Rolling Stones singing "You can't always get what you want –" Hey, this is sounding good. I'll see you there!

314-454-WOOF
(314-454-9663)

www.DelmarDoggieDesign.com
1860 Delmar St. Louis, MO 63112

PARKER'S TABLE
AT OAKLAND AND YALE

WINES, FOOD, BASKETS & BEERS
PARKERTABLE.COM
314.645.2050

VOICE MAIL 721-5600 x115
karleenhoerr@aol.com
Fax 721-3678

KARLEEN HOERR
LIFE MEMBER MILLION DOLLAR CLUB
MEMBER MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR CLUB

DANIEL B. FEINBERG REAL ESTATE CO.
7014 PERSHING
ST. LOUIS, MO 63130

CONNECT TO YOUR MONEY ONLINE, ALL THE TIME.

Do you want access to your money 24/7 – to pay bills, pay people, transfer funds, track expenses – without all the fees? Then **Connection Checking** is for you.

- FREE Checking
- FREE Online Banking, mobile banking, and text alerts!
- FREE WebPay with person-to-person transfers!
- Annual overdraft rebate coupon
- FREE MoneyPass® ATM transactions
- VISA® Debit Card with rewards points for purchases
- Free financial workshops on budgeting, your credit score, home buying, and more

DEBALIVIERE BANK
435 DeBaliviere Ave.
314-367-8800

Pulaski Bank

Great for Private Parties!

Blueberry Hill

The Gentry

Have you had our grilled cheese and soup or chili today?

6504 Delmar in The Loop
314-727-4444 ★ BlueberryHill.com

Saturday, September 13, 2014, 12-4 pm #SkinkerD

Rock the Block

Reimagining Des Peres Ave

A one-day transformation of Des Peres with a goal of lasting change. Help the neighborhood bring the street to life with potential.

REVITALIZED HISTORIC WABASH TRAIN STATION • DOG PARK • MICROBREWERY • BIKE LAKE • RESTAURANT LIBRARY • LIVE MUSIC • 2ND ANNUAL SKINKER DEBALIVIERE STATE FAIR • INTERACTIVE ART FOR KIDS

Where: Des Peres Avenue between Delmar Blvd. and Greg Freeman Park at Four Corners (Kingsbury Ave).

Skinker DeBaliviere
Better Block Project

Visit www.skinkerd.org for more information.

The funding of this project is provided wholly through a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the St. Louis Community Development Administration under the provision of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1964 (42 USC 1401 et seq.).

Internal Medicine
Pet Behavior
Dermatology
Dentistry
Grooming

Stephen A. Brammeier, DVM
Erica N. Fry, DVM
Bret Shaw, DVM

420 N Skinker (at Kingsbury)
St. Louis, MO 63130
Phone: (314) 721.6251
www.kah.com doc@kah.com

PIN-UP BOWL

The Original Bowling & Martini Lounge

HOST YOUR PARTY HERE!

Mon-Thurs: 3pm-3am
Fri-Sun: Noon-3am

Happy Hour Mon-Fri: 4-7pm
DJs Sun-Thurs: 10pm-close
Food 'til 2am
Freshly-made pizzas, burgers, Pop-Tarts, appetizers, martinis

6191 Delmar • 314-727-5555
PinUpBowl.com