

# The *TIMES* of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 45, No. 2

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Summer, 2015

FREE

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

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970



## Garden Tour Saturday, June 6

The traditional start to summer in Skinker-DeBaliviere is the Breakfast Garden Tour, scheduled this year for Saturday, June 6, 8:30 a.m. to Noon. The tour, always a great surprise, starts at the McPherson Community Garden, 5941 McPherson. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 day of tour. Children 10-15 \$5. To order tickets, call 862-5122.

## Ice Cream Social June 13



A new event will be held on Saturday, June 13, at 1:00 p.m. at the Kingsbury Square Gazebo. There will be cool treats and music for all, so come on your own or bring a friend to meet and mingle with neighbors. The event is part of the SDCC "Aging in Place" series of free events and workshops being held in 2015.

## Mary Pat O'Gorman Brings a History of Service to the Council Presidency

by Lana Stein



Mary Pat O'Gorman with outgoing President Alice Stanley.

Mary Pat O'Gorman was selected as president of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council in March. She and her husband reside in Parkview and have 3 lovely daughters who all attend St. Roch. O'Gorman's career has been marked by service in a variety of capacities. She is a native of Kalamazoo, Michigan and attended Aquinas College in Grand Rapids. She majored in English and German. She became a Jesuit European Volunteer and worked at a women's shelter in Graf, Austria for a year. She then spent 2 years coordinating volunteers at a soup kitchen in her home town.

O'Gorman then went to NYC where she attended the New School for Social Research and received a master's degree in Urban Policy. She then worked for Habitat for Humanity in New York for 5 years. There she met her future husband, John O'Gorman, who worked for a firm that was doing some consulting with Habitat. He was transferred to Washington, D.C. and she followed him there. They married and had their first

daughter there. She worked for the World Wildlife Fund there. A job brought them to St. Louis, her husband's original home. When looking for a place to live they were drawn to this area by its proximity to the park and that it was a walking community.

Currently, O'Gorman does freelance and contract funding work. She likes being able to work at home.

She became a council member three years ago and is committed to our area. She would see block units strengthened as part of involving more neighbors in the SDCC and its activities. Regarding funding, she wants to make sure that the Council reflects what the neighborhood wants. As a former marketer, she would like to make the neighborhood more welcoming to newcomers. She enjoys the summer concert series; it is an ideal place to see neighbors and friends. She walks her girls to St. Roch everyday and continues to enjoy the community spirit here. She is a strong supporter of our neighborhood and has the schooling and background to be of service.

## Summer BBQ Concerts:



**Saturday, June 27** - Barefoot Jones, in Greg Freeman Park at Four Corners

**Tuesday, August 4** - Non-Stop Reggae, for National Night Out (most likely in Lucier Park, but not yet confirmed)

**Saturday, September 12** - Band TBD, in Greg Freeman Park at Four Corners

All concerts are from 6-9 pm.

**Save the Date -**

**Skinker-DeBaliviere's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Homecoming!**  
**Stepping out for Skinker-DeBaliviere!**

Party with your old neighbors, new neighbors & friends of SDCC at our own neighborhood landmark, Joe's Café.

We invite you to join us for a special night of food, music, and fun — including a great silent auction. This is the largest fundraiser to support our neighborhood — be a part!

Tickets \$50 online or at the door.

Sponsorships available. Please contact the SDCC Office at [sdcc@skinker-debaliviere.com](mailto:sdcc@skinker-debaliviere.com), 314-862-5122

What's *your* favorite foot wear?  
Show us Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Joe's!

## Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

The Community Council is in process of forming a committee to examine the utility of a special business district for Skinker DeBaliviere and to see what could or should be funded with the additional increment to the property tax that the special district would bring about. There are a number of such districts in the city of St. Louis. In April, voters in DeBaliviere Place voted to enact such a district and tax. The funds generated were to be predominantly used for security. Businesses as well as property owners would pay the tax.

At the same election, voters in Lafayette Square rejected such a district for their neighborhood. There, the projects to be funded were more inchoate and involved 2 parks. There was concern about who would decide what to fund. Special districts have their own boards, appointed by the mayor on recommendation of the alderman (men).

There are a couple lessons here for our committee. Need has to be specific and widely shared and plans for funds raised have to be clear to those who will vote on the district and tax. Transparency and adaptability will be key. In addition, we have to remember that homeowners and apartment owners will pay the increased tax; no businesses would be included in the Skinker DeBaliviere special business district.

On another note, spring and summer bring a variety of activities to our neighborhood. First is the garden tour on June 6. This event, headed by Andy Cross, delights neighbors, gardeners and visitors alike. Then, there is my favorite event: the Dog Show. Whether you have a dog or not you can join the fun at Four Corners on June 9 at 7 pm. Started by a youngster who felt that non-pedigrees should have a chance to be in a show, it attracts many dog owners, children and all kinds of dogs. It's pure, warm-hearted fun. Then the summer concert series begins on June 27, drawing a wide variety of neighbors. Hopefully, many will participate in these events this year!

## ABC'S OF Bulk Trash

by Katie Kurtz

A recent situation and consequent conversations have shown there is some confusion regarding bulk trash pick up in our neighborhood. Here is a brief overview, with some surprising, at least to this writer, facts.

**When:** In our area, bulk trash pick up is the week of the first Monday of the month. The Refuse Division may be pick up as early as 8 a.m. of that week but it may not be until the end of the week. The city's web site states that items should be out by 6 a.m. of that first day, but a city official suggested the night before to make certain. The Refuse Division only goes down the alley once during the week. Items should not be put out before that time.

**What:** Three items per household. These may include furniture, sticks and branches which must be bundled, BOAT-E items (these are things which cannot be put in trash dumpsters); Batteries -- not household, Oil

(motor), Appliances (doors removed from refrigerators), Tires and Electronics. If a household has more items, there are two Transfer Stations (aka dump), which can be used once a month per household. Go to the City's Web site for more information.

**Where:** Do NOT place the items next to the dumpsters! This was news to me. The three items should be placed behind your house. If the fence comes directly to the alley, the items should still be placed there, being certain that the alley is not blocked. A staff member from the Refuse Division told me that if the items are next to the dumpster, there would be a good chance that the dumpster would not be emptied. Do not put things behind a neighbor's house.

**Another note:** Contractors and homeowners should not use dumpsters for rehab refuse. There have been times when dumpsters have been over loaded with demolition materials.

**Important Information!**  
Please clip and save.



The alley between 61xx Westminster and Washington got attention from neighbors on "Brightside Blitz" Saturday, May 2. From rear left, Grady Vaughn, Dan McGuire, Sally Boggeman, June Vaughn, and left center, Sarah Boggeman, and Hitch Powell. Check out other Brightside activities at [brightsidelouis.org](http://brightsidelouis.org) or on facebook at [operationbrightside](http://operationbrightside).

Photos by King Schoenfeld

## SDCC Update, June 2015

by Liz Pund, Executive Director

SDCC held its annual meeting on Monday, April 27. Attendance was good so we moved from the SDCC Office to Joe's Cafe next door. Thank you to everyone who came out to learn about the Council's 2014 activities and celebrated two volunteers who received appreciation awards for their hard work in 2014, Andy Cross and outgoing SDCC president Alice Stanley. A summary of SDCC's 2014 activities that was handed out at the meeting can be viewed on the SDCC website ([www.skinkerd.org](http://www.skinkerd.org)) under "About the Council".

As was mentioned in the April *TIMES*, in March, the SDCC board of directors voted for the establishment of a steering committee to engage the neighborhood in discussion around a possible special business district (SBD) for the residential part of the Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood. The formation of this steering committee came out of more than a year's worth of

discussions about how to provide funding for the neighborhood in the face of disappearing community development block grant funds and other funds the neighborhood used to receive. The initial five members of the steering committee (staff and board members from SDCC and SDCHC) are in the process of selecting an additional 6-10 steering committee members. It is hoped that the full committee will be able to meet for the first time in June.



And finally, we want to once again thank everyone who donated to last year's Friends of Skinker DeBaliviere fundraising campaign, which raised \$8,500 for the Council. Contributions from neighborhood residents have a direct impact on our ability to fund our operations and support the many programs, events, and activities that help our neighborhood become an even more vibrant, safe and sustainable place to live. Keep an eye out for the 2015 campaign, which will kick off in late spring/early summer.

## The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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### Guidelines for Submitting Copy

The Times welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of the Times has always depended in large part on submissions from non-staff area residents.

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, 2015. Please send copy by e-mail to [jvatcha@gmail.com](mailto:jvatcha@gmail.com) or by disc to 6117 Westminster, St. Louis, MO 63112.**

# News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Summer is here and as usual, our neighborhood friends have been busy as ever. Let me put the word out now that we would all appreciate hearing about your summer adventures. Be sure to send them to me, and for neighborhood youth; make sure (parents - this burden is probably on you), to tell us about the amazing adventures you will be having over the summer. I already know of some pretty exciting plans for neighborhood kids, but we will wait and share that in the next issue. Now for the current News of Neighbors, which not surprisingly, includes news about our talented youth and adults.

Last year we reported that filming was taking place with four St. Roch students for "Sci Girls" a PBS program. Well, the first airing of their episode took place on May 1st with a second airing scheduled for June 12 at 4:30 on KDNL, Channel 9. The episode called "Frog Whisperers" features St. Roch students; Clara Barton (of Parkview), Madison Fuller (of the 6100 block of Waterman), and Amanda Willingham and Alanna Hopson-Morris.



Isaac Parker of the 6000 block of Kingsbury is playing as an alternate in the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra. He started playing percussion in the 8th grade in his school's concert band and the obsession only grew from there. He joined his school's brand new percussion ensemble during his freshman year, and performed as a guest artist with the Community Music School of Webster University's (CMS) Young People's Symphonic Orchestra (YPSO) in 11th grade. Isaac graduated from McKinley CLA in May. Proud parents are Jon Parker and Shelly Goebel Parker. Congrats to Isaac, we look forward to enjoying more of your talents in the future!



Two of our neighbors, Shauna Cunningham of the 6000 block of Kingsbury and Desiree Speed, of the 5900 block of Pershing shared the honor of receiving the Saint Louis Public Schools Pettus Award of Excellence for High school counseling. Kudos to you both and thank you for your dedication to your students!



Robert E. Wiltenburg, PhD, who has served as dean of University College in Arts & Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis for nearly 20 years, has announced that he will step down as dean at the end of the academic year, June 30, 2015. Bob, a long time resident of the 6100 block of Kingsbury, will be on sabbatical until January and then will teach for a last semester before retiring altogether. Congratulations Bob, enjoy!

Making history of his own... Warren Rosenblum of the 6100 block of Kingsbury



keep things quiet on the street while you are writing!

Breaking news from Hollywood! Jack Hart recently began a new job with Lionsgate Entertainment working on corporate strategic initiatives. As if this isn't enough excitement, he topped it off with a sunset marriage proposal at the end of the Santa Monica Pier to Meredith Moukawsher who works as an attorney in Los Angeles. Congratulations to Jack and his proud parents, David Hart and Mary Zabriskie of the 6000 block of McPherson. Jack is an alum of St. Roch, SLUH, and University of Dayton. It seems all these kids are growing up far too fast... I believe one of Jack's first jobs was as our babysitter when we first moved to the neighborhood. That probably never made his resume though.



Closer to home and with the same proud parents, Patrick Hart graduated from Washington University's Olin Business School in mid-May with a major in finance and a minor in history. He has accepted a job with a national, publicly traded residential real estate development company focusing his efforts on identifying and acquiring property. Travel plans are coming together for an epic road trip before his working life begins. Here is hoping Patrick will share some of his adventures with us in the next issue. Congratulations Patrick!

We have some young Missouri Scholastic Chess Champions living in the neighborhood. Isabel Thomas Brieler, a freshman at Metro Academic and Classical High School, won an individual trophy for eighth place, Board 2. Her team won third place. Sophia Thomas Brieler, a seventh grade student at Grand Center Arts Academy, won an individual trophy for seventh place; ninth grade and under. Her team won fourth place. The tournament took place in Columbia, MO on March 28. Their father, Jay Brieler, has coached both girls and their school teams since grade school at New City School (where the girls played Tom Hoerr at NCS in school championships). Isabel began playing in second grade and Sophia began in third grade. Proud mother, Michelle Thomas, has provided many hours of support at many local, state and national championships. The Thomas family lives on the 6000 block of Westminster and the proud grandparents are Jim Shepard and Mary Roberts of the 5900 block of Kingsbury.



Parkview resident Gerard Craft is not only pleasing palates but also making history! Craft recently received the James Beard Foundation award. Craft was named Best Chef: Midwest today at a gala ceremony in Chicago. This marks



the first time a St. Louis chef has landed a James Beard award, the culinary world's preeminent honor. Craft is the chef-owner of Niche, Pastaria, Taste and Brasserie, and a six-time finalist for a Beard award. The Best Chef category recognizes chefs who have "set new or consistent standards of excellence in their respective regions," according to the Foundation's website.

Also notable in the culinary world was *Sauce Magazine* being named the Great Plains Magazine of the Year. The 109-year-old Tulsa Press Club, one of the oldest press clubs in the United States, announced the winners of the 2015 Great Plains Journalism Awards, which annually recognize the best newspaper and magazine journalism in eight states: Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota and North Dakota.

*Sauce* was also a finalist in three other Grain Plains Journalism award categories: Profile writing, entertainment/specialty blog and page design. Ligaya Figueras of the 6100 block of Washington serves as Executive Editor of *Sauce*.

A home-going celebration for Jimmy Shields was held on January 17 by his family and friends at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church following his death on January 9th. Jimmy and his wife Sindria raised their nine children on the 6000 block of Kingsbury after moving here in 1969. He was well known and loved throughout the neighborhood, often being a father figure to some and a dependable source of information and vigilance about the local events. He worked for twenty years at Vestal Laboratories and after retirement volunteered regularly with Reverend Larry Rice, helping those in need. Longtime neighbor Pat Kohn said, "His gentle presence and kindness, how he looked out for all of us, are greatly missed."



Tom Hoerr isn't the only retiree at New City School. Sally Boggeman taught there for 31 years. She and husband Jim have lived on the 6100 block of Washington for many years, serving as master deliverers of the *TIMES* "forever". Carla Mash Duncan and her husband live on the 6100 block of McPherson. Her teaching career includes 30 years at New City School. Boggeman and Duncan are retiring this spring, along with two other teachers, Eileen Griffiths and Susie Burge. Congrats to all the great NCS faculty!



Congratulations to State Senator Joe Keaveny and wife Karen, who have their first grandchild, Michael Joseph. Proud parents are Shannon Keaveny and Michael Hartwig.



Do you have news to share? Please send your submissions via email with the subject line News of Neighbors to [rachelb@sdtimes.org](mailto: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". We love to hear about neighbors accomplishments, awards, travels, weddings, anniversaries, births, and more!

## Letter to the Editor

### Editor's Note:

The following submission from a very longtime neighbor, written in response to the April-May issue's article by Cecelia Nadal, demonstrates the very differing perspectives on police-black relations. Some of the details here did not appear in the national press and we cannot judge their credulity. This does illustrate how perspective is affected by background and personal history.

### A Response to "Diversity Watch"

As a bona fide white liberal who was married to a black man, raised two bi-racial children (one of whom spent eight years in the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department), and had a teaching career spanning forty years in Title I schools, I was heartened to read Cecelia Nadal's piece in the latest Times about the two-edged sword of our presumption of guilt.

However, I take issue with her use of the arrest of Henry Louis Gates in 2009 as an example of police racial bias. She incorrectly stated some facts. First, Prof Gates was not arrested for attempted burglary. He was arrested for "disorderly conduct" which I assume is Massachusetts's version of "disturbing the peace."

Secondly, it was not his house. The house is owned by Harvard and rented by the professor. This is a minor detail, as it was his legal residence. Then by implying that Gates is lucky to be alive, Ms Nadal employs the very stereotype of the trigger-happy cop which she warns about in the beginning of her piece. There is absolutely no evidence that Gates was in danger or mistreated. On the contrary, the officer reapplied the handcuffs to the front when he learned Gates used a cane. Finally, author Charles Ogletree is not an independent source. He is a close personal friend of Prof Gates and his legal advocate.

Sgt Crowley was answering a dispatched call for an attempted burglary in a neighborhood where

there had been several break-ins recently. One of those was at this very house. The damaged front door was the reason Prof Gates' key was not working in the first place. Instead of thanking the police for their quick response, Gates became angry and "played the race card." When Crowley asked to speak to him outside, Gates immediately responded with "Why, because I'm a black man in America?" Maybe, because there could have been a burglar hiding in the house and they were safer on the porch? Maybe because the police are trained to question people where there are fewer items (knives, pokers, lamps) which can be turned into weapons? At first, Gates refused to give any identification. Neither police officer said that he ever offered his drivers' license. What he finally submitted was his Harvard ID which had a photo but NO ADDRESS. Apparently Sgt Crowley missed the memo that a Harvard ID bestows sainthood on the bearer and the only proper response is to genuflect deeply and back out of the room. No, this officer had the temerity to ask for further ID. This resulted in Prof Gates calling him "a racist cop" and making a phone call to someone asking for the name of the Cambridge chief of police. He was thus implicitly threatening Crowley's livelihood.

I will admit that Crowley probably then lured the professor out onto the front porch into the view of other officers and the small crowd of gathered civilians so that his rant would be public. Crowley was trying to protect his job. You see, an arrest report is the main way a police officer has of telling his or her side of the story. Without writing a ticket or making an arrest, the officer cannot refute the citizen's later claim that the

officer's interaction with him was baseless and motivated by bias. In addition, taking him out in front of a dozen witnesses belies the notion that he planned to do Gates any harm.

The charges were, I believe, ridiculous. They were quickly dropped. You have a constitutionally protected right to yell at the police. Officers are part of the government which the First Amendment gives all Americans the right to criticize. The constitution does not require that you use a polite tone of voice or well-reasoned arguments. However, I expect a higher level of political discourse from a Harvard professor than "I'll talk to your mama on the porch."

Henry Louis Gates is a pre-eminent authority on slavery and race. He researches and writes about race. He teaches about race. He gives public speeches about race. He has a television program on PBS about race. I am reminded of the old adage that says, "To a man with a hammer, every problem is a nail." Professor Gates made this encounter with the police about race. I would submit that President Obama did not help matters with his knee-jerk reaction. By his own admission, he did not have all the facts, but he immediately characterized the police as "acting stupidly." Does anyone blame Sgt. Crowley for bringing his union lawyer with him to the "beer summit?" In this case the "power and privilege" were all on the side of the black professor who had so many friends in high places - the black mayor, the black governor and even the black president. Who was the racist in Cambridge?

If you would like to read what Sgt Crowley and the black officer who was also there had to say, their arrest reports are available on the [thesmokinggun.com](http://thesmokinggun.com) website.

## The Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood Talks Diversity

In reaction to the turmoil in the Ferguson community post the Mike Brown incident, the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council organized two community conversations to discuss the impact on neighbors. The conversations provided insight and direction as to how our neighborhood will engage to seek positive change in our immediate community as well as the greater St. Louis metropolitan area.

Spearheading this charge from a coordination perspective is Bobby Stewart from Rosedale. He, along with a strategy committee, has been busy compiling neighbors' feedback and structuring a new Diversity and Inclusion Committee to support all neighborhood-led initiatives. More information will be coming regarding specific kickoff activities and short term and long term goals for the committee. If you are interested in joining the committee please reach out to Bobby - [bobbystew14@gmail.com](mailto:bobbystew14@gmail.com), 314-605-5269.

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## Black and Blue

"Black and Blue," an original play written by Lee Patton Chiles for Gitana Productions explores the complex relationship between the African American community and the police. The play premiered in May at the Missouri History Museum. It will also be presented at Greater St. Marks Family Church on June 7; and St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley, 3400 Pershall Rd., Terry M. Fischer Theater, Friday, June 19 and Saturday, June 20 - 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, June 21 - 3:00 p.m.

Admission is free to eliminate cost barriers and bring this important message to as many people as possible, according to Gitana Executive Director Cecilia Nadal.

"Black and Blue" encourages cross-cultural understanding and healing in light of the Michael Brown shooting and subsequent events in Ferguson.

"The events in Ferguson and across the country ruptured widespread denial about the state of race relations and equal justice under the law in our country," said Nadal. "This play peels back the presumption of guilt on both sides of the issue so that we can begin the healing process."

A Q&A and panel discussion by local community leaders will follow each performance. Cast members also will be onstage to answer questions.

\*Reservations required at [www.gitana-inc.org](http://www.gitana-inc.org)

After June 30, Gitana Productions will offer the play to other organizations and groups in the community. For bookings call Gitana Productions at (314) 721-6556.

"This play is inspired by Ferguson and starts there, but it is not intended to be only about Ferguson," said Nadal.

## Kids Corner

by Susanne Knese

### Top Summer Roadtrip games:

1. License Plate Game – try to find all 50 states
2. Backseat BINGO – fun and free printable copies online
3. ABC Game – find letters of the alphabet based on signs, license plates, etc.
4. Picnic Game – "I'm going on a picnic and I will bring . . ." it goes around the car with each person bringing something different BUT you have to memorize and name what everyone else is bringing first to make sure there are not duplicates.
5. 20 Questions – guess the item based only 'yes' or 'no' answers

### Fun and Different ideas for this Summer:

- Fruit picking at a local orchard

- Go to a drive-in movie
- Tour a cave (nice and cool too)
- Bike River Des Peres or Katy Trail
- Explore a park and playground you have never visited before
- Splash around City Garden
- Catch a movie or relax with a good book at the library

### Question for September Kids Corner:

Tell us about your summer. Favorite adventure in St. Louis? Where did you go on vacation? Would you recommend it to other kids? Please include your name and submit to kidscorner@sdtimes.org by August 10th! This is YOUR corner, so make it what you want!

Y	G	A	Z	G	N	I	D	A	E	R	G	X	J	M
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camps	planes	roadtrip	sunshine
cardinals	reading	sprinklers	swimming
friends	relaxing	summertime	vacation

## St. Roch Principal Touts Present and Future

by Lana Stein



Tim Cummins is finishing his second year as the principal of St. Roch School. He brims with enthusiasm when he talks about the school and the students. Before becoming principal, Cummins spent 14 years as a 5th grade homeroom teacher. Before that, he taught history of religion and specialized in medieval history.

There are 207 students at St. Roch this year. Cummins noted that the 7th and 8th graders earned 2 banners at the History Museum. The computer lab has been updated and the school now has tablets to use in the primary grades. Based on feedback from graduates, computer programming will become part of the curriculum for students in 4th through 8th grades.

All of the St. Roch seniors were admitted to their first choice high schools. Four are going to Metro and others to Rosati Kain, Cardinal Ritter, Visitation and Nerinex. Three of the 8th grade girls participated in Winter Weather Ware, collecting winter clothes for St. Patrick's Center. Some students are volunteering every other Tuesday at the soup kitchen run by the Missionaries of Charity and they also sponsored a trivia night to raise funds for this institution. Preschoolers and 3rd graders did a project on hatching baby chicks. St. Roch is one of only a few schools doing Algebra 1 in eighth grade. In addition, some students are working with Forest Park Forever.

St. Roch continues to stress the 4 elements on its logo: faith, education, discipline, service. In the fall, new uniforms will sport this logo. About 40% of the students are from Skinker DeBaliviere and its neighboring area. Twenty-six zip codes are represented.

Cummins is planning a Facebook page for the school. He grew up in West County with a father from Tennessee and a mother from Illinois. His parents met while they attended school here and both lodged on 6000 McPherson. Cummins thus had an early tie to our neighborhood, one that he has been very happy to renew.

## Atlas Shrugged (but not at this dinner)

by Cristina and Sean McGroarty

If you have a spare \$5,000 lying around, you might decide to book a couple of tickets on Air France to Paris. Once there, if you can stave off the jet lag and the Frenchies chortling over your attempts to speak their language, we are sure you would eventually find a fantastic restaurant capable of providing the most exquisite French cuisine on the banks of the Seine. Or, you could save the \$5,000, avoid the jet lag, and head over to Atlas Restaurant on Pershing, on the banks of the Des Peres River. Well, perhaps Skinker-DeBaliviere is not quite Paris, but Atlas does have the advantage of ownership by two of the nicest people you will ever meet, Central West End residents Diane and Bryan Carr.

Atlas features a perfect location with ample parking, either in the lot across Pershing or on the street. On a mild evening, sidewalk tables provide a pleasant dining experience, perfectly complementing the warm interior. Inside, a mixture of light and dark woodwork picks up the soft lighting, and a unique woodwork partition conceals the kitchen from the dining space. Just a couple pieces of artwork accent the cream-colored walls, carefully placed to avoid overwhelming the patrons. The goal of the decor appears to be to highlight the cuisine rather than to compete with it.

Atlas is a neighborhood gem.

They can accommodate large tables, a couples night out or seating for two. Reservations are suggested or you can just play like the McGroarty's and make multiple plans to go to Atlas only to have your offspring intervene with a game, illness or social plans in which case you look at the weekend calendar of events and realize that your anniversary is two days away. Wash your face, put on a clean shirt, look at your beloved and say "Charlie has no plans tonight – let's go to Atlas". All this is to say, don't save this for a big event. There should be no special reason to go to Atlas-although when we went it was packed with Wash U class of 2015 grads and proud parents, go to Atlas any time. It's that good and you deserve it!

Once we were seated, our waitress perfectly timed her first visit, allowing us to get settled but not making us wait a moment too long to order drinks. Cristina ordered one of their many sublime white wines, while Sean opted for the Rosemary G&T: rosemary, dry gin, liqueur, lime juice, shaken, poured over ice and topped with tonic water. That went down far too easily.

For an appetizer, we chose the Piccolo Fritto with lemon-garlic aioli. And no, we had no idea what that meant until we Googled it. Italian for "little fried one," this dish features broccoli, sweet potatoes, onions, and other vegetables lightly fried with the aioli on the side. Combined with the fresh warm bread, we could have eaten nothing

but that and left the restaurant perfectly happy.

Thankfully, we had the sense to order entrees before we tasted that delectable appetizer. Sean ordered the center cut strip steak with a red wine reduction, Bernaise Sauce and hand-cut fries. If you regretted not dropping the five grand on a trip to Paris, it would not be due to this dish. We have had steak frites in the City of Light, and it did not compare to this masterpiece. The steak, moist but not rare, soaked in the Bernaise butter and perfectly complemented the hand-cut fries.

Cristina ordered the fish of the day, grilled Scottish salmon with homemade spinach fettuccine. She pronounced it the best salmon she had ever tasted, which says quite a lot because we tend to order salmon whenever we find it on a menu. Atlas lets the natural flavor

shine through and does not try to overpower it with oils and butter and spices.

We thought that we had finished, but the dessert menu could not be denied. Cristina had the vanilla bean creme brulee with a caramelized crust that can be described in one word – "amazing." Sean chose the house-made profiteroles with vanilla ice cream, topped with warm chocolate ganache. There is absolutely nothing wrong with any of that gooey goodness.

So, head on over to Pershing and stop in at Atlas. If Diane and Bryan are there, be sure to say hello. And by all means, after enjoying your dinner at Atlas, go ahead and book your trip to Paris. Just do not bother ordering the steak frites. They would just make you long for Atlas.

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## A Phoenix Rises on DeGiverville

by Richard Bose

The long vacant home on the 5800 block of DeGiverville is receiving a complete overhaul. Damaged by fire in February 2006, the home at 5859 DeGiverville sat vacant and open to the elements due to an absent owner. Eric



Trudo, long-time resident of the 5900 block and a firefighter with the Rescue Squad at the St. Louis Fire Department, purchased the home to rehab in the fall of 2013.

Mr. Trudo has worked under other rehabbers over the years in the neighborhood. He felt it was time to take on his own project. He picked a tough one exercising all his experience with Skinker DeBaliviere homes. He wanted to better the block and make sure it was correctly returned to its proper glory.

Rehabbing the home has been a challenge, well beyond even the typical gut-rehab. The home needed substantial interior and exterior tuckpointing, numerous floor joist replacements, and a complete rebuild of the stairs from basement to third floor. The third floor bump-out required tie-backs. His goal for the project is to create a home that is "calm, cool, and creative."

Financial challenges correlate with structural ones. The remodel qualified for both Missouri Historic and Neighborhood Preservation Tax Credits. Without them the building may have become yet another empty lot for who knows how long.

The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation is the developer and provided construction financing for the project. SDCHC had worked for years to put the house in good hands. Thanks to this team effort, the biggest eyesore on the block (and the neighborhood) is becoming one of the best homes.

Recent home purchasers including myself have bought on the block in spite of it, and we are excited to see it brought back to life. The home has all new systems, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2nd floor laundry, a 3rd floor landing, restored fireplaces, historic trim work, a great view of Hamilton Elementary School, and is 2600 square feet. The probable asking price is \$290,000. Mr. Trudo hopes to have it ready by the end of June. He can be contacted at 314-660-1523. Stop by for a look!

## 2015 Additions to the St. Louis Walk of Fame



Frankie Muse Freeman with Mayor Slay.

Mayor Francis Slay, other elected officials, former WU chancellor Bill Danforth, and many more, attended the Walk of Fame induction of an important St. Louisan, Frankie Muse Freeman.

Frankie Muse Freeman began a celebrated legal career that spanned 60 years when she opened a private practice in St. Louis in 1949. Freeman was lead counsel in the 1954 landmark NAACP suit against the St. Louis Housing Authority, which ended legal segregation of public housing. In 1964 Freeman became the first woman appointed to the US Commission on Civil Rights and contributed to the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Inducted into the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame in 1990, the Civil Rights Walk of Fame in 2007 and the recipient of the NAACP's prestigious Spingarn Medal in 2011, Frankie Muse Freeman courageously fought for justice her entire career.

Soprano Christine Brewer began her career singing in the choruses of the St. Louis Symphony and Opera Theatre of St. Louis. Brewer

performed with top symphonies and operas around the world, including debuts with the Royal Opera in 1993 and Metropolitan Opera in 2003. A preeminent interpreter of Wagner and Strauss, Brewer showed her versatility with a 2006 Grammy Award for Songs of Innocence and Experience, a recording of contemporary material. A meticulous yet down-to-earth artist blessed with a golden voice, Christine Brewer was named one of the 20 greatest sopranos of all time by BBC Music Magazine.

Finally, a third star was unveiled in May for writer and cartoonist Lee Falk who created and wrote the comic strip Mandrake the Magician, which debuted in 1934 and featured a stage magician who used hypnosis and magic to fight evildoers. In 1936 Falk premiered The Phantom, the first masked, costumed superhero of the comics, pre-dating both Superman and Batman. Syndicated worldwide, at their height the strips boasted over 100 million readers per day.

The St. Louis Walk of Fame is a non-profit organization founded in 1988 to provide a showcase for the cultural heritage of St. Louis and to advance the knowledge, awareness and appreciation of creative St. Louisans and their achievements and contributions.

Set in the sidewalks of The Loop, it is open 24 hours a day and is free. The most recent stars are located near the Regional Arts Commission building on the 6100 block of Delmar.



Christine Brewer with Riverrats Dixieland Band.



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STL Village is celebrating our first year supporting people who want to age in community in a safe and socially connected way. Come enjoy refreshments, attendance prizes, entertainment and lively discussion. STL Village members and volunteers will also share information about the Village model of providing services to help people stay independent and socially active as they age. Special guests: Bonita Cornute of Fox 2 News; Pat Gilbert, OASIS; Vocalist Robert Ellison, Retired USAF Air Force Band and St. Louis Symphony guest soloist.

# Trolley Construction

Editors Note: To sign up for email updates, go to [www.looprolley.com](http://www.looprolley.com)



photo by Elizabeth Holzer

Trolley Removal at Commerce Bank in the Loop.

## University City Roundabout - Phase II

Construction on permanent roundabout shifts to south

Phase 1 work on the north side of the roundabout is nearly complete and Phase II work on the south side begins Monday, May 18. Traffic on Delmar Blvd. has been redirected to two lanes of two-way traffic north of the existing temporary roundabout.



Also, Ameren will be removing street light poles on the south side of Delmar from Sgt. Mike King Drive to Leland, then from Leland Ave. to Limit Ave. Parking meters will be placed out of service as needed in construction areas only. Traffic control will be removed at the end of each work period and reestablished each morning. The Delmar Loop pedestrian light poles will remain in place.

## DeBaliviere Avenue

Traffic is diverted to the two east lanes of DeBaliviere Ave. as work continues on the west side of DeBaliviere. Access to businesses along DeBaliviere Ave. will remain open at all times.

## DeBaliviere Bridge at Forest Park Parkway

The Debaliviere bridge over the Metro tracks at Forest Park Pkwy. was successfully removed last weekend. Pedestrian and bicycle access to Forest Park remains open via sidewalk on east side of DeBaliviere. West side access will reopen on May 27.

# DeBaliviere Construction

by Derek Knight

One of the biggest developments in recent years affecting the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighbourhood is the construction of the Delmar Loop Trolley. This has been discussed for a long time, but the construction of the infrastructure for the Trolley has at last begun.

the demolition of the DeBaliviere bridge over Mother's Day weekend, and this picture shows how the MetroLink tracks can now be seen where the bridge once stood.

Work is planned to be completed by the end of September, and the construction workers I talked to



Bridge Removal

photos by Derek Knight

I live near to DeBaliviere, which is a particularly interesting area because as well as the Loop Trolley, the Greenway is being extended from Delmar all the way along to the Missouri History Museum. Instead of 6 lanes of traffic, we will have the greenway, the Trolley, a planted area, and then 2 lanes of traffic plus a turn lane. As part of this, the current bridge taking the road over the MetroLink is being replaced with a new bridge incorporating the Trolley tracks.

we were confident that the timeline would be met. In the meantime, I'll keep photographing the progress and sharing it on my blog, and looking forward to the day when I can hear the "Clang, clang, clang" of the Trolley!

I'm fascinated by how this all works and have been photographing the work as it is done, and sharing some of these on my blog (<https://derekknigh007.wordpress.com/>). The latest excitement was

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# IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr, Commentary in the TIMES for more than 33 years.

Dear Uncle Zeke,  
 I'm sorry that I've been so remiss in writing. One would think that I would be needing distractions in my cell, but the time passes quickly. Given that I only have an hour outside each day, I have a routine that lets me keep some semblance of sanity. In a way, being in solitary confinement is easier because I don't have to listen to cellmate's bad jokes or intervene if fisticuffs break out. It does get lonely, I'll grant you, so thank goodness for my portable radio and Rush Limbaugh. Now there's one smart, fair, middle-of-the-road commentator! I wish he'd run for president.

I developed my daily routine in year four. Or maybe it was year five? The years sort of run together, Zeke. Honestly, I never thought that I would get sentenced for 20 years simply for making small pieces of art! Whatever happened to freedom of speech? Why does some art get put in museums and people pay to see it, while my art gets put on the evidence stand and I pay a score of years for producing it?

To be fair - and working at being fair is one of the ways I keep my sanity - I recognize that people's opinions of art vary. What you may think is beautiful or provocative, I might think is trash. In my case, what I considered my art - tiny portraits, printed over and over again - the feds considered postage stamps. They admired my depiction of the Statue of Liberty but refused to see the 49 cent phrase as a humorous statement. And for the life of me, I can't explain how the adhesive got on the back of my pictures!

Mom told me that you weren't going to be able to make it to the trial, and I understood. You were at my previous two trials - I still don't know how a pile of counterfeit \$100 bills got in my copying machine! - and I

appreciate that effort. Besides, you didn't miss much; this trial was almost over before it started. How could I have known that the guy who wanted to buy my stamps, I mean my art, was a fed? He was wearing jeans and a Rolling Stones t-shirt, for Heaven's sake! Is nothing sacred?

Back to my routine. After breakfast, which truly doesn't take long, gruel goes down pretty quickly, I've been working on doing headstands. Rush was talking about the importance of getting out of comfort zones, and I thought, "I've never done a head stand, so why not?" Well, it turns out that there's a good reason I've never done a head stand. First, it's hard. Second, when you finally do succeed, everything is upside down! The blood rushes to your head, your hair feels like it's buzzing, and your feet start swaying the wind, even though there's no wind. After getting this down pat - or maybe it's up pat? - I've learning to walk on my hands. I can make 17 trips around the perimeter of my cell without getting tired.

You know me, Uncle Zeke, I can get addicted to foolish things pretty easily - did I tell you how great it is to listen to Rush Limbaugh? - so I limit myself to 60 minutes of head-standing each day. Since there's not a whole lot to do in my 12x12 cell, I've become pretty good at this. Some days I can spend more than 50 minutes standing on my head. You know, there's no real reason why Canada is above us. I mean, who says that north is up?

After my bodily-kinesthetic head-standing, the rest of the morning is devoted to trying to train the ants that are in my cell. With the help of my trained ants, I have a tiny 3-D printer at my disposal. It's pretty quiet so I use it from midnight until about 6am, 'cause that's when the guards are

sleeping. I'm working on making a body-double, a doppelganger for me so that the guards won't miss me when I slip out through the loose bricks and escape through the narrow corridor leading to the prison Starbucks. I'm also making a replica of the second-shift guard's head. My plan is to walk on my hands with his plastic head on my feet, and no one will take a second glance.

I hope to make the break on July 4. I figure there will be enough distractions then that no one will see me leaving and the plastic body in my cell will give me a day's head start. I feel badly about abandoning my friends, the ants, but with me gone, they will have more gruel. After a stop at the Starbucks, I'm heading directly to the Limbaugh for President Headquarters. Is this a great country, or what?

See you on the streets, Zeke, and let me know if you want to buy any cheap stamps.

- Hawkeye

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