

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 45, No. 3

September - October, 2015

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

FREE

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

FREE Community Health Fair!

Date & Time: Saturday, September 26, 2015
9 am - 2 pm

Location: New Cote Brillante Church of God,
6195 Washington Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63112
314-727-3550

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

Miki Merritt, Pastor

The health fair is free and will consist of basic screenings for adults (blood pressure, heart rate, blood glucose level, body mass index, prostate, mental health, etc.), interactive information tables and booths, and an exciting organ display! The Children's Corner and Gross Motor Movement Station will include various activities to entertain our young guests! PLEASE JOIN US!

Save the Date –

Skinker-DeBaliviere's 7th 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, 314-862-5122

What's your favorite foot wear?

Show us Saturday, November 7th, 2015 at Joe's!



photos by King Schoenfeld

Neighbors enjoyed several concerts and events at the Four Corners in 2015.

BBQ Concert September 12

Sad but true - our last BBQ concert of the summer is upon us. The National Night Out concert was a huge success, but you won't want to miss The Outliers at the final event, Saturday, September 12, at 6 - 9 pm at the Greg Freeman Park at Four Corners, Des Peres and Kingsbury Ave.

Come out and hear your Skinker DeBaliviere neighbors play 'Blues at the Edge of the Spectrum.' Kids activities from 6 - 7, will be led by Hamilton Elementary School volunteers.

WU Home Plate Program



You can join the "Home Plate" program and host dinner for Wash U Students Away From Home, starting this Fall.

Washington University is looking for warm-hearted families to host 2-3 students for casual dinner and conversation. Help them feel at home in St. Louis and your family can enjoy the company of Wash U's incredibly smart and talented kids. We only require that you have 2-3 get-togethers over the course of the academic year. We also try to match students to family interests. Many students stay with their families throughout their Wash U years!

We will ask you to host your first dinner in late September or early October. There will be a reception at the Chancellor's residence for all program participants in the Spring.

E-mail Risa Zwerling at zwerling@wustl.edu to sign up!



9/11 at Hamilton School

There will be a special event at 9am on Sept. 11th in the library at Hamilton School: The school community is honoring veterans and individuals who work in law enforcement, who are invited to attend a program commemorating the events of 9/11. There will be light refreshments and a student performance. RSVP by September 9 to Carla Bonds at (314) 367-0552 or carla.bonds@slps.org.

Special Note: Our November-December issue of the *TIMES* will include very special memories of Hamilton School from a recent gathering of "alums" from the 1940's. If you, or someone you know, went to Hamilton School in that era and would like to add to our memory trove, please contact *TIMES* co-editor Jo Ann Vatcha at jvatcha@gmail.com.

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

The summer hiatus often makes me reflect on the good things in this neighborhood. Of course, I enjoyed the dog show and the greenery adorning our landscape. This year I grew some things in the McPherson Community Garden. Our rainy days gave me a bumper crop of cucumbers that I shared with friends. The neighborhood continues to be a warm and friendly place. However, it is apparent to me that we now have several different generations of residents (plus students). To some newcomers, our history matters little. Residents will view events and proposals differently. But, diversity remains our calling card and hopefully that will continue.

I would urge residents to get involved in the life of the community and attend committee and SDCC meetings. Several blocks have good organization. The rest should as well.

Finally I can turn to my biggest pet peeve: garbage habits. I still see an occasional bag of garbage left in the alley. Much that could be recycled is not. Some people fill the recycling bin with large boxes that are not broken down, taking up space others could use. Trash goes into landfills and the city pays costs for putting trash there. There is no cost for recycling; in fact the city sometimes receives funds for some recycled goods. If you recycle, you can prevent that \$11 trash cost per month from rising precipitously. Be good to the environment; be good to your pocketbook. Recycle (and break down the boxes).

Security Committee Targets Safety at Forest Park MetroLink station

by Lana Stein

The Security Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm at the SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury. The committee is co-chaired by Mark Gorman and Katie Wilson. The meeting is open to all residents. The Committee meetings are attended by a police officer, representatives from the Washington University police and the Circuit Attorney's office. Until May, representatives from Metro also attended.

A frequent item on the agenda has been illegal activity at the Forest Park MetroLink station. Efforts to curtail the activity have not been successful. In July, the Committee decided to petition John Nations, CEO of Metro, with copies to city offices and the SLMPD. The petition asks for increased cooperation across jurisdictional lines to address this problem and for consideration of physical modifications to the station as well. Committee members sought signatures at National Night Out and SDCC director Liz Pund set up an online mechanism to allow other neighbors to sign. The petition will be delivered to Mr. Nations by Labor Day.

Crime at the station inhibits use and also can have spillover effects on our neighborhood and DeBaliviere Place. Updates will appear in subsequent issues of the Times.

Letter to the Editor

Editor's Note: Few TIMES articles have spurred so many--or so thoughtful--responses as those which have followed our neighbor and Diversity Watch columnist Cecelia Nadal's article about Ferguson last year. We are pleased to publish this recent letter from long time resident, James Harris, and thank him for contributing to this important conversation.

As a resident of the Skinker/DeBaliviere community, I enjoy reading the *Times*. It helps me stay aware of activities and developments in my community. While reading the Summer 2015 edition, when I got to the editorial section, I was taken aback by the writer's opening paragraph. Realizing that editorials afford readers an opportunity to sound off on a variety of issues, I seldom give them that much weight. However, this particular editorial, in which the writer takes issue with Cecelia Nadal's commentary on Professor Henry Louis Gates encounter with Boston police a few years ago, captured my attention.

While I respect the writers prerogative to take an alternative stance, I was bothered by the strategy she used to credential herself as one qualified to speak to how Black American men should respond to what they perceive as racism. She defined herself as a bona fide white liberal, married to a black man, raised two bi-racial children, and worked in a Title II educational program. The question is not whether she truly believes herself to be a "bona fide" white liberal, but whether she understands the limitations of so called white liberalism in relationship to recognizing what is really racism. Does she understand the ways consciousness is shaped by racist social structures and institutions? Without that understanding, even well-meaning white liberals who have participated in the struggle against racism, my perpetuate a form of racism unintentionally.

Henry Louis Gates' response to white police officers seeing him as a criminal extended far beyond the specific incident on which the writer bases her argument. It spoke to a form of post-traumatic racial stress brought on by a history of systemic racism that maligned the humanity of black bodies--racism that cast black men as threats and menaces to society. It spoke to the reality that police departments in this country have been endowed with the authority to destroy black bodies. No white liberal, regardless of how well meaning, will ever understand the psychological impact of racist structures on black

men. Viewing the situation from the perspective of white privilege, the writer lacks the wherewithal to grasp a full understanding of how it feels to be constructed as something outside the realm of humanity. White people are privileged to move about freely in stores and other places of business without worrying that they will be seen as potential thieves. They will never have to wrestle with the question of how to live in a white body. Those privileges do not disappear through marriage to a black man. The bottom line is no matter how the pie is sliced, white people know they will get the biggest piece. This structural advantage promotes a skewed view of the more visceral forms of racism--the forms often missed by well meaning, "bona fide" white liberals.

The second point I wish to address is the writer's notion that her marriage to a black man validates her perspective on racism. That makes about as much sense as my saying being married to a woman validates my views on women's issues. The damaging effects of racism, or any other form of oppression, are not conditions on which one gains authority by marrying a member of the targeted group. Plus, blackness is not monolithic. To paraphrase Henry Louis Gates, if there are twenty million black people in this country, there are twenty million ways to be black. It is naive of the writer to assume that having privy to the racial perspectives of her Black American husband and working with poor black children in a Title II educational program give her the insight she needs to define how black men should respond to racism.

Finally, in spite of strides made to erase racism from our laws, it remains as ubiquitous as rain. In light of this reality, I applaud the writer's social consciousness about race. I also encourage her to be vigilant in the fight to dismantle racist structures that marginalize working class black people, as well as other people of color.

James Harris

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Co-Editors: Lana Stein and JoAnn Vatcha
Business Manager: Linda Cross
Contributors: Rachel Boxdorfer, Susanne Knese, Sean McGroarty, Cristina McGroarty, Cecelia Nadal, Tom Hoerr, Richard Bose, Art Santen, Liz Pund, Sen. Joe Keaveny, Cheryl Adelstein, Andy Cross, Marj Weir, King Schoenfeld, Lana Stein, Jo Ann Vatcha, Elizabeth Krasnoff Holzer, Derek Knight

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 mxlana@sbcglobal.net.

Guidelines for Submitting Copy

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

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, 2015. 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



Summer certainly went by quickly again this year. It was a particularly exciting summer for one of our young neighborhood residents. Nominated by Senator Claire McCaskill, Hannah Hogan was one of thirty students in the United States selected to serve as a Senate page. Hannah, who attends Visitation Academy, lived for five weeks at Webster Hall along with the other pages and worked daily on the senate floor. She loved the experience and is already hoping to return to DC next summer. Hannah is the daughter of Joe and Beth Hogan of the 6100 block of Kingsbury. I imagine we will see great things from Hannah in the future!

Neighbor Larry Willard of the 5700 block of Pershing recently returned from working in a large civilian hospital in beautiful Haifa, "the San Francisco of Israel". While there he was introduced to the Zeffren family who lived at 5733 Westminster in a six-family building in the mid-50s. The kids attended Hamilton and Soldan High School. The Zeffrens fondly recalled summers being hot and humid, walking to The Munny and Highlands, enjoying the Velvet Freeze next to Garavelli's, shopping at Maull's, Woolworth and the hardware store near Goodfellow and Delmar. They also remembered waiting at Delmar and DeBaliviere for the streetcar which took them to Sportsman's Park. "The most-perfect ballpark ever!" for both Browns and Cardinals games.

The 6100 block of Kingsbury is happy to be welcoming some new neighbors! Stephen and Florencia "Flo" Baxter moved to the neighborhood in May of this year. They started dating in high school (Clayton), and after college, Washington University for Flo and DePaul for Stephen, they moved to Chicago. They lived there for ten years where Flo worked in executive recruitment and Stephen in commercial real estate. They decided they wanted to be back home by their parents once

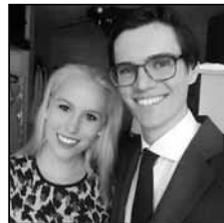


their daughter, Eva, was born (just over a year ago). Eva is a fun, curly haired little girl, who you will surely see around the neighborhood on her pink tricycle.

The Cunningham family is also new to Kingsbury having lived most recently in St Louis Hills while they were searching for this home. Prior to that, they had a house in Rock Hill. In their younger years they both separately and together had apartments in The Loop, Demun, and Hi Pointe neighborhoods. Leslie and Charles have two children, Charlie who is six and Annabel who is three. They are happy

to be back in the area and are looking forward to getting to know the neighborhood more.

And one other welcome on the same block goes to Hilary Lynde and James DiLorenzo. Hilary and James met at Washington University



and were most recently living in New York this past year. They are now back at Wash U, Hilary at the law school and James is working on his Masters in Computer Science. They are excited to be back in St. Louis and report that their dog is loving the yard!

Former residents from the 6100 block of Westminster, Brady Baybeck, Jennifer Olmstead and Sarah (11 years) and Maddie (10 years) checked in over the summer. They miss their Skinker DeBaliviere neighbors but love living in Michigan near family and the fact that Lake Michigan is a lot closer for summer weekend trips. Both girls attended Gretchen Boxdorfer's Camp Giggles (years ago) when they were little and were trying to set up their own Michigan version so checked in for some advice! It was so nice to hear from the Olmsteads.

We have very exciting news from our favorite food writer. Sauce executive editor Ligaya Figueras (longtime resident of the 6100 block of Washington) will join the Atlanta Journal-



Constitution as its food and dining editor in September. Her last day at the magazine was August 28th. Figueras joined the Sauce editorial team in 2008 as a contributing writer. In 2011, she was hired as the magazine's senior staff writer before being promoted to executive editor in 2013. Ligaya's husband Joe Gudiswitz and sons Anton and Alvaro will join her in Atlanta. They will be missed greatly here in the neighborhood and at St. Roch but we wish them all the best!

Lenny and Suzanne Knese of the 6100 block of Kingsbury are again chairing the St. Roch Golf Tournament. The date this year is Sunday, September 20th. If you have any questions, please contact Lenny at 314-280-0618 or at LKNESE@LIVE.COM.

Sadly, over the summer, final goodbyes were said to some former neighbors. In June, Leo Fitzmaurice, formerly of the 6300 block of Waterman passed away after being hit by a car in the Central West End. Leo was a soft-spoken man who spent 22 years of his career at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Leo and his wife Catherine who passed away two years ago, lived in Parkview in the 70's and 80's with their five children; Kevin, Sheila, Kathleen,

Sean, and Kara. Our condolences to all of the Fitzmaurices. Leo was 83 years old.

Longtime Skinker DeBaliviere residents surely remember the McCarthy family from the 6100 block of Kingsbury. In July, the McCarthy family and countless friends said farewell to Jim McCarthy who also grew up in this neighborhood. Jim married his high school sweetheart Anne (Sweetnam) McCarthy. Jim spent years providing guidance to the St. Louis community through his law practice and also served as the first chairman of the St. Roch Parish Council. Jim is survived by Ann and their children; Jim, Gloria,



Mark, Terry, Helen, Dan, Molly, Vincent, Marion, Sophie, Anne, Peter, and Brigid. The visitation and funeral for Jim certainly brought out a lot of neighbors both past and present.

And on August 13, in the comfort of her own home, Joyce Kiedorwski Banaszak passed away. Joyce is the wife of Len Banaszak and the two had lived recently for several years on the 6100 block of McPherson. Joyce led an active and interesting life that involved many talents and experiences, including writing, teaching, volunteering, and politics. Our deepest sympathies to Len and the entire Banaszak family, including son Mark and his family who also reside on the 6100 block of McPherson.

Congratulations to editor JoAnn Vatcha and her husband Neville on their 50th wedding anniversary, August 14.

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". We love to hear about neighbors accomplishments, awards, travels, weddings, anniversaries, births, and more!

SDCC Update

by Liz Pund

SDCC has had an active summer! There's been an event, workshop, or meeting almost every weekend. Since the last issue of the TIMES, we had the Breakfast Garden Tour, the Dog Show, an Ice Cream Social for Seniors (very popular), a BBQ Concert with Barefoot Jones, a youth art workshop, two open houses about changes to the historic district, and four educational workshops for

August 4 with great success. A large crowd, estimated at more than 350 people, came out for delicious BBQ and music from neighborhood favorite Nonstop Reggae Band. We received a lot of comments that people really enjoyed having the concert in the park, including requests to do it again. It wouldn't have been possible without a grant from the Regional Arts Commission, donated landscape services by Quiet Village Landscaping, and the immense assistance provided by more than 30 volunteers including



photos by Montague Hadgepoh

National Night Out.

seniors on topics like finances and nutrition.

The Neighborhood Funding Steering Committee, which will be conducting community engagement about the possibility of a special taxing district to provide funding for the neighborhood, is still forming and will most likely meet for the first time in September. Expect more news from the committee in the near future.

The National Night Out BBQ concert was held in Lucier Park for the very first time on Tuesday,

Eric Trudo, Dennis Evans, Hitch Powell, Andy Cross, and many more.

We're going to follow up on the concert with another fun event in Lucier Park. In partnership with Hamilton Elementary school we'll be hosting a free family-friendly Movie Night on Friday, September 25. Starting at 6pm we'll have music playing and a kids' activity led by Hamilton teachers, so bring a picnic, blanket, lawn chairs, etc. and come have a fun night in the park. The movie will start at 7:30pm and will be Night at the Museum.

2015 Garden Tour

by Andy Cross



Vincent Flewellen's open backyard garden is a welcome sight to anyone who passes by: an oasis of hostas, daisies, hydrangea, and potted plants springs forth from the surrounding slabs of asphalt, brick walls, and concrete.



Lush foliage with freedom to move around sets the tone for relaxing and for entertaining large groups in William and Rubina Patton's yard.



Peacock Loop Diner

Finals Breakfast Sandwich
fried egg, ham, bacon & cheddar cheese between two waffles; with sriracha sauce and syrup!

24/7

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6261 Delmar in The Loop



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Frank and Betty Burke's garden is packed with vegetables, flowers, flowering trees, and plants which "go to school in the winter, and are nursed back to health in the summer."

Kids Corner

by Susanne Knese

Family Sundays at the St. Louis Art Museum - from 1 - 4pm in September explore the continent of Africa and its artistic traditions with Family Sundays in September. Join a tour of the collection to explore sculptures, masks, and textiles made in Africa, and then make your own work of art based on what you see. This is a really fun experience for the entire family every Sunday throughout the year so be sure to check their website www.slam.org for future schedules.

Chalk the Loop - Chalk the Loop will be held Saturday, October 3rd from 9am - 4pm. Chalk The Loop invites accomplished artists and novices of all ages to create their own chalk masterpieces on the sidewalks of the



photos by King Schornfeld

Delmar Loop! Cost for participation in Chalk The Loop is \$10 for Adults, \$8 for Students, and \$6 for Children [10 and under]. Free for guests of artists and onlookers! Participants will be provided with a box of premium chalk from Blick Art Materials and a Chalk the Loop goodie bag. Participants may also register in person on the day of the event, from 9:00AM-12:00PM. Rain date: Sunday, October 4, 2015.

Great Forest Park Balloon Race and Glow - This annual hot-air balloon event is September 19 - 20th! The Glow is Friday evening with fireworks at 9:15pm followed by the Race on Saturday taking off from Central Field around 4:30 (depending on the wind and Hare).

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

Halloween is coming . . . and since the next *Times* does not come out until November here are some little tidbits for you. Completely biased top 5 trick-or-treating and fun destinations, plus a great chance to wear your costume more than once:

1. Your own Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood party at St. Rochs gym, annually on October 31st from 5-6 pm! Traditionally, trick or treating starts immediately afterwards at 6:00 p.m.
2. Central West End's Halloween Kids Parade
3. Boo at the Zoo (St. Louis Zoo)
4. Ghouls in the Garden (Missouri Botanical Garden)
5. Halloween at Grant's Farm

Need a joke for the big night? Here you go:

- Q. How do you communicate with a fish? A. You drop it a line.
 Q. What does one eye say to the other? A. Between you and me, something smells!
 Q. What room has no walls? A. A Mushroom.

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 10th.

AMHERST PARK PEACE FESTIVAL!

Saturday-September 12

by Cecelia Nadal



photos by Cecelia Nadal

This will be the fourth year that Gitana has been a part of a special festival that brings immigrants and locals together with welcoming arms in a Northwest St. Louis City neighborhood. There will be live music, ethnic foods, dance presentations and lots of community resources. Amherst Park is located near Skinker and Page Blvd. You can access the Park from Hodiamont near Page.

The park is small and intimate and is projected to draw 400-500 people. Great for meeting people and engaging in conversations!!

What makes this festival so special is that the attendees are so very diverse in culture and race, socio-economic background, religion and education.

In addition, it is a project that has been embraced by almost 15 organizations that collaboratively work together to make the festival happen. You can be a part of what St. Louis can be!

Here are some of the artists!

- Nitro Latin Jazz Band
- Rhythms of the Caribbean (Reggae, etc.)
- KYPE Dancers (Hip Hop and More)
- Michael Castro, Poet Laureate of St. Louis
- Salsa Dance Lessons with Carmen Guynn
- Gitana Kids - Dance and Drama
- African folk arts and crafts



Ruth Ezell and crew of Channel 9/PBS show "Living St. Louis" attended the Gitana production of **BLACK AND BLUE** and interviewed cast members, playwright Lee Patton Chiles and Cecelia Nadal. You can see the August 10 segment on both Channel 9 and Gitana websites.

Food will include Mexican, Soul, African and Pakistani. There will be activities for children provided by the St. Louis Art Museum and health information and screening from Washington University and the University of Missouri St. Louis.

Children's Art Activity: Participants will create a headdress with a bird figure that is featured prominently in the exhibit *Senufo: Art and Identity* in West Africa.

For more information on the festival call Gitana at 314-721-6556.

(Collaborating groups include *The Workday*, *City of St. Louis*, and *Cornerstone*, *Center for Survivors of Torture and War Trauma*, *International Institute*, *CREA*, *Saint Louis Mental Health Board*, *SLACO*, *KIPP Charter School*, *Firm Foundation Tutoring Program*)



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Our space is available for private parties during non-business hours, making it ideal for business luncheons, brunch events, or evening gatherings on Sundays or Mondays. Our new event space at Avenue in Clayton is available all day, every day - avestl.com.

From Senator Joe Keaveny

This year, I was honored that my colleagues elected me to be the Senate Minority Floor Leader.

Success this session was not measured in what passed the legislature, but what the minority party did not allow to pass, including cuts to unemployment benefits and photo voter ID.

Unemployment - The minority party stopped cuts to people on unemployment. House Bill 150 would have changed the maximum length of state unemployment benefits from 20 weeks to 13 weeks, when the state unemployment rate drops below 6 percent. Missouri's unemployment benefit time frame would have been one of the shortest in the nation for the length of time a person can receive unemployment. This legislation was quickly vetoed, and while still in session, an override attempt was made by the majority party in the House. The minority party did not allow the bill to come to the Senate floor, essentially killing the override attempt.

Photo Voter ID - This year, photo voter ID legislation came in the form of House Bill 30 and House Joint Resolution 1.

I oppose photo voter ID

legislation because it places barriers to voting for low-income persons, the elderly and those with disabilities. For some it will be difficult, if not impossible, to obtain the needed documents. There are currently mechanisms in place to address other forms of voter fraud. It is important to note that Missouri has never had a documented case of voter impersonation. Never.

We in the minority party held the floor to not allow the photo ID measure to be debated, and therefore, not be passed.

Register to vote: www.sos.mo.gov or (573) 751-2301.

Important news for those who are eligible for affordable health care. The Open Enrollment Period for coverage in 2016 will run November 1, 2015 through January 31, 2016.

Visit www.covermissouri.org to learn about the Missouri Marketplace.

Visit www.healthcare.gov to access the Marketplace or call (800) 318-2596.

Please visit my website to review additional legislation updates, including those bills I sponsored: <http://www.senate.mo.gov/media/15info/Keaveny>.

An Update on Washington University Housing

by Lana Stein

As reported previously, Parallel Properties, a for-profit arm of Washington University, has been renovating 11 multifamily buildings in our neighborhood. As recipient of historic district tax credits, the properties will be on the tax rolls for at least 5 years and anyone can seek to be a tenant. The buildings now have occupants and their exteriors show considerable enhancement. Several SDCC staff and members of the Delmar Committee and the Housing Corporation board toured two of the rehabbed units.

We saw a 2-bedroom and a studio. The units had state of the art appliances, including washer and dryer. There were new wood floors and each unit had a large kitchen area. The units featured contemporary decor. The rents are based on square footage and most tenants will also pay for gas and electricity. The studio we saw rented for \$770 and the 2 bedroom for \$1144.

On another front, most of us have noted the demolition of a single story housing complex at the southeast corner of McPherson

and Des Peres.

This type of building has been known to old timers as a ranchette. Washington University owned this complex as well as two across the street. Problems with underground sewer and electric made the complex too costly to repair. It had been housing for Wash U students.



According to Mary Campbell, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Real Estate at the university, the lot will be maintained as a vacant lot, and would be available to the neighborhood for special events. Ms. Campbell also said that the university will continue to use its other ranchettes for housing.

28th Ward Democrats
 2015 meetings:
 September 17
 October 15
 December 7 Holiday Party

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>

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St. Louis ArtWorks Recognized Among the Top Fifty Youth Programs in the U.S.

SLAW-St. Louis ArtWorks-has been selected as a Finalist for the 2015 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards! Of the 335 applicants, the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities has recognized the accomplishments of SLAW as one of the top 50 youth programs in the country. Twelve of those 50 will receive the Award, representing outstanding contributions to out-of-school programming and positive change in their communities.

SLAW is currently rehabbing the building at 5959 Delmar as their center for youth art activities. For more information, go to startworks.org or call 289-4181.

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Historic District Changes in the Works

by Nancy Hohmann

The Skinker DeBaliviere Historic District Committee has been working for the past year to improve and update the Skinker DeBaliviere-Catlin Tract-Parkview Historic District Ordinance. More than 40 years have passed since it was enacted in 1972 so the time has come to update the ordinance to account for modern construction practices and materials. Neighbors and community members were invited to view the proposed changes and provide comments to the committee at two open house meetings at the SDCC Office on July 14 from 6-8pm, and July 18 from 10am-12pm.

Proposed changes to Skinker DeBaliviere Historic District Ordinance include:

“Appearance standard” items to be grouped in construction categories, listed in a manner similar to the way these items would be in a construction budget. Existing building standards are now separate from new building standards.

The new standard explains the methods and materials for both existing buildings and new construction in greater detail. Commercial construction materials and methods have been blended into the standards for existing structures and new construction.

- Skinker DeBaliviere will adopt the City's solar panel standard for visibility. New solar panels may not be installed on a visible facade.
- Tuckpointing/repainting materials and techniques are now elaborated on, included types of mortar to be used, in the new standard.
- Paint colors for stucco and cement materials are now addressed.
- Preferred methods for closing existing coal chutes are detailed in the new standard.
- Security bars on visible windows are now addressed.
- Window requirements are spelled out in greater detail, providing for new advances in window construction, including sash

- repair and replacement.
- Porch alterations are given greater detail, including type of materials, type of handrails, front entrance doors and transoms, and providing for accessibility.
- Cornice repair now allows for materials other than wood to be used, as long as the material can be painted.
- Garage doors that face a visible facade are now addressed.
- Building additions on existing structures are now addressed, including standards for additions that will be on a visible facade.
- Retaining walls and vegetation are described in greater detail. Chain link fencing on visible facades is no longer allowed. Public sidewalks are described in detail.
- The extent of regulation remains the same, in that the standard still applies to visible facades only.
- Covering of historic components with maintenance free material is still not acceptable. Vinyl windows remain unacceptable on visible facades.
- Standards for demolition remain the same.
- New construction may be modern in design but should be proportionate to the surrounding buildings.
- Construction materials for new buildings remains consistent with the current standard.
- Gutters and downspouts, painting of wood or metal elements, repair of a small percentage of a single element (retaining wall, fence, steps, porches, etc), and repair of flat roofing where no parapet work is required are not regulated by these standards, but still may be subject to a building permit.

Copies of the entire proposal are available on the SDCC website, www.skinkerd.org, and copies are available at the Council office.

Questions? Contact Nancy Hohmann at nancy.m.hohmann@gmail.com or the Community Council Office at (314) 862-5122.

DeBaliviere Update

by Derek Knight



photo by Derek Knight

DeBaliviere Bridge.

I was fascinated to notice when walking past some of the work from the new Loop Trolley, that what appeared to be railroad ties were being dug up. At first there were just one or two, but on my latest pass by the area near Delmar station there is a large pile of these. Now I am told that they are from the original Delmar Loop trolley, so I think it's quite amusing that they are being disturbed by the installation of the new trolley!

During the last few months, those of us that use DeBaliviere have gotten used to driving on the west section of the road and watched with interest as they worked on the East of the road. First they removed the central medians, moving the removed earth to the area opposite the Crossroads Preparatory School. Then they put in new curbstones down the middle of what would have been the old street, and completed the road by adding fresh asphalt.

We were just recently told that the driving lanes would be moved over to the East side, and sure

enough, one evening I turned from Pershing to find that the road had moved! Now they can start work on the trolley lines, and also on the extension of the greenway from its current stopping place at Delmar, right into Forest Park.

The other excitement has been the bridge over the MetroLink. After the old bridge was removed, it allowed us an unusual view of the train tracks, but soon DeBaliviere was a parking lot of bridge pieces.



Old tracks.

These were assembled over the course of a weekend, and the rebar work started. It's interesting to see how one can trace what will be the trolley lines through the rebar!

Check out my blog at <https://derekknigh007.wordpress.com/>.



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

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IN YOUR EAR

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

I wasn't all that surprised when Atticus Finch announced that he was gay. To be fair, I was really stunned and distressed when his bigotry jumped from the pages in *Go Set A Watchman*. I was initially pleased to learn that I'd get to know Atticus better, but what a letdown.

Like most people, I thoroughly enjoyed *To Kill A Mockingbird*. I read it when I was young and a bit naive and it resonated with me. He was the kind of man to which we should all aspire! Atticus was bright, kind, and filled with good values. Unfortunately, as I grew older, it became clearer and clearer that there weren't many Atticus Finches in the real world. Our leaders consistently let us down.

I never voted for Richard Nixon but I believed him when he announced, "I am not a crook." Oh well. There was the deceit and duplicity in the Viet Nam war, the Chicago presidential convention, and more. Who really killed Kennedy, and have they found those weapons of mass destruction yet? Recently there are questions about the political machinations that contributed to the suicide of Missouri Auditor Tom Schweich. Reality is that we're all flawed. So Atticus' bigotry in book #2 was disappointing, yet I thought, "OK, he's real."

In the third book of Harper Lee's trilogy, *The Humidity Never Ceases*, found in an attic seven months after the publication of *Go Set A Watchman*, we learned that Atticus was more than a widower; he simultaneously

had two wives, tipsy Tallulah in Toledo and bombastic Bettye in Birmingham. (Perhaps Atticus was a cousin of Charles Lindbergh?) At this point, I regretted that I'd read books #2 and #3. It was nicer to have Atticus as he appeared in #1, a model for all of us. I vowed that even if another hidden Harper Lee book was unearthed, I was not going to read it. No way. Of course, when #4, *While the Sun Sets*, was discovered a year later, I immediately read it. I hoped Atticus would be the Atticus I first knew. Forget Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio; it should be Where have you gone, Atticus Finch!?!
Atticus' journey continues in *While the Sun Sets*. Atticus announces that he's gay, and he gives up his law practice to become a cartoonist for Disney. In the final chapter, he is a greeter at Disneyland and becomes romantically involved with Amelia Earhart. Believe me, I promise not to read #5 if it ever comes to light. I've had my fill of Atticus.

Rumor has it, though, that a manuscript which appears to be the sequel to *Gone With the Wind* has just been discovered! In *She Broke the Wind*, Scarlett gets involved in politics, leads the women's suffrage movement, and is elected to congress in 1878. She appears on the vice-presidential ballot in 1881 and becomes president when Garfield is assassinated. The book begins with President O'Hara meeting with Secretary of State Rhett Butler and Madame Defarge. This one I want to read!

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