

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 45, No. 4

November - December, 2015

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

FREE

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970



16th Annual Wintermarkt – Saturday December 5th 2015

By Andrew Cross, Beautification Committee Chair

Every winter, craftpersons and artisans gather at Greg Freeman Park at Kingsbury & Des Peres to display their talents with wonderful gifts you can purchase for your holiday celebrations. You can always find great food to eat (bratwurst, Glühwein and roasted chestnuts) at the festival and delicious baked goods to take home. Live musical performances fill the air while you browse, shop, and visit with your neighbors. If you wish to enjoy the festival as a volunteer, vendor, or donate baked goods, contact Karen Kelsey at sdcc@skinker-debaliviere.com or call (314) 862-5122.

Snarf's Comes to Skinker

Washington University's representative to the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Cheryl Adelstein recently shared with us big news, that Snarf's has leased the 1,770-square foot space at 360 N. Skinker, next to the St. Louis Public Library's Charing Cross branch. Feinberg Real Estate, which occupied the space before the building's renovation, is now located at the south end of the first floor.

This will be the sandwich shop's fourth in the St. Louis area. Snarf's also has locations on Washington Avenue in downtown St. Louis, at Saint Louis University and on the Delmar Loop. "Snarf" Jimmy Seidel opened the first restaurant by that name in Colorado in 1996. Jodi and Marty Aronson are the owners of Snarf's Sandwiches in St. Louis.

Information on hours, food and drinks menu, and opening date were not yet available.



Alderman Lyda Krewson, Liz Wright, and Alice Stanley

24th Annual MLK Day Celebration

Sunday, January 17, 2016, 3pm

Tentative Location: Grace and Peace Fellowship, 5574 Delmar Blvd.

Neighbors and friends are invited to a celebration of the life & legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

More details will be available closer to the date of the event.

For the most comprehensive and up-to-date information on SDCC events, please visit our website at www.skinker-debaliviere.com.

Tree Planting for Our Neighborhood

At the SDCC Board meeting of October 12, Alderman Lyda Krewson (D-28) announced that 465 new trees would be planted in the 28th ward this autumn. About 300 will be placed in the 28th ward portion of our neighborhood. She said that the 26th ward portion will also receive new trees. These trees provide natural beauty, cool us from some of the heat and humidity of a St. Louis summer, and add oxygen to the air. Some residents, for whatever reason, do not like trees. However, they require a little watering in their initial years and otherwise raking a few extra leaves. Trees are positive and also enhance the appearance of the neighborhood.

FoodShare iPhone App Launches: Eat a Meal, Donate a Meal



At the Nine Network, Paul Heirendt with Andrew Glantz and Aidan Folbe

Launched on September 30th, the FoodShare iPhone Application helps St. Louis locals discover and recommend restaurants, while transforming restaurants into social enterprises to fight hunger in St. Louis. This is aimed to solve the St. Louis hunger problem where 17.5% of the population is daily food insecure and do not know where they will find their next meal. Created by student entrepreneurs, Andrew Glantz (Washington University in St. Louis '17), Aidan Folbe (Dartmouth College '19), and Jacob Mohrmann (Washington University in St. Louis '16), FoodShare seeks to fight hunger in St. Louis: every time a user eats at a FoodShare partnered restaurant, FoodShare donates a meal to someone in need. Already, over 800 meals have been donated!

App users have the option to recommend restaurants to their social networks, as well as include a personalized message and a photo of their meal. For every referral that dines at the recommended restaurant, FoodShare donates an additional meal. FoodShare also donates an additional meal if a user shares their FoodShare dining experience on Facebook through the App.

FoodShare's CEO Andrew Glantz believes that FoodShare offers unique value. He states: "FoodShare effectively and efficiently digitalizes word-of-mouth restaurant recommendations. Unlike impersonal and unreliable third-party reviews, FoodShare referrals are trustworthy since they originate directly from users' friends". According to a Harvard Business School study, 16% of Yelp reviews are fake, and according to Marketing Land, 47% of people do not trust most Yelp reviews. FoodShare solves these problems.

FoodShare has signed on over 50 partner restaurants so far, and aims to capture the St. Louis market prior to expanding to other cities. Several nearby Loop restaurants are participating, including Blueberry Hill, Cicero's, Three Kings, Pi, Eclipse, Salt and Smoke, Peacock Diner, Seoul Taco, Ranoush, Market Pub, Blueprint Coffee, Pin Up Bowl, and many in CWE and other neighborhoods in St. Louis..

Neighborhood Books for Holiday Giving

A limited number of copies of the book *Celebrating Skinker DeBaliviere: History and Comeback* are still available in time for holiday giving. Published by the *TIMES* in 2009, after the neighborhood's centennial, the book is full of color photographs of our great neighborhood and contains the original history of the land and settlers, as well as analysis and profiles throughout our 100+ year history.

The book may be purchased directly for \$ 42. Call Marj Weir at 863-7558 or see the *TIMES* website: sdtimes.org for more information.

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

On October 12, Liz Pund resigned her position as executive director of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. She served the Board and neighbors well for 2 years. As of this writing, a search committee is vetting applications for her replacement. This provides an opportunity to look at the Council, its structure, its funding, its activities to see whether they are appropriate in a time of declining resources. Our neighborhood now is close to being one quarter Washington University students. That provides a dynamism but also subtracts from the number of families. We continue to be diverse in terms of race, wealth, and age. Many of our residents (non-students) are young with families. They are not necessarily aware of the Council or of the history of this neighborhood. The master plan recently adopted by the Council suggests a number of low-cost activities to acclimate new residents.. Despite our successes, we have to remain vigilant because our hard-fought stability is rare in this country.

Similarly, neighbors might want to examine the workings of the neighborhood housing corporation. It has a self-perpetuating board and its activities are not always transparent.

This year the SDCC board authorized the creation of a committee to examine funding for our institutions in the form of a special business district. That district would be funded by a property tax, up to 85 cents per \$1000 of assessed valuation. That tax might cost between \$150 and \$400 per household. Tax exempt institutions would not have to pay. The committee has not been named as of this writing. Perhaps this is the catalyst we need to examine what we have in light of what we can afford. After 50 years, modifications to institutional arrangements might be desirable. We have neighbors who love and are grateful to the Council, but we also have a significant number who are not engaged.

Bureaucratic theory tells us that organizations resist change. They do not willingly evaluate themselves. If neighbors care about how the institutions function in our interest, this is the perfect time to begin an examination. Let's understand what we fund and how and why and if there are alternatives that could work better in our behalf. The hiring of a new director opens up the possibility of seeing which way we are going and if there is a better path.

Friends Campaign in Full Gear

Andy and Linda Cross co-chair the SDCC Friends Campaign. Every resident should have received a mailing asking for your contribution. Whether great or small, what you give helps to run the Council. Because of its changing demographic and HUD regulations, the SDCC receives far less in CDBG money from the city. The Council provides many activities for our residents--from a children's Halloween Party, concerts with barbecue, Rags to Riches, and National Night Out--as well as planning and service through various committees. Your contribution will be tax deductible and could go a long ways toward keeping the Council solvent and active in our behalf.

If you have not done so already, please send your gift to the SDCC at 6008 Kingsbury, 63112. Any amount is welcome.

FOR SALE:

Canon EOS D10 digital camera, 18-50mm zoom, memory cards, batteries and chargers, cable, case, etc. in like new condition. \$200 or best offer. K.Schoenfeld, 863-0152.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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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.

Karen Hagaman New CEO of Grand Center

by Lana Stein

Skinker DeBaliviere resident Vince Schoemehl recently retired from his position as president and CEO of Grand Center after 14 years of service. Interestingly, an extensive and intensive search for his replacement settled on Karin Hagaman who lives around the block from Schoemehl. Hagaman has been a resident of Skinker DeBaliviere for about 2 decades. She has an extensive background in development, including infrastructure. She also has performed choral music and is generally an arts aficionada. Her work at Cortex, the



St. Louis Development Corporation and Development Strategies have prepared her for this new challenge. She is very excited about this opportunity to continue the growth at Grand Center and provide more amenities.

Hagaman was a board member of the SDCC for 8 years and served as vice president. She also participated in Delmar Committee. She is married to Mark Gorman and has 2 children, Meredith and Ned, who attend St. Roch School. A native of New Jersey, she has found a home here and we wish her well in this challenging new endeavor.

After a period of heavy rain, the roof collapsed

at a 2 family flat on 60xx McPherson. Two sisters who have been longtime residents of the flats were safe and sound. Today the building's exterior has been completely restored, thanks to the work of the Laurel Management Co. It is now an attractive home and hopefully secure for at least another 100 years.



photo by Marj Weir



photo by Marj Weir

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: January 15, 2016. 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



As the days get shorter, let's start with one last tale of summer. In July, Willie and Rogerine Kinds of the 5900 block of DeGiverville and their family took a family trip to the Player's Club Resort in Hilton Head South Carolina where they celebrated their granddaughter Taylor Stewart's 16th birthday. The family enjoy bicycling, visiting the beach, golfing and hearing more about Gullah Cultural Expressions. They also took a day trip to Savannah, Georgia.



Andy Cross, one of our favorite resident artists and all around good neighbors received a neighborhood hero award on October 16th from Lewis Reed, President of the St. Louis Board of Alderman, for being a neighborhood hero. The event was sponsored by Nextdoor St. Louis which is a social networking site now with over 20,000 members in St. Louis that works to makes neighborhoods closer, more informed, and safer. Andy was one of 20 neighborhood heroes from 20 different neighborhoods in the city and received the award at a reception at the Cabanne House in Forest Park. Andy lives with his wife Linda and daughter's Emily and Sarah on the 6000 block of McPherson and actually grew up on the 6100 block of Kingsbury. Well deserved Andy, well deserved!

been rebuilt and is back on the barricade again. It had been destroyed by a speeding drunk driver a while ago. These planters are made entirely of repurposed materials: pressure treated lumber, poplar, cedar, and a salvaged heavy duty tarpaulin is lining the interior. The decorations are hand carved. The curbs have been painted safety yellow, reflectors have been placed on the posts, and the barricade is now much more visible at night. He paused long enough to have a picture!



photo by King Schoenfeld

The 6000-6100 blocks of Westminster came together on October 3 for their 8th block party, with chilly temps but warm spirits. The chief planners this year were: Mary and Hitch Powell, Jaina Stus, Chris Rappeleye and Anne Posega, Gale Fitzpatrick, Lisa Horner, and Kim Gladstone. Robyn Nagel contacted the police and firefighters for a visit from their firetruck, and Paul, Fitz, Hitch, new neighbor, Paul Hollmann, and many others helped with set up and clean up. Kim set up the photo booth opportunity and King Schoenfeld took photos, too, Tim Smith drew caricatures, and Tom Snyder and Kathy Kniepmann provided some great fun and entertainment. Dan McGuire secured the street closing permit for us. And Andy Cross automatically puts up the sign announcing the block party and street closing for us every year!



Back in St. Louis we continue to see the talent of our young neighbors. In September the Missouri History Museum revealed the winners of their banner contest for the opening of the History Clubhouse. Among the winners was Rachel Solverud of the 6300 block of Washington in Parkview. Rachel is the daughter of Eric and Sarah Solverud and is in 8th grade and as you can see from the photo of her and her banner titled "We Are St. Louis", she is very talented! Congrats Rachel.



In his "spare" time, Andy has recently been at work on the large planter-box on the McPherson/Rosedale intersection. It has now

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!

Mayor Francis Slay presented some of our neighbors with awards at the recent Mayor's Business Celebration luncheon, including Piccione Pastry for the 28th Ward, and The Mayor's Award, given to those who spurred local economic development, to former head of RAC Jill McGuire and fellow Westminster resident Vince Schoemehl.

Wedding congratulations to Monica Hammond, daughter of Marvin and Linda Nodiff of the 6100 block of Westminster, on her July 19 marriage to Michelle Lazarow. Marvin and Linda hosted a reception on the rooftop of the Moonrise Hotel on October 11. The beautiful couple live in New York City.



Proud to be a
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Rachel Boxdorfer

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From Senator Joe Keaveny

In support of a much-needed regional acute mental health care center, BJC HealthCare assumed operations and ownership of the St. Louis Regional Psychiatric Stabilization Center (PSC). The center is a 25-bed adult inpatient acute psychiatric program located on Delmar Blvd., within the City of St. Louis and the 4th Senatorial District. The facility's new name will be the Barnes-Jewish Hospital Psychiatric Support Center. It is expected that 80 percent of patients treated at this location will continue to be referred from the region's numerous hospital emergency departments.

The need for mental health care has quickly outgrown the amount of services available for treatment. Time developing treatment, as well as an overall understanding of the severity of mental health conditions and what those living with these conditions may endure, have caused a spike in patients seeking treatment. The influx in patients has highlighted the fact that there are not enough providers to care for those seeking treatment. This problem is only compounded when the person in need of treatment does not have or cannot afford the health care costs associated with the treatment needed to find them qualified help.

For more information on the center or to contact by e-mail, go to info@stlpsc.org, or call (314)

932-7110. The center is located at 5355 Delmar Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63112.

Family Workshop Series:

The St. Louis Arc Family Workshop Series will provide in-depth information on topics to help them support family members with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The workshops are free and take place at the St. Louis Arc Center Family Center, located at 1177 N. Warson Rd., in St. Louis. In November:

Children's Class:

Uncovering and Supporting Your Child's Sensory Needs at Home

November 19 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Presenters: Bridget Hornberg, occupational therapist, Belle Children's Services of St. Louis Arc and Joy Bender, occupational therapist, Belle Children's Services of St. Louis Arc.

Advance registration is required. For more information, to register, or to receive our weekly email newsletters, please email Brianne Smith at bsmith@slarc.org or call (314) 817-2216. Plan to arrive 15 minutes before the workshop starts to sign-in and collect handouts.

Go to www.senate.mo.gov/keaveny for more information or to contact me directly.

New at St. Louis ArtWorks

Autumn is in the air, and the Inaugural Apprentice Teams of St. Louis ArtWorks at 5959 Delmar have begun to create! This fall, we have two outstanding groups, led by professional St. Louis artists, teaching Artists William Burton and Robert Ketchens, return to work with apprentices on a community mural project. When asked how they plan to approach the project, Burton said, "We're going old-school with sketch books and imagination are their best tools."

Teaching artist Mark Clark returns to work with apprentices on digital filmmaking, to create a commissioned PSA for the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund.

Final pieces and handmade Apprentice art will come together for ArtWorks' Annual Holiday Sale on Saturday, December 12, 2015. Make sure to find St. Louis ArtWorks on Facebook and follow @StLArtWorks on Twitter, for the latest updates and program photos!



photos by King Schoenfeld

BBQ

by Lana Stein

The concert series at Four Corners, Wintermarkt, and National Night Out feature fabulous barbecue proudly prepared by residents. I had my first pulled pork there a couple years ago and try to get back to have some more whenever there is an event. In earlier years, I also sampled the ribs. While I am not a super gourmet, I can assure you that this barbecue is wonderful and equal to what we might get at regular establishments. To learn about the secret of pulled pork, I spoke to Hitch Powell of 61xx Westminster. He prepares and cooks the meat and made my mouth water when he described the process.

About 7 years ago, barbecue became a feature at events. Five men were involved: Dan Lodholz, Phil Lodholz, Jon Parker, Dan Hudspeth and Hitch Powell. Powell was the rookie on the team. Phil Lodholz developed the recipes for rubs and sauce. They originally used 3-5 smokers to prepare the meats. They smoked pork shoulder, chicken thighs, and ribs. The process would begin at 5am. The fires had to be checked every 15-20 minutes and were watched over for over 12 hours. At the end of the day, they would grill hot dogs, hamburgers and brats. This process was followed for about 5 years.

Some of the initial group had changes in job status that limited or prevented their participation. Hitch remained and developed a new technique to prepare the meat. He got a 55 gallon drum upright with lid on top. The plumbing controls air flow from the bottom. It can hold temperature for 12 hours. It's

now possible for 1 person to do the job. Dan Hudspeth and Larry Molina set up the brats, hot dogs, and burgers.

For the smoked meats, Hitch uses 3-6 ten pound pork butts, 2-4 large roaster chickens, and 2-4 trays of chicken thighs. Big events call for 50 pounds of pork and of chicken. Smaller events require half the quantity.

On the Friday morning before a Saturday event, the fire is lit at 6am and seasonings are rubbed into the pork. From 6:30 to 7am, temperature is set in the smoker. Hitch checks it at 9 and 11am. At noon, Hitch takes the meat temperature. It should be 170 degrees. The meat is wrapped in aluminum foil and all the spices are added. When the meat reaches 200 degrees, it is put in igloo coolers, usually by 1-1:30. Then the brine for the chicken is prepared and the chicken is placed in it. That meat is then seasoned and smoked. The meats are allowed to be cooled so that they can be pulled.

On event day, Larry Molina, Dan Hudspeth and Hitch join together to pull everything together and you'll find them dishing up the delicious product as the music begins.

I asked Hitch what happened to the ribs. He said he would love to bring them back but they're very labor intensive and it is hard to figure how much will be needed. Perhaps the ribs could return on a limited basis and be sold in batches of 3- ribs.

Selling the barbecue makes some money for the SDCC as well as happy customers. Come to Wintermarkt and look for this excellent barbecue. Bon appetit.



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serving dinner tues-sat 5:30-10pm
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www.atlasrestaurantstl.com

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.

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

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Kids Corner

by Susanne Knese

Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving. ~ W. T. Purkiser

Fun activities during these coming months:

- Thanksgiving Day Parade in Downtown St. Louis – November 26th
 - Delmar Loop’s “Light up Delmar” weekend of November 27th
 - Science Center
 - Public Telescope Viewing the 1st Friday of every Month
 - Ripley’s Believe It or Not exhibit through January 3rd
 - Sled riding down Art Hill followed up with Hot Chocolate by the fire at the Boat House!
 - Skating at Steinberg outdoor rink in Forest Park through February 25th
 - Wild Lights at the St. Louis Zoo
- “Oh Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree, how lovely are your branches!”

Calling all kids to come decorate the Christmas tree at our very own neighborhood library, Charring Cross at 356 North Skinker. There will be a basket in the window November 17th – December 24th for you to place your ornament (please write your name and age on the ornament) to decorate Mr. Charles’ tree. If you would like your ornament back after the holidays please pick it up by January 14th.

Question for February edition: What is your favorite Dr. Seuss story or quote? And / or Submit a valentine picture. Include your name and age. Please submit drawings to kidscorner@sdtimes.org by January 10th! If you have other kid friendly events you would like included in this section, please email kidscorner@sdtimes.org

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Young and old at the Westminster block party

Australians in Skinker DeBaliviere

by Jo Ann Vatcha



Michelle Donnelly and Peter Willey recently returned to Australia after a memorable summer in the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood, where they stayed at the home of Pat Kohn on Kingsbury while Pat was doing her own travels abroad.

Michelle is an Occupational Therapist who met our neighborhood’s Kathy Kniepmann, also an OT, years ago in London at the World Federation of Occupational Therapists conference.

Michelle is the Program Coordinator at Southern Cross University in Queensland, teaching and doing research and curriculum development. But this summer she was a Washington University Visiting Scholar.

Michelle and Peter live in Fingalshead, a small town (with a smaller population than our SD neighborhood) in southeast Queensland, near its border with New South Wales in Australia. Fingalshead, often called “the Gold Coast” is considered a surfer’s “paradise lost” for its outstanding beaches and waves. However, as Michelle and Peter noted, although we have no ocean, “St. Louis’ mighty river is six-seven times bigger than any river in Queensland, which is semi-arid.” However, Fingalshead does have a quarterly newspaper, called the “Fingal Flyer”, which is currently focused on saving the dunes which protect the coast there.

Michelle and Peter told me they really enjoyed their summer in SD, especially the neighborhood closeness. They asked about how we had achieved the diversity, and asked about whether there had been “conscious efforts,” after they attended the BBQ concert at Lucier Park, which really impressed them. They also loved Bill Christman’s great sculpture garden and Joe’s Cafe. Fresh produce from our community garden was a treat. They mentioned all the opportunities to connect with people here. They really appreciated the Gateway Orchestra Concerts at WU, especially the 4th of July concert with the Sousa marches! They couldn’t believe the wealth of museums open to all, and loved the outdoor activities in Forest Park. They loved the food and “hive of industry” at the Festival of Nations and participated in the International Folk Dancing group in U City. Just a bit outside the neighborhood, they went to see the Grand Canyon, of special interest to Peter, who’s a geologist. He couldn’t pass up the opportunity to go to KC to see the Rolling Stones at Arrowhead Stadium. Peter also enjoyed bicycling on the Katy Trail with neighbor Tom Snyder, husband of Michelle’s host at WU, Kathy Kniepmann.

As a visiting WU Scholar this summer, Michelle was able to work with the labs that work with discharged patients, as well as new programs working with patients with autism. She feels that “the future of Occupational Therapy is community-based programs at school and work settings.” She shared her own research on the developmentally disabled in Australia. Michelle noted that the programs she observed in St. Louis were “more innovative,” specifically the “intervention programs for school readiness” and the “Bright Futures” program, focused on return to work and school after illness or injury. Her enthusiasm made one eager to learn more about the great work being done right here! Michelle and Peter felt at home here, and they look forward to a return visit to Skinker DeBaliviere.



photos by Brightside St. Louis

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Solar Yoga

St Louis' oldest and longest lasting yoga center is conveniently located right here in the Skinker-Debaliviere neighborhood. The Solar Yoga center moved to its current location at 6002 Pershing on the corner of Des Peres and Forest Park Parkway in 1971, following a 2 year run on South Grand and another 2 years on Big Bend.



We invite the Skinker-Debaliviere community to check out the yoga classes at the Solar Yoga Center.

DeBaliviere Update

by Derek Knight

When I first heard about work on "the DeBaliviere Bridge" many months ago, I wondered - what bridge? I hadn't connected that fact that the road goes over the MetroLink lines with there being a bridge there! Over the course of this year I've been made very aware of the bridge, with the road closed, the existing structure removed and a new one lifted into place.



September saw another milestone in the Loop Trolley project, as the bridge was reopened, allowing traffic to once again flow south from DeBaliviere towards the History Museum. The opening was not accompanied by a big ceremony, but a few of us turned up to watch the event, and the observers were probably outnumbered by workers ready to move signs and make final preparations. Talking to these guys it was obvious that they are as invested in this project as the rest of us, and they take justifiable pride in the work done. Among the small number of residents was Joe Edwards, who had been given the honor of being the first person to cross the new structure. At the appointed time, Joe drove his '57 Buick across the bridge, only to have to wait for the lights to change before continuing across Forest Park Parkway, around the History Museum and back. Before he had completed the loop, the bridge was back in full action, with traffic using the new route as if there had never been an interruption of movement. (As a note for history, the first vehicle to cross north over the bridge was a truck from the St Louis City Water Division.)

For the last several months, the east side of DeBaliviere has been a hive of activities. A vast amount of ground has been dug up and new drainage installed. This has entailed St Louis Water trucks being in attendance almost every day, and other drivers constantly have to be aware of lane changes. Forms have been set, gravel dumped and leveled, and concrete poured. Right now it is hard to envision this as anything other than a building site, but the hiking/biking path and trolley route are slowly emerging from the chaos. As I write, work on the road continues to go on apace, and from the other side of the street I can see that the Trolley tracks have been laid on the DeBaliviere Bridge.

It is interesting looking back at my photographs over the time of the work here. I took some pictures just before the bridge was removed, and the trees were in their spring blossom. Now it's Fall and the same trees are starting to lose their leaves. By next spring, assuming things continue to go as planned, the blossom will fall on a completed bridge and the tracks of a new Trolley route for St Louis.

More pictures and updates about the DeBaliviere Loop Trolley work can be found on my blog, <https://derekknigh007.wordpress.com/>

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SDCC Update

The SDCC began the process of saying goodbye to Liz Pund. Liz's last day as a full-time employee was on Monday, October 12, the day of the last board meeting. We thanked Liz for her service and hard work in the time she was on staff at SDCC, particularly as executive director the past two years. Andy Cross presented Liz with an original drawing to honor the good work she did on behalf of the neighborhood. It was only a partial goodbye however, as Liz will still work on a part-time basis through the transition and until the new executive director is in place. Even after her time is done, Liz won't be far in her new position as manager of the Community Arts Training program at RAC. A search committee was created, the job description is being circulated and we are working to have a new director in place before the end of the year.

Also at the October 12 meeting, the board approved the creation of a new Diversity and Inclusion Committee, which will be co-chaired by neighborhood residents Robert (Bobby) Stewart and Justine Carter. This committee grew out of the community conversations SDCC organized last December and February and we are very excited about the energy around this work and grateful to Bobby and Justine for their willingness to lead the effort. If you would like more information or would like to serve on this committee, please contact Bobby at bobbystew05@yahoo.com.

We are working hard on getting geographic representation on the new Neighborhood Funding Committee, which will solicit community feedback through open forums on ways to fund neighborhood improvement efforts in the future. The committee is almost complete and will be announced soon.

The 2015 Aging in Place program wrapped with the last event

on October 17. Over the last year we held 10 workshops and events with more than 40 neighborhood seniors participating! Thanks to the leadership of Alice Stanley and the Neighborhood Services Committee, we are hoping to expand next year and welcome input from neighbors.

Next year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. We formed a committee to consider ways to commemorate and celebrate this milestone. If you are interested in being part of that discussion, please contact Mary Pat O'Gorman at holtgreivemp@hotmail.com.

Historic District Update

The historic district committee has completed the public engagement for review of the update to the ordinance. Turnout was fairly light, but productive. There is still a bit of editing to be done, but we are hoping to get the revision to the community council again for the November meeting. Once approved by the council, it will go to the preservation board. We are still taking any comments on the draft, so if anyone missed out on the public meetings, they are still welcome to comment. There will also be additional public meetings once the draft goes before the preservation board and the Board of Public Service.

There was lengthy discussion about coal chutes, and the consensus was that if someone really wants a window in the old coal chute opening, we thought that was fine. There was discussion about retaining walls. There wasn't so much a revision as much as cleaning up the language so it would not be contradictory from one point to another. Retaining walls will still not be looked upon favorably, but there are instances where they will be allowed, just as before. Vinyl fencing is still not allowed.

28th Ward Democrats
2015:
December 7 Holiday Party

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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It's Always History in Skinker Debaliviere: Hamilton School

by Jo Ann Vatcha

The TIMES has been gratified by the many positive comments about our series about the history of our great neighborhood. This past summer, **Marj Weir** and I were so fortunate to attend a gathering of several current residents of the Willows who share something remarkable: they all went to Hamilton School in the 1940's, a fact learned by our friend, **Lucille Green**, who works for St. Andrews Services and who organized our meeting there along with neighborhood alumn **Mariann Baker**, **Herb Bilinsky**, **Eunice Weinhaus Bailis**, **Mary Jane Bartlett Conrades**, **Carol Lasker**, **Eva Bell**, **Renee Hartod**, and **Leroy Grossman** shared their memories of attending elementary school at Hamilton, as well as some snippets of their lives as children in our neighborhood during this historic era of the Depression and World War II.

Herb Belinsky lived with his family at 5749 Kingsbury, near Hamilton School. Several of those we met lived on the same block! He also graduated from the 8th grade in 1945. However, his stories were less about school and more about the life of a boy in the DeBaliviere neighborhood of the 40's. His father **Harry Bellinsky** (or **Harry Belins**, as he was known in the store), was owner of his own store, "Harry Belinsky Grocer" at 315 DeBaliviere. Herb recalled boys playing with rubber band "guns", running over the roofs of a restaurant at DeBaliviere and Kingsbury and going to Hodges Roller Rink in Wellston, as well as Winter Garden ice rink on DeBaliviere. He took the trolley on his own to deliver groceries from his grandfather's store at Pershing and Clara.

Food Memories

Herb Belinsky remembered lunchtime and walking from school to lunch at "Aunt Minnie's", where for 30 cents, children could have a hot lunch at her apartment on Hamilton, just off Delmar (and very near Hamilton School!).

Eunice Weinhaus Bailis recalled other nearby restaurants: the Blue Moon and the famed Golden Fried Chicken Loaf, on Delmar (where the Ruth Porter Mall and Park is now located.) Upstairs was a pool hall. The memory of a loaf of bread with an entire fried chicken inside was a mouth-watering image for all of us! She mentioned teacher Miss Dryden, who didn't allow 8th grade girls to wear lipstick.

Leroy Grossman recalled the baked treats at Dorr and Zeller (where Pulaski Bank is now) and the "lick em dots" at Busy Bee Candy, just across the street on DeBaliviere near Waterman. Leroy had a paper stand at Delmar and Goodfellow, as well as at the Munny Opera during the summer.



photo from Carol Lasker

He recalled seeing "bookies"—the "Happy Hollow" and Chester's on Delmar (Chester's Pipe Shop was there for many years and is probably remembered by many in the neighborhood.)

Mary Jane Bartlett Conrades' food memory: "When we were old enough to handle the finances Mother gave us each a quarter to spend at the Blue Moon Cafe on Delmar. Twenty five cents bought us milk, a roast beef sandwich, mashed potatoes and gravy. If we skipped the milk and drank water we would have a nickel left over to spend at Cohen's Drug Store across the street. At a penny a piece we could splurge on five colored and gummy hats or five Tootsie Rolls or five licorice whips or a combination of these. It was a real challenge to make these choices, but Mr. Cohen was very patient while we deliberated."

School Memories

Kindergarten at Hamilton School must have been quite an experience. Miss Hill was vividly recalled by many. **Carol Lasker** said "I think I threw up every day of kindergarten! But I also remember games of corkball and playing on the swings and merry-go-round." Carol returned to Hamilton a few years ago as a mentor and said that remarkably, it looked just the same!



photo from Herb Belinsky

photo of Kindergarten

Eva Bell came to Hamilton School "off the boat from Germany" at age 8, in 1938. She was partnered with Nora Layman to learn English and lived at 5790 Kingsbury. Eva recalled that she "loved the Christmas carols," which was remembered by many in the "reunion" group. She spoke of decorating the large tree and singing the carols, along with the Christian students. Renee Hartod, also Jewish, also loved decorating

the Christmas tree and remembered being asked by her Catholic neighbors at 5743 Kingsbury to come over and decorate their tree.

Mary Jane Bartlett Conrades actually remembers starting school: "Hamilton School was built in 1917 and I entered Kindergarten there ten years later. Claire Heimrod, the sixth grader who lived upstairs in our flat at 6047 McPherson escorted me along Kingsbury, over the river Des Peres, crossing Nina Place, the railroad tracks and DeGiverville to Westminster Place to my new school. In those days Hamilton looked massive and scary. I'm sure I cried. Miss Hill or Miss Holland taught me to wipe my eyes and then blow my nose in that order whenever I cried. That lesson is one of my first memories of starting school."

Renee Hartod described walking to the Velvet Freeze ice cream store, shopping at the dime stores Kresge and Woolworths on Delmar, and skating at the Winter Garden ice rink (where Crossroads School now stands). She also spoke of "walking from Hamilton to "manual training" at Dozier School, at Maple and Goodfellow," and travelling in a "service car" to Dr. Goldman's on Euclid Avenue.

Lainy Nodiff Vinikow lives in California now, but learned from her

over the viaduct to the school. I remember singing as a group with Miss Grossberg and how I awkwardly insisted on standing while playing the piano while we were singing. I remember walking as a group to the Tivoli theater on the weekends. And skating at the rink on a Saturday. About the teachers: Miss Grossberg was the music teacher, as well as taught her own class. Miss Landzettel (not sure how it's spelled), Miss Smith, Miss Cook ("all countries will rise. . . and then fall"). I remember Miss Cook wearing sturdy tie-shoes with low heels and dark navy blue serge fabric dresses."



photo from Missouri History Museum

Many of the Hamilton School students lived in multi-family buildings on the 5700 block of Kingsbury, just west of the Dorr Zeller Building (now Pulaski Bank). **Leroy Grossman**, class of 1948, went on to be a program director at the East-West Coordinating Council and in the 70's participated in a study of housing in the 70's which involved his old neighborhood. Later, in the 80's, when Leon Strauss' Pantheon Corporation undertook redevelopment of what is now called DeBaliviere Place, a large number of the multi-family buildings west of DeBaliviere were demolished and replaced by Kingsbury Square. Mr. Grossman has generously donated his copy of the urban study to our archives.

Editor's Note: In our 2014 November-December issue, we published the neighborhood memories of Mrs. Mary Jane Bartlett Conrades of her childhood on the 6100 block of McPherson. We have been very pleased to receive a new installment from Mrs. Conrades, who has a lively and lovely writing style and seems to remember everything! Her complete reminiscence, including segments on "Physical Education (or whatever)", "Sex Education", "Adventures", "The Literary Arts", "Music at Hamilton School", "Art at Hamilton School", and "The Depression" appear in full on our website. Go to <http://sdtimes.org/NeighborhoodMemories> to see more text and photos than we have space for in print. We are also happy to have many photographs from participants in the Hamilton School "reunion" and hope that readers will send us many more! Contact us at <http://sdtimes.org> or email me directly at jvatcha@gmail.com. Thanks to all the Hamilton School alums who have shared their stories!

brother, our neighbor, Marv Nodiff, about the Hamilton School project. She wrote: my family lived at 6055 Kingsbury and I attended Hamilton for 3rd grade through graduation. I have fond memories of Miss Smith, Miss Cook, Miss Landzettel, and Miss Grossberg, and the marching and dances we did for PE either in the classroom or the gym, especially when it was raining. And spelling bees. I remember waving to train passengers as we walked

IN YOUR EAR

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

What do we do today that will be castigated in the future? No, Ramona, I'm not talking about what you and I do (though there's no doubt plenty of grist there). Rather, I'm wondering what do we as a society do -- even officially sanctioned -- that will be scorned in three hundred years. That's not an idle question.

Take slavery as an example of how cultural mores have changed. Today slavery is totally abhorrent (thankfully!). Taking away the freedom of another human being is simply unacceptable. And yet, as the tragic shooting at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in South Carolina and the way that the Confederate flag was revered by the killer, slavery is still alive in some minds; demented minds, but still minds. In fact, slavery really didn't end all that long ago in our country. (Mind you, I'm only talking about slavery that was sanctioned by governments. I'm well aware that de facto slavery and slave-like conditions existed beyond the end of the Civil War.)

It's been 150 years since 1865, the official end of slavery. But if we go back another hundred years, slavery was embraced by many people living in what became our country. As we well know, Washington and Jefferson were among the notables who held slaves (pun intended with Jefferson). While they each made comments about the evils of slavery, neither even bothered to give freedom to their slaves when they died. And these guys were, like, leaders to whom we owe our country! There are thousands of places, from streets to states to universities named after them, and they engaged in something we find immoral today. All in all, twelve U.S. presidents owned slaves at one time in their lives. Yes, times change. Thankfully.

Looking ahead 250 years, what do we routinely do today that the people of 2265 will find abhorrent and disgusting? In those future history books - oops, I mean future history chips, likely embedded in children's brains at birth - what practices will they see in 2015 that will cause them to gasp in incredulity and amusement?

Peering into my plump polyester ball (given to me by my aunts, Polly and Ester), I've identified three current practices that will confound our descendants into two and a half centuries.

Zoos. Regardless of how spacious or attractive they are, future generations will wonder how we could imprison animals for our amusement. I know, I know, the zoo director will say that zoos protect the future and are primarily educational. Right. Tell that to the chimpanzee, sharing 99% of our DNA, who spends his life in a cage. Especially with

what technology can do today, do we really need living creatures behind bars or screens? (One of my favorite zoo exhibits has a sign that says "Look at the world's most dangerous animal!" It's posted above a mirror.) "How human-centric," future generations will sneer.

Determining the quality of education that a child receives on where she lives. Think about it: school expenditures are based on property taxes, and property taxes are a function of where you live. Wealthier communities generate more revenue so that the students attending their schools, already residing in homes with enough wealth to live there, have better paid teachers, more staff, and more supplies. This is illustrated by the difference in funding between two St. Louis suburbs: In 2013, the per pupil expenditure in the Clayton School District was \$17,721, but in the Mehlville School District it was \$8,612. Future generations will ask "How fair was that?"

Allowing fossil fuels to be the norm for powering automobiles. Perhaps we didn't know about global warming fifty years ago (I didn't), but we do now. More, today we have the technological means to move away from being dependent on oil. Sure, it will cost a lot more, at least in the short run, but unless we change things quickly and significantly, the short run will become the short swim. "Why didn't they act?" future generations will wonder. Acting badly with knowledge is even worse than doing so from ignorance.

Allowing so many guns to be held by so many people. I don't know how many more killings or school shootings it will take, but sooner or later, hopefully sooner and not later, the public will force politicians to throw off the NRA shackles and restrict firearms. Once legislators behave responsibly and then after the hundred or so years that it will take to get all of the weapons off the street, the homicide rate will plummet. It's a lot harder to knock off someone with an ax or a knife, and a mass killing by stabbing is not likely. "Whatever took them so long?" will be the obvious question of future generations.

OK, enough of Hawkeye's profound and perspicacious prognostications. What do you think? What appalling current practice have I overlooked?

(Note: This question is based on the assumption that someone will still be at home on planet Earth in 2265. In the history of civilization, that's a long time. At the rate we're going, what are the odds that our planet will be habitable? Will the human race still be here by then? Will it be populated by bots? Will we become bots?)

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