

# The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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## Lyda Krewson Wins Democratic Mayoral Primary

By Richard Bose

28th Ward Alderman Lyda Krewson won the Democratic mayoral primary on March 7. She is expected to go on to win the general election on April 4. Unofficial vote totals show Krewson won by 1.66% or 888 votes over Treasurer Tishaura Jones who beat predictions of published polls via support from south side progressives which lead to the tight outcome. The wards of southwest St. Louis along with the 28th supported Krewson in both proportion and turnout.

Lyda Krewson....	17,110.....	32.04%
Tishaura Jones...	16,222.....	30.38%
Lewis Reed.....	9,775.....	18.31%
Antonio French....	8,460.....	15.84%
Jeffrey Boyd .....	1,429.....	2.68%

Most post-election analysis concluded the wide field of candidates helped give the victory to Krewson. With the margin of victory so small, the thinking is had any of the other African-American candidates not run, Jones would have come out on top.

Aldermatic President Lewis Reed will continue as president and a member of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment with the new mayor and Comptroller Darlene Green who won her primary handily. Jones will continue as treasurer as well. Working together with them, other city officials, the Board of Aldermen (which will have seven new members, including Krewson's successor), and citizens city-wide is paramount to advancing the city. Krewson has pledged to do that saying on This Week in Missouri Politics on March 12 that she had reached out to the other candidates and that "there were a lot of good ideas. Every single one of the candidates who ran in the Democratic primary is serious about making St. Louis better- better for all of us."

The main issues of the race were crime, policing, racial equity, reducing poverty, homelessness, development incentives, turning the tide on north city decline, the city's financial state, transit, stadiums, education, and competency. The campaigns were largely positive, Krewson's entirely so. Krewson was criticized for her support of development incentives like Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and property tax abatements granted to projects in the 28th Ward and the central corridor in general. Krewson's primary issue was public safety: promoting hiring more police officers, higher pay and more training for them, and efforts to combat issues that lead to criminal activity in the first place.

Lyda Krewson has been alderman since 1997, serving parts of Skinker DeBaliviere. We've had firsthand knowledge of her hands-on, above-and-beyond efforts to make the neighborhood a better place. While many constituents are excited to have her as mayor, concern turns to who will become alderman when she most likely ascends to the mayor's office.



Son Jack Krewson with Lyda and Mike Owens on Election Day.

There will be a special election. The 28th Ward Democratic Committeeman and Committeewoman, Art Perry and Gail Farwell, select the Democratic nominee, which the Democratic Central Committee will ratify. Anyone else who wishes to run appears on the ballot as an independent. The winner serves Lyda Krewson's unexpired term. March 2019 will be the next election for a full term.

### Statement to neighbors from Lyda:

It is such a pleasure and a privilege to represent the 28th ward and especially the great folks in Skinker DeBaliviere and the Loop. My tenure as Alderman will end if I am lucky enough to win the general election for Mayor on April 4th. Thank you so much for your support over all these years.

Together we have accomplished a lot. It has happened because of the investment of time, talent and treasure from committed neighbors, visionary business owners, contractors, bankers and institutions.

In all seriousness, if I were buying a house today Skinker DeBaliviere would be my top choice of neighborhoods. I recommend it to folks all the time! The mix people, the summer concerts/BBQ's, Winter Market, the community gardens, the Loop, SDCC, the churches, public transportation options, the parks... there is a whole lot that is very very special about Skinker DeBaliviere!

Many thanks for the chance to be your Alderman- love you guys!

Thanks Lyda

## Neighbors for a Stable St. Louis - Proposition NS

By Stacy Ross and Vince Schoemehl

### It's Time to Take Care of Our Neighborhoods!

On April 4, you'll also have the opportunity to vote for something that will affect you and your neighbors regardless of whether you have vacant properties nearby or not. For about \$11 a year for a \$100,000 home, you can help turn city-owned derelict buildings into homes for families.

Proposition NS (neighborhood stabilization) would:

- Stabilize and secure city-owned residential buildings deemed to be "rehab-able." This would include tuck-pointing, repairing or replacing the roof, and complete board-up to make them water tight to bring them up to pre-rehab condition. The allowable work is specifically spelled out in the proposed ordinance, and could not be used for HVAC, electrical systems or anything else.
- Neighborhoods will have an opportunity to help select which homes are stabilized.
- The stabilized homes would then be put up for auction to the highest bidder. The LRA will not set the price - the market will.
- These properties would go back on the tax rolls and become a source of income for the city instead of an expense.
- Stabilized homes could only be sold individually, discouraging big developers.
- No more than \$6 million in bonds could be sold in any one year up to \$40 million over about six years. The bonds would be paid back with a property tax increase of just \$11 per year on a \$100,000 home.

The city loses \$7 million per year in property taxes as a result of the vacant properties we own. About \$4 million of that would have gone to the St. Louis Public School System. This is just one of the many ways vacant buildings are costing us.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

#### Who will control the money?

Once approved by voters, the bonds would be sold and the funds would go to the St. Louis Development Corporation, the city's development arm. The SLDC must draft procedures for use of the bonds- following the dictates of the ordinance- which are then approved by the three-member Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

The LRA (Land Reutilization Authority), which is overseen by the SLDC, would put the stabilization work out for bid according to city guidelines, and paid for with the bond proceeds.

#### Who will decide which properties are stabilized?

The selection process is not spelled out in the ordinance. Neighbors for a Stable St. Louis is proposing an advisory commission. Neighborhoods, non-profits and others would submit applications which would then be evaluated according to criteria determined by the commission with resident input. The commission would submit a recommendation to the LRA. The process is designed to be transparent at each step along the way.

It's the Neighborhoods' Turn!

**VOTE YES for Proposition NS On April 4**

For more information: [www.Neighbors4StableSTL.org](http://www.Neighbors4StableSTL.org)

email: [Neighbors4StableSTL@gmail.com](mailto:Neighbors4StableSTL@gmail.com)

# Editor's Notebook

By Lana Stein

Our March 7 primary election could be characterized two ways: Only a small number of voters participated or a new coterie of progressive young people became quite involved or both.. For Skinker DeBaliviere, our longtime 28th Ward Alderman will be moving on up. During the course of the campaign, questions were raised regarding economic development and the incentives that have been used by the city of St. Louis to foster development.

Key to some of the arguments was the fact that development in St. Louis--as in other U.S. cities--has been uneven. Central cities have been the depository for the poor, often minority, for a long time. Yet, racial change has helped to produce the gross inequity. When African Americans moved into a neighborhood, that neighborhood experienced systemic business disinvestment. Chain stores were the first to exit. In addition, redlining, aided and abetted by the federal government and lending institutions, made home ownership very difficult. Home ownership is always linked to greater property care and participation.

Postwar development followed similar patterns in many cities. One could say that cities were like lemmings, imitating each other in each progressive wave of development,. Urban renewal and freeway building began the pattern. Then there were convention centers and hotels. Tourism became the magic bullet that would turn around urban fortunes. Stadium and arena building were critical to this phase. What about the least affluent citizens? There the answer was public housing and later low to mod projects. These concentrated those who were not well off and created ill-maintained warehouses for the poor.

Today development takes a number of forms. Tourist venues are still brought forward. But we also see market rate housing and commercial development in various areas of the city, often integrated areas. Historic housing is a lure as may be proximity to work or educational institutions. Many of these developments (or redevelopments) receive some form of subsidy from the city;. There are tax abatements of up to 25 years and there is tax

increment financing where taxes generated by the development subsidize its cost for a number of years.

Perhaps 20 years ago, an urbanist colleague maintained at a conference that he did not like development. Another scholar who had lived in Detroit and College Station said that he had lived where that was no development and where there was. He concluded that development was better. Although there have been debates in academia about the proper role of cities, there is no doubt that cities must balance budgets and that impedes implementation of too many redistributive policies. Cities have to raise revenue. They need residents, businesses, workers. Incentives for some of the development that St. Louis is experiencing benefit the developers and more affluent future residents. Is that worth it when so many city blocks are blighted? With the use of the incentives, the city never receives less from the property than is being redeveloped than it did in its original state. The benefits are time-limited. The Chase was fully back on the tax rolls after 10 years. Would development occur without incentives? It's doubtful. St. Louis competes against like cities and against its own suburbs. Clayton is offering Centene huge incentives. The West County Mall was redeveloped with a TIF. In the campaign, Alderman Krewson said that the goal was to offer the least possible to get the job done.

What happens to the areas of considerable blight? Residents need to work with elected officials and city strategists to envision what they would like to see in their neighborhoods. Development should move out from areas where it has thrived to adjacent areas to spread the dream. Developers could be offered partnerships: You do this building in the CWE and also a building to the north. Nothing happens overnight. Skinker DeBaliviere has been experiencing redevelopment for several decades. But there has to be a start and multiple goals need to be realized to make people's lives better: better housing and schools, job opportunities, transportation. None of this is easy but hopefully some day there can be greater equity, greater opportunity.

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

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: May 15, 2017.**

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

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## Gardening Workshop April 8

By Andy Cross

A special workshop on Square Foot Gardening will be held at Noon on Saturday, April 8, at the McPherson Community Garden, 5943 McPherson. Rain location is the art studio at 5949 Kingsbury. Parking on Des Peres Ave.

Learn from Instructor Claire Linzee about designs to make the best use of space for raised bed and backyard vegetable gardens.

# News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

With a bit of hesitation, I'm going to wish you a happy spring. I say it with hesitation because we didn't have much of a winter at all and then we were enjoying what appeared to be the flowers, the birds, and me; a full blown spring. Ah, but this is St. Louis. I kept saying all winter if it didn't snow we would pay in March or April. So, snowfall finally arrived in mid-March. You have to love St. Louis! Putting that all aside, let's see what our neighbors have been to during the winter/spring transition season.



Our last issue of the Times included an article about an event that was to be held in late March at Joe's Cafe benefitting the Angel Band Project. Music for the evening's entertainment (as promoted) was provided by the band The Occasionals. An added bonus for many neighbors at the event was that there was an opening band featuring three of our young neighbors. Instant Oatmeal features Lucy Ebeling, Lilia Voss, and Christian Boxdorfer. Lucy (daughter of

Sean and Rachel Ebeling of Parkview) and Lilia (daughter of Patti and Tim Voss of the 6100 block of McPherson) are juniors at Nerinx Hall High School. Christian (son of Matt and Rachel Boxdorfer) is a senior at Saint Louis University High School. They did a fantastic job and the experience of playing at such a cool venue is one they will never forget. I'm happy to report also that the event was a sold out and very fun success!

Marianne Muellerleile who grew up on the 6100 Kingsbury appeared in a supporting role on CBS's Elementary on March 5, playing the role of Margaret. Marianne has been acting for over 40 years and has been in countless well known television programs, films, commercials, plays and more.



I am sad to have to include also that Elizabeth Mulcahy Telthorst of Parkview passed away on February 16th after a hard-fought battle with breast cancer that lasted almost 14 years. Elizabeth's life was celebrated on February 20th. She was an incredibly inspiring person in her career in social work and also her involvement in organizations like the American Youth Foundation and Kids4Peace. Our condolences go out to her husband Dr. Dean Telthorst and all of her family including her brother Andy Mulcahy who also lives in the neighborhood.

Longtime neighbors and St. Roch families will remember the Vossen family who lived in Parkview in the 70's and 80's. Ralph Vossen, most recently of St. Charles, died on February 28th at the age of 88. Ralph had been Vice Principal at Normandy Senior High School for over 25 years and a Resident Director at Lindenwood University. He is remembered as a gifted athlete who coached and announced football games, umpired high school baseball, and taught driver's ed. Our condolences go out to all of his children and other family members.



The annual Police/Firefighters Lunch was held on February 19, with a large volunteer turnout and even bigger first responder participation! Special thanks to longtime organizers Ruth Johnson and her mighty band of callers and cooks.

## 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!



## Loop Trolley Ready to Roll!

By Derek Knight

Trolley # 1 is ready to roll and is due to start testing by the middle of March. First, the trolley will be pulled/pushed along the route by a truck to check clearances and basic safety. Following that, power will be applied, and the trolleys themselves will be tested, at first slowly, then at the full operating speed of 25 mph. All the switches and signals will also be tested, and the trolleys will complete 300 miles of live testing before being open to the public so we can expect to get familiar with the clang, clang, clang of the trolley very soon!

A recent press conference was my first opportunity to actually get onto a Trolley, and the inside is really impressive. I was interested to see that the seat backs move back and forward so one can face in either direction. Participating in the event were, among others, Joe Edwards, U City Mayor Shelley Welsch, Alderwoman Lyda Krewson, Alderman Frank Williamson, along with Loop Trolley personnel and interested parties from the Loop, Forest Park Forever, and Skinker DeBaliviere.



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# Backyard Style

By Rebecca Eisele, Landscape Designer at Quiet Village Landscaping

For most homeowners, the backyard isn't the main focus for their home design plans. However, this can be an advantage when it comes to outdoor living spaces. By the time many of us consider the backyard, we've already developed a strong sense of own unique decor personality. Most home design styles can be classified as one or even a combination of the following: traditionalist, bohemian, modern, eclectic, rustic or industrial. Fortunately, there are backyard design plans to suit any taste, as well as any budget. Some design elements that might have particular appeal to different décor personalities include:

**Traditionalist:** Think classic comfort. What is the primary purpose of a patio? A place for sitting and relaxing. Attractive, sturdy pavers in tasteful patterns provide easy walking and an artistic base for entertaining nooks of tables, chairs, planters, and picnic tables.

**Bohemian:** We love the idea of adding a fire pit. Fire pits are an easy way to create a cozy gathering space for family and friends. And everyone can appreciate freedom from bugs; wood fires can help keep mosquitoes and other outdoor pests away.

**Modernist:** Try adding multiple levels. Homeowners hoping for a modern look can consider a range of options for walkways and pavers that might include steps and gradual slopes to wind through a terraced garden.

**Eclectic:** Water features are so fun! Homeowners can show off their eclectic backyard style with a fountain, fish pond, bird bath, or other water feature that makes a splash.

**Rustic:** Who doesn't enjoy eating out? Cooking outdoors can reach a new level, as built-in outdoor kitchens allow guests to help with meal prep or simply chat with the host/chef while enjoying the beautiful outdoors.

**Industrial:** Unique lighting is a great way to make a statement and set the mood in an outdoor setting. Some ways to get creative with light include not only hardscape lighting and illuminated planters, but cool elements such as lighting fixtures that highlight outdoor artwork or sculptures for a more urban, industrial vibe.

Quiet Village Landscaping was established in 2001, and uses creative design ideas to help homeowners maximize their outdoor living spaces.



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## 28th Ward Democrats 2017:

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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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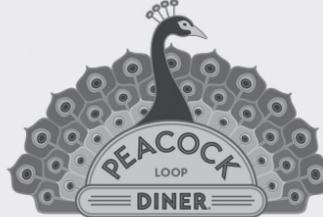
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# KIDS CORNER

By Susanne Knese

Okay kids, there wasn't much snow to enjoy this winter so let's turn our attention to the fun times ahead this summer with a look at just a few summer camps around our area available for your enjoyment. To find more information please check out their websites. p.s. Teenagers, these camps may also be a great summer job opportunity!

- COCA – Center of Creative Arts
- Craft Alliance Summer Art Camps on Delmar
- Chess Summer Camp in the Central West End
- Challenger Learning Center – St. Louis in Ferguson offers simulated space missions, SCUBA diving and lunar colonies and more.
- Fontbonne University – Cyber Warrior Camp explores cyber security with the pros.
- Forsyth School
- ID Tech Camps at Washington University
- Kids who K.A.R.E Camp (various location) is a day camp where kids volunteer at area nonprofits and participate in unique service opportunities in St. Louis.
- Humane Society of Missouri on Macklind Avenue.
- Highlands Youth Summer Camp in Forest Park offer tennis and golf camps
- New City Summer Camps on Waterman
- Ranken Technical College's Adventure Academy on Finney Avenue in UCity
- St. Louis Science Center
- St. Louis Zoo
- Upper Limits Rock Climbing in Downtown St. Louis and Maryland Heights

## Don't forget to enroll in our local Library Summer Reading Programs!

St. Louis Public Library - May 21st through July 30th  
 University City Library – May 26th through July 21st

**Question for June Kids Corner:** What is your favorite vacation destination? Share your favorite summer activities here in St. Louis? You may just inspire other families to try out your favorite places. Draw or write your answers to kidscorner@sdtimes.org by May 10th! This is YOUR corner, so make it what you want!

## SEEK & FIND

### April Showers Bring May Flowers

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| TULIPS    | WISTERIA   |          |



## 'Zza

by Sean McGroarty

No, I didn't fall asleep on the keyboard. Chris Sommers, who rose to prominence after founding Pi Pizzeria on Delmar, has opened a new type of pizza place on Skinker, right next to Bobo Noodle House and Kayak's. He calls it 'Zza. I suppose his next concept will be Pa. Or Azzip.

Anyway, this past weekend, Cristina took Charlie and Brendan off on a college visit. You would think that whenever my lady goes out of town, my first priority would be to ensure the safety and happiness of my children. You would be wrong. As any dad knows, the first priority in such circumstances is to figure out how to cook as few meals as possible. I had a good stock of sugar for breakfast. They're on their own for lunch. That left dinner. I found out that waffles for dinner only works twice in a row. Luckily, 'Zza opened well within walking distance.

Invigorated by the thought of hot food and no clean up, we bundled up against the seasonably chilly March air and set out. Children's laughter mixed with dad grumbling as we made our way out to Skinker, then south. I was a bit worried that the place might be jammers, on account of the date (3/14, or  $\pi$  Day), but we found out later that we missed the rush.

The interior of 'Zza is rather industrial looking, with exposed HVAC venting, polished concrete floor, and aluminum chairs. The entire north wall of the space is filled with windows that look out to Pershing, which allows a pleasant amount of light and a nice view for anyone who wishes to eat at the counter lining that wall. The opposite wall is decorated by two modern, Picasso-looking murals. All in all, it gives the feeling of an orderly and clean place to enjoy a meal.

As soon as we walked up to the counter, a nice man approached us with a tablet to take our order. The three younger ones chose cheese and pepperoni pizzas. Joe chose to be the adventurous one of the evening and ordered an STL Summer, with provel, onion, jalapeno, spicy sausage, and parsley. I ordered a cobb salad (healthy? Of course it's healthy. It's a salad).

Chris describes his new restaurant as fast-casual. He uses a TurboChef, a high-temperature convection oven that allows his chefs to cook an oblong, individual-sized pizza in just two minutes. So, even a relatively large party like ours only had to wait a few minutes before they brought our food out to us.

My salad was quite good, although the dressing was just a little sweet for my taste. The three younger children, Patrick, Peter and Gertie, polished off their pizzas in record time, although I managed to purloin a piece or two when no one was looking. Joe enjoyed his STL Summer, although he underestimated the effect of jalapenos. We all had water or soda to drink, although quite a few types of canned beer were available.

Do not go to 'Zza expecting Pi by the slice. Chris Sommers is really offering another type of pizza altogether. Overall, 'Zza succeeded admirably for the McGroarty Family. We all enjoyed the food, quite reasonably priced at about \$9 for anything on the menu. The service was fast and the staff extremely friendly. Well done, Chris.

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# East Loop CID

By Richard Bose



A Community Improvement District (CID) has been created for the East Loop. It covers the properties along Delmar from the city limits, including all of Washington University's North Campus, to DeBaliviere on the south side of Delmar and to the History Museum-owned lot on the north side of Delmar. A CID levies an assessment which can pay for furthering economic development, enhancing public safety, and maintaining and improving infrastructure. A board of directors administers the funds. Its creation requires a petition signed by more than 50% of the assessed value of real property and more than 50% per capita of all owners of real property within the district. Then the Board of Aldermen passes and the mayor signs an ordinance (70322 passed June 2016).

The East Loop CID levies an assessment based on land area and square footage of buildings- \$0.10 per sq. ft. of land, \$0.20 per sq. ft. of improvements on the first story of any structure, and \$0.125 per sq. ft. of improvements above the first story of any structure (except for parking structures). The assessment doesn't apply to tax-exempt property except the Loop Trolley Barn which will pay \$500. The assessment is phased in over three years in 1/3 increments starting in 2016. Washington University and Bi-State Development have voluntarily agreed to pay the assessment on their properties. The rate will increase 10% every five years to keep pace with inflation. The CID will last for 25 years when it can be renewed by another petition.

The CID replaces the East Loop/Parkview Gardens Special Business District which had a budget of less than \$50,000 per

year. The CID is expected to have a budget ten times that. That level of funding would allow it to undertake initiatives like hiring full-time staff to focus on economic development, implement current studies (like the Loop Retail Study), maintain and update the "Lease the Loop" and "Visit the Loop" websites, and encourage transit-oriented development around the Delmar Metrolink station (including redevelopment of the Wabash Station building) and mixed-use development. Also it will enhance public safety and maintain and improve existing infrastructure by providing additional security presence during nights, weekends and other times as needed, providing additional security cameras and equipment, addressing parking needs, maintaining and improving public areas, sidewalks, streetscape, and street lights, and providing for trash/recycling receptacles, trash removal, street sweeping, tree grates, and garden beds.

- The CID has a seven-member board of directors. It consists of:
- Two representatives of Washington University (Cheryl Adelstein and Mary Campbell)
  - One representative of an owner of property within the CID upon which is located a live performance venue with seating capacity of at least 1,000 (Joe Edwards)
  - Two representatives of owners of businesses licensed by the City and operating within the CID (Steve Rotskoff and Tamika Stigers)
  - One representative of Bi-State Development (Aliah Holman); and
  - One at-large member (Dave Mastin)

At least two members must be property owners east of Des Peres and two must be property owners west of Des Peres. Members will serve four-year terms. The initial board has four members with four-year terms and three with two-year terms to stagger them. The board of directors will convene quarterly meetings of the property owners and business owners within the CID.

The initial CID board members were selected as part of the CID approval process. The board is self-perpetuating as are all independent boards. Terms are staggered. The meetings of the board are open to the public. Notice is sent to all property owners in advance of the meetings. Business owners or other interested individuals are welcome to come to the quarterly meetings.

The new designation and property tax will enable many more improvements to the business district. Joe Edwards said, "having a Community Improvement District will be a wonderful addition, giving us the ability to do special events, landscaping projects, and to make the area safer for all residents, businesses and visitors. Having sufficient resources to have dedicated staff will make it possible to seek out new businesses and will strengthen the entire East Loop."

## Update on Studentification

By Lana Stein

"Studentification" occurs when a neighborhood proximate to a university turns into a student dormitory. For the past year, a small ad hoc group of long term residents has been exploring housing issues in Skinker DeBaliviere. One of the key issues examined is the proliferation of single family homes bought by investors and rented to undergraduates. Municipal law

calls for no more than 3 unrelated adults to occupy a dwelling unit. These investors sometimes violate this law to maximize their profits. A number rent from \$500-\$600 per bedroom. They advertise on sites such as Zillow and offer to find roommates.

The effect on our neighborhood is startling. On the 58 and 5900 blocks of Pershing, there are 22 single family homes occupied by students. On 5900 Waterman there are 8. Speculators also purchased a large home on 6100 McPherson and it now

has 6 undergraduate residents.

The group that has documented this problem is now working with the SDCC Residential Committee, Washington University, and city agencies to attempt to attenuate this neighborhood takeover and maintain Skinker DeBaliviere as the diverse and stable neighborhood it has become and should be.

If you have comments on this issue, please contact the TIMES via our website.



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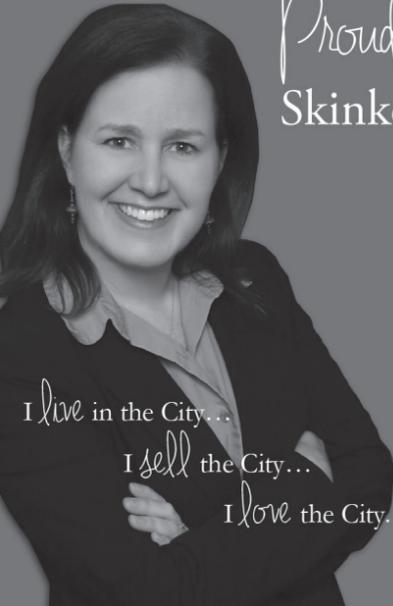

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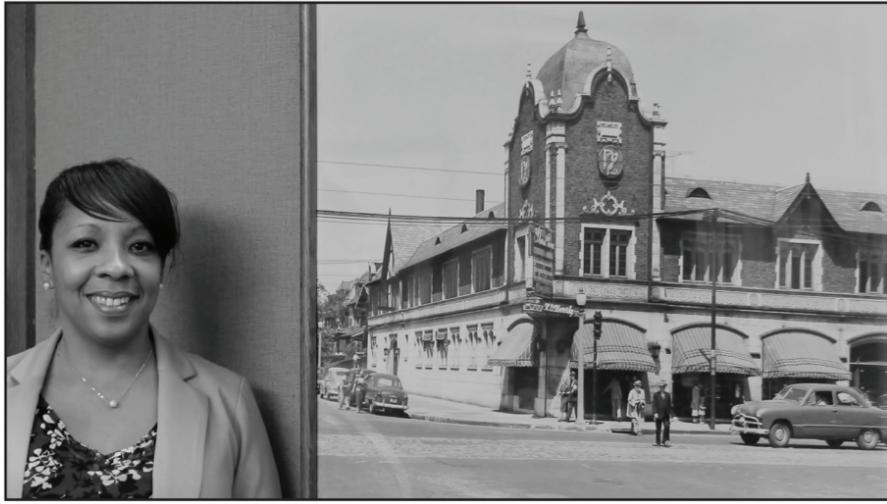


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## New Bank, New Leader

By Derek Knight

Pulaski Bank on the corner of DeBaliviere and Waterman, and its predecessor the founding Central West End Savings and Loan, has over many years been a fixture in our local community. Coming into the neighborhood later in life I already banked elsewhere, but I heard from neighbors how they looked on this as very much a local institution, and many shared with me how they had been able to get their first loan there when other banks had turned them down. It came as a shock therefore when suddenly we saw a new name on the building, and we abruptly had to get used to the Busey Bank name.

Recently I had the opportunity to talk with the new manager of the DeBaliviere bank, Karla Carroll, and first I asked her about Busey Bank, where were they from, and did they share the same ethos as Pulaski and CWE? She tells me that Busey traces its history back to 1868 when the original bank was founded in Champaign IL. They were very much a bank for the local community and had strong local roots. When the question of the banks getting together came up, there were seen to be a lot of clear synergies between the viewpoints of the two institutions.

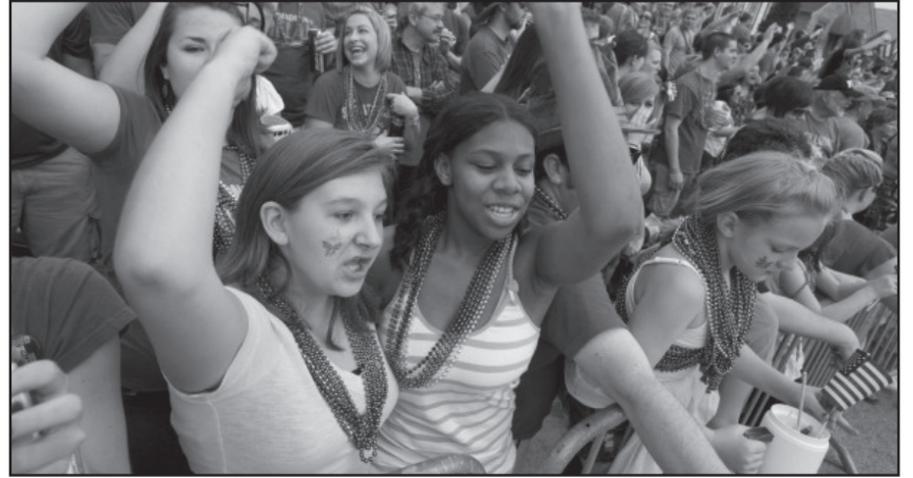
Karla herself is a St. Louisan and, although new to this community, has worked in the Banking industry for some 20 years, most recently with Commerce Bank. Not only is Busey keen to be part of the community, Karla sees this as a vital part of her own role too. She had already started a dialogue with the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, and I told her I was sure Brandon and his crew would be pleased to accept her input and assistance.

At the bank itself, they are in the process of planning a remodel and update of the building. Karla said that she wants to ensure that all changes to the 1922 building are in keeping with the historic nature of the structure.

All in all, it sounds like the change from Pulaski to Busey is going smoothly, and we look forward to their continued involvement in the Skinker DeBaliviere community.

## DIVERSITY WATCH: Remembering the Irish and African American Connection

By Cecelia Nadal



Beyoncé, Shaquille O’Neal, Muhammad Ali, Barack Obama, Billie Holiday and Colin Powell, Alicia Keys share a common Irish heritage. In fact, you may be surprised to know that 38% of African Americans have an Irish heritage. While the relationships between the two cultures has not always been a good one there are some remarkable contributions that have been made to American culture as a result of the intersection between the two and we share much in common when it comes to our American experience.

In the mid-1800’s freed slaves and Irish indentured servants found themselves living side-by-side in New York City largely due to their common poverty and the availability of tenement slums. During this period, there was cross-cultural engagement between the two castaways particularly in music and dance. The Irish had clog dancing and the Africans Juba. Today, the most American form of dance known as TAP is the result of the intersection between freed slaves with juba and Irish indentured servants with clogging!

Sadly, as both groups struggled to climb the social ladder through hard work they became competitors and often enemies. This was fueled by leaders like President Andrew Jackson who gave the Irish permission to take the land of freed slaves. Nonetheless there have always been those reflective Irish and African Americans that understood how they shared a common history of oppression and prejudice. It was no coincidence that one of the first Democrats to endorse Barack Obama for president was Senator Teddy Kennedy. He was also endorsed by Caroline, John Kennedy’s daughter. Both Kennedy’s became important allies to the civil rights movement.

Michael Dalton, an 83-year-old St. Louis Catholic Irishman, initiated a 20-year long relationship between St. Monica’s in Creve Coeur with Blessed Sacrament Church, a predominantly African American Church in North City. When asked why he started this social group between county and city he said. “Well my father was Irish you know and he knew personally how bad prejudice could be and he never wanted any of his children to be that way. And the other reason was a black man named Harrison who stoked our furnace and he became quite a friend to me and my father and I always wanted to honor our friendship by bringing our communities together. I loved that man!” In 2000 Michael Dalton was the recipient of the “Extraordinary/Ordinary Person of the Year Award” at Powell Symphony Hall. He was too ill to come but his wife and a young African American boy of 10 who was mentored by Michael came to receive the award for him.

On March 17, I went to the annual Hibernian St. Patrick’s Day Parade for the first-time and I carried a sign that said, “I love the 24% Irish in me and I love you! Free Hugs” I was quite touched when almost 40 Irish men, women and children came up to me for the free hugs! But I was blown away when one beautiful little girl with brown skin and green eyes had a sign that said, “Dr. Martin Luther King is part Irish!”

### Don’t Miss: MOHIS Events

#### Genealogy Workshop

Missouri History Museum associate archivist Dennis Northcott will introduce you to the vast array of resources at the Library and Research Center to learn about the history of your St. Louis ancestors.

**When:** Saturday, April 15, 9:30 a.m.

**Where:** Missouri History Museum Library and Research Center, 225 S. Skinker (across from Forest Park)

**How much:** \$10 for the general public; \$5 for Missouri History Museum members. Reservations are required.

#### #1 in Civil Rights: The African American Freedom Struggle in St. Louis

March 11, 2017 - April 15, 2018

#1 in Civil Rights: The African American Freedom Struggle in St. Louis examines the local civil rights movement and the city’s leading role in advancing the cause of racial justice. From ground-level activism to groundbreaking court rulings, St. Louis has been front and center in contesting racial inequities.

#1 in Civil Rights uncovers a history that’s compelling and complex, but that all too often has been overlooked in the telling and retelling of the larger national narrative. That narrative includes four precedent-setting Supreme Court civil rights cases that originated in St. Louis—possibly the most to ever reach the High Court from one source. It also includes events and battles that had significant and lasting impact.

Admission to this exhibition at the museum at Lindell and DeBaliviere is FREE.

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# IN YOUR EAR

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

Benjamin Franklin, a know-it-all if ever there was one, said, "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." That's a pretty accurate prediction when you consider all of the things that have changed in the 227 years since his death.

After all, when Ben was alive, there were no airplanes, microwave ovens, or Hostess Twinkies. Most of us wouldn't have been able to vote even if we were 21, and the presidents of the United States had always been wise and responsible. A lot is different today. Most of us can now vote even though only half of us do. Hostess Cupcakes are a staple of the American diet, and we have a talk show host as president! And no, sadly, it's not Oprah.

But Ben was spot-on about death and taxes. That's OK, though, because without taxes we cannot have all of the things we need to be a civil society. I'm thinking of the police and fire departments, a soccer stadium, a volleyball stadium, a go-cart stadium, and the Market Street Bowling Alley stadium. We'll show those Rams!

But must death be permanent? Why do we have to die? What's it all about, Alfie?

You may worry that if nothing died, the world would be bigly crowded. The lines would be even longer at Schnuck's (and I'd never be able to make a left-turn on to Skinker). Plus, they didn't use to bathe in the olden days, so imagine standing in that same Schnuck's line with people who hadn't taken a bath since they were born maybe 10,000 years ago. Where can I

buy some stock in a deodorant company?

But good news! There is room for all of us and all of our ancestors. My cousin, Vinnie, an accountant, tells me that each person needs 225 square feet, and everyone who has ever been here, going back to Adam and Eve and Igor, could fit in Wyoming and LaDue. Think about it! If everyone's alive, Columbus is living next door to Sacajawea, who is across the street from Nero and Confucius. Mary and Abe Lincoln are in that duplex at the corner, and Debbie Reynolds lives in their basement. Can you imagine the arguments between Shakespeare and Buffalo Bill over what television show to watch? (Shakespeare would only watch PBS.)

I know what you're thinking - especially if you are reading this column around dinner time - but having enough food won't be a problem because older people eat less. I sure do! Unlike in my wild youth, I'm filled after eating just six slices of pizza and an ice cream sundae for breakfast. The people who are more than 500 years old would exist on a daily carrot and Hershey Bar, and be quite happy about it. You wouldn't believe how excited the Neanderthals will get when they see M&Ms.

OK, so we've established that there's enough room, food, and television stations for all of humanity to be alive at the same time. As far as bringing back the billions who were here before us, restoring them to life, that's no problem: Disney has designed an osmotic

process that extracts DNA from cemeteries and mass graves and expands it to create organisms. A Mickey droid circling the world elicits the DNA and sends it to Wyoming where it is categorized and pumped. Think Jurassic Park on steroids.

That leaves us with the simple question of how we can avoid death. In the interest of helping you, dear reader, of enabling you to live across the street from Cleopatra and Achilles, Hawkeye has been to the mountain top. He, I mean I, has read, meditated, smoked only the finest Kuban cigars, reflected, genuflected, and registered to vote in every ward. (In one of my escapes from reality, after the third or fourth stogie, I was able to peer into the future, and I saw the 2020 presidential election between Donald Trump and Michelle Obama, but that's a column for another day. I won't tell you who wins but her acceptance speech was great.)

Here are Hawkeye's rules for avoiding death and moving to Wyoming. Take notes!

1. Never get in a car, plane, or boat, or on a motorcycle, bicycle, or skate board.
2. Don't eat anything that tastes good. If you want it, you shouldn't eat it.
3. Don't get too excited. If it's fun, it's bad for you.
4. Do the same thing every day. Boredom is boring but it's the surprises that will cause a problem.
5. Massage your skin with olive oil each night. It will preserve your moisture and also repel mosquitoes.

I guarantee that if you do these things, each day will seem like an eternity and you'll think

you are living forever.

Finally, get a sharpie and a pen with quick-drying ink, and change the birth date on your driver's license by subtracting 1,000 years. If you were born in 1988, for example, simply make that 988. If you want to be really adventurous, go bigly and change it by two thousand years so that your birth date is -12. Chances are no one will question you because they will have read this column and will have done the same thing. But on the chance that some wise-acre does ask about your age, just respond that it's an alternative fact.

I've got to go now because I'm having dinner with Genghis Kahn, Napoleon, and Sarah Palin.



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