

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 47, No.3

September - October 2017

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

FREE

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

Great Rivers Greenway Opens on DeBaliviere

Great Rivers Greenway invites you to celebrate the half-mile expansion of the St. Vincent Greenway from Ruth Porter Mall Park to Forest Park! A brief ribbon cutting will be held in conjunction with the October 3 Twilight Tuesday Concert at the Missouri History Museum. Pack a picnic basket and enjoy some great music as we celebrate this new greenway for all to enjoy! Find more details here: <https://greatriversgreenway.org/event/save-date-st-vincent-greenway-ribbon-cutting/>



Great Rivers Greenway

At the event, you can also see Loop Trolleys. Car 001 and/or Car 002 trolleys will be stationed at platforms along the greenway - most likely at Crossroads Station (Kingsbury/DeBaliviere) or Delmar & DeBaliviere. Testing continues on the trolley system and vehicles. Hiring has concluded for the first class of Trolley Operators with training throughout September.

A grand opening for the trolley will be announced soon!

What Should Be at Delmar and Skinker?

By Richard Bose

The Ferris wheel idea is dead. So what should be at Delmar and Skinker? Another auto-oriented fast-food joint? A parking lot? A park? A traditional building?

The Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood Plan calls for a mixed-use building much like that adorning the rest of the Delmar Loop. The proposed form-based code in the TOD Plan for the Delmar Loop and Forest Park DeBaliviere Metrolink Stations placed the parcel in the Boulevard Type 2 category, with heights of 3-12 stories and 40 to 130 feet. The FBC would set no parking minimum.

The parcel is currently zoned F: Neighborhood Commercial with a height limit of 3 stories or 50 feet. The parking minimums for office use: 1 space per 1250 sq. ft. in excess of 7,500. For retail use smaller than 3,000 sq. ft., no parking is mandated. One space per 700 sq. ft. in excess of 3,000. For Residential, one space per unit.

I drew up some basic floor plans to see what might fit. Meeting current height and parking regulations, I could fit 25 apartments, 5000 sf of retail space, and 31 parking spots. An elevator and ground-floor apartments are included because the neighborhood plan identifies senior-compatible housing as a

need in short supply. To see these, go to sdtimes.org or see my commentaries and photos at nextstl.com.

If we can get over our parking fetish and not take the government-mandated requirements as sacred, we can go taller, making the land more productive, thus increasing further the tax base without increasing tax rates to help make the city solvent. And more people living in the neighborhood would mean more people to patronize local businesses without bringing a car. Four stories-36 apartments, 0.78 parking spots per dwelling unit. Five stories 47 apartments, 0.53 parking spots per dwelling unit. I wouldn't go above five so as to not dwarf the New Cote Brillante Church next door. For a sense of the scale of these buildings, the existing building and Union and Delmar is three stories and the under-construction building at 4400 Manchester is five stories and both are on lots about the same size as Delmar and Skinker.

Assuming one person per bedroom, the three-floor configuration is at 69 people per acre, four-floor 100 per acre, five-floor 131 per acre. In order for the city's population to be 600,000, its land must average 15 people per acre.

That's my vision, what do you think should be at Delmar and Skinker?

Cecilia Nadal Named 2017 Ethics in Action Awardee

Executive Director of Gitana Productions Cecilia Nadal has been named the 2017 Ethical Society of St. Louis Ethics in Action Awardee. The Ethics in Action Award ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. Sunday, October 1, 2017, at the Ethical Society of St. Louis, which is located at 9001 Clayton Road.

"Ms. Nadal embodies the Ethical value of bringing out the best in the human spirit," Ethics in Action Award Committee Member Stephanie Sigala said. Throughout her career, Cecilia Nadal has focused on helping underserved and disadvantaged members of the St. Louis community as a teacher and a counselor.

"I sincerely believe that who we are as individuals, as a community and society is defined by the attention we

give to the diversity of people around us and particularly those with less," Nadal said. "I have been personally enriched and inspired by the faith, courage, and conviction of many within the underserved and disadvantaged community and by those from different cultures."

For 23 years, Nadal was the founder and president of Productive Futures Inc., an employment agency for immigrants and the long-term unemployed.

"The great news is that many of the program completers are still employed and have made remarkable advancements along their career ladders," Nominator Vanetta Rogers said. "The credit goes to Cecilia for her amazing ability to understand both sides of an equation and

Cecilia Nadal continued on page 3



Heather Brouillet Navarro, shown here with son Lucas.

Heather Brouillet Navarro was recently sworn in as the new 28th Ward Alderwoman, after her landslide victory in the July 11 Special Election. Ald. Navarro lives on the 5900 block of Pershing in our Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood. Her new column, From Your Alderwoman, will address residents' questions and concerns and starts this month on page 5.

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Cecilia Nadal is on the far right in this theater cast photo.

Editor's Notebook

By Lana Stein

Our neighborhood has survived numerous challenges to construct a stable and diverse neighborhood. Another challenge now rears its head. As a member of the clergy said, "We are a neighborhood with students; we do not want to be a student neighborhood." In point of fact about 20% of our residents are college students, largely from Washington University.

Until this decade, students could largely be found in multi-family buildings, a number owned and managed by university affiliated entities. The financial meltdown that began in 2008 brought about a number of foreclosures. These were scooped up by investors who fixed up the dwellings and sought students as tenants. Charging each about \$500 a month guaranteed them a sweet profit. However, they often violated a city ordinance by packing in a sizable number of student renters. A city ordinance states there be no more than three unrelated people in a dwelling unit.

The presence of students in single family homes is a growing problem here. It is most acute on 58 and 5900 Pershing where 22 such homes are owned by absentee landlords. They often lack landscaping, have bikes tied up outside, and never see snow shoveled. Student life is often not compatible with the lifestyles of families or older people.

A subcommittee on zoning and housing has been formed under the auspices of the SDCC's Community Development Committee. It has been meeting twice a week and is working with a city official. They are developing test cases to ensure wider application of the "no more than three unrelated persons" regulation. Washington University has representatives on the subcommittee.

Potentially we should try to ensure that speculator/investors are not able to purchase single family homes easily. More could be done to widely advertise the availability of our historic single family homes to potential owner-occupants, perhaps to incoming university faculty. This challenge is one faced in numerous college towns. If you are interested in this subject, please contact subcommittee chair, Linda Cross through the SDCC office.

Students play a positive role. Seeing them walk or bike here throughout the day and evening makes our streets safer. Some have volunteered at events. However, we still need families in single homes to remain as a neighborhood. We can't return to the good old days but we can act to shape the future.

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, 2017.

Please send copy by e-mail to jvatcha@gmail.com or by disc to 6117 Westminster, St. Louis, MO 63112.

Meet the New WU Liaison

By Lana Stein

Washington University has selected Leslie Duling McCollam as its liaison with the neighborhood. She has lived on 6100 Pershing for three years. A native of Oregon, she came to study at the Brown School at Wash U. She has earned both a master's degree in public health as well as an MSW. She is now working at the Brown School. She is the field manager for MPH students. She has told me she enjoys living in St. Louis.



She will now also be the liaison between the neighborhood and university and will work with all Wash U students in our neighborhood. She wants to help students understand the neighborhood and be aware of SDCC events. She will also attend to crises if they occur. She will encourage communication between students and their neighbors and hopes to accomplish that with international students.

In emergencies, the police should be contacted. In non-crisis situations, she would happy to be of help. She can be contacted at lduling@wustl.edu.

Washington University's Home Plate Program

Washington University is looking for warm-hearted families to host 2-3 students for casual dinner and conversation. Help them feel at home in their new city 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 neighborhood families have been hosting our students over the years and both the students and families have loved the program. You can visit us on Facebook to learn more! E-mail Risa Zwerling at zwerling@wustl.edu to sign up! There will be a reception at the Chancellor's residence for all program participants in the Spring.

Storeys Celebrate Neighborhood and Birthdays

By Lana Stein

Rose and George Storey lived in Skinker DeBaliviere for over a half century. They raised their eight children here, were active at St. Roch, with neighborhood associations, and with the 28th Ward Regular Democratic Club. We acknowledge their memories this year as George celebrates his 90th birthday (Rose is 86),

When the couple married, they lived in a multi-family in the 5700 block of Kingsbury in the area that is now Kingsbury Square. There were a number of Jewish families from Eastern Europe, part of a large Jewish presence in our neighborhood for decades. Before moving farther west in the late 1950s, several synagogues served them here, including one whose windows are still visible on DeBaliviere, next to the fire station. Paul Schoomer, who owned Paul's Books on Delmar for many years recalled his Bar Mitzvah there. Rose recalled a Jewish family named Cahillane (Callahan in the phone book!), with whom her family was very close for many years who lived on the first floor of their apartment building.

Rose and George moved into a large home on 5700 Waterman by the bridge to fit their growing family. Rose shared some of the good memories of raising their eight children here. She took them to the Muny to sit in the free seats. During the summers, the kids were able to swim at Wash U. They all attended St. Roch School and formed lifelong ties. They also found friends in the increasingly diverse neighborhood.

Rose acknowledged the difficulties with crime five decades ago. People used to ask them to get across the bridge safely. They stayed the course; there was no comparable affordable house and they were involved in preserving the neighborhood.

Rose always participated in the annual Mother's Day flower sale. George became politically involved, ran unsuccessfully for citywide office, and then served as 28th Ward Committeeman. He also served as a member of the airport commission. He worked at McDonnell Douglas. He was a fixture on the links at Forest Park.

Rose went to work at St. Mary's as the children grew older. She then was appointed to the county office that George had unsuccessfully sought. Court reform consolidated some of the offices. Rose then worked for the Clerk of the Circuit Court and then headed the Earnings Tax division of the Collector of Revenue. She became Committeewoman of the 28th Ward in the early 1990s and helped select Lyda Krewson as Democratic nominee for alderman in 1997.

More recently George and Rose moved to a more accessible condo in Brentwood. They enjoy their memories of many good years in Skinker DeBaliviere in a changing, challenging, and ultimately gratifying environment. Happy 90th George.

Learn about our
community's history
Check out our
website at
sdtimes.org

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.

News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Well I'm not sure about the rest of you, but once again, summer seems to have flown by a bit too fast. During that time, many of our neighbors have been having a pretty incredible time here at home and also while traveling. It turns out, it really is a small world after all. Read on.



Let's start with the Narkiewicz family of Parkview who have been living in Switzerland this summer while David worked out of Nestle's global headquarters. Living in Switzerland allowed them to travel all over Europe and we could probably dedicate an entire issue to the amazing experiences they had but we will share just one story today. We all know St. Louis is like a small town and you bump into friends and neighbors in all sorts of unexpected places. But what about in Paris? That's exactly what happened to David, Sarah, Henry, Leo, and Annie Narkiewicz of the 6300 block of Pershing. They were strolling down a small street in Paris and ran into Steve and Nancy Kramer of Ames Place, formerly of the 6100 block of Westminster. Steve and Nancy happened to be in Paris celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. Happy anniversary to the Kramers and welcome home to the Narkiewicz family!

Our next adventure takes us to the McGroarty family. They are making news twice this issue. First, if you know them, you know that Cristina grew up in Parkview. As newlyweds, Cristina and Sean purchased their first home on the 6100 Westminster. As their family grew, they moved to a bigger home, right here in the neighborhood (of course)! Their family continued to grow and flourish on the 6100 block of McPherson, but this spring, it was time for another move. Fortunately, we don't have to say



goodbye, their journey took them across the alley to the 6100 block of Kingsbury, and their third Skinker DeBaliviere home since being married!

Following the work involved in a big move the McGroarty's took a family vacation out west. While in Montana, through social media, they realized that their old neighbors, Bob and Holly Moraca, were on vacation with friends, also in Montana. The two families were able to reunite and catch up! Bob and Holly lived at 6156 McPherson from 2006 to 2008 while Bob completed his fellowship training in cardiothoracic surgery at Washington University/Barnes. Following that they returned to Pittsburgh to raise their children, Sydney and Lucas near family. Bob is now the head of thoracic and aortic arrhythmia surgery at Allegheny General Hospital.

Closer to home, Candace O'Connor of the 6100 block of Kingsbury has written a new book, *Renaissance: A History of the Central West End*. The 320-page coffee table book explores the Central West End's rich history. The book is a companion piece to the documentary by Patrick Murphy that recently aired on the Nine Network. History of the Central West End traces the Central West End's cycle over the past century and more: from its stylish start through its dangerous days to its present strength — an urban renewal significant enough that it has earned the name 'renaissance.' Candace has written twelve books on regional history and on Washington University and its affiliated hospitals, along with an award winning documentary that aired on PBS nationally.

Many of you are aware of the organization Pedal the Cause. PTC raised money for cancer research through Siteman Cancer and St. Louis Children's Hospital. 100% of every donation goes to cancer research. This year, Pedal the Cause produced a campaign focusing on "Cancer Curing

Bikes." Maddy Boxdorfer, daughter of Matt and Rachel (yours truly) Boxdorfer of the 6100 block of Kingsbury was selected to appear in the version encouraging children to participate in the ride. You can view the video (which includes some great footage of Kingsbury) at this link, <https://youtu.be/15rbCZOi30A>. Pedal the Cause events take place on September 23 and 24th. It's not too late to register or donate and you can find more information and watch other videos about riders and their cancer curing bikes at pedalthecause.org.

Nancy Rice of the 6100 block of Westminster reported that her next door neighbor Elaine Atkinson passed away in late July. Elaine suffered a stroke and was being cared for in a hospice facility when she died. Her funeral was held at Ronald Jones funeral parlor on July 26th. Nancy further shared that Elaine and her late husband Bill were the first black family to move on to the 6100 block of Westminster. They moved in while Nancy was in grade school at St. Roch, more than 50 years ago. As Nancy said, "they put up with some crap but stayed through it and were, the best next door neighbors a family could have. We loved both of them and their family and we will miss her."

We reported in the last issue on the passing of former neighbor and author Patricia McKissack. Word came from former neighbor and pioneer Cherie McKee that she and her family are sponsoring a fund to honor the McKissacks by sharing one of their books with all the children of Ready Readers. Here is the link if you would like to make a donation. <https://www.gofundme.com/mckissack-memorial-book-fund>.

Longtime McPherson neighbor Gerri Flynn wrote that she and other former residents love to see The Times. "How I enjoyed seeing so many familiar names and remembering the 49 years we lived there. We still miss the connections of Skinker DeBaliviere!"

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!

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Cecilia Nadal continued from page 1

her ability to organize the forces necessary for all involved... to achieve mutual respect and cooperation."

In 1996, Nadal founded Gitana Productions. "Gitana was the region's first arts organization with a focus on cross-cultural engagement through the dramatic arts," said Nominator Betsy Cohen of St. Louis Mosaic Project.

Talented students are given the opportunity to work side-by-side with seasoned actors in Gitana's professional theater and take part in concert performances such as the China National Orchestra concert at Powell Hall and BLACK AND BLUE, an original play about the challenges of the police and the African American community.

To learn more about the Ethical Society of St. Louis, visit www.ethicalstl.org. To learn more about Gitana Productions, visit www.gitana-inc.org.

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How to Make Your Backyard More Dog-Friendly

By Dennis Evans, Quiet Village

Summer in St. Louis is in full swing, and many pet owners are getting a glimpse of some of the problems that can be caused by our four-legged friends being active in the backyard — digging, jumping, running (in the same spots!), and yes, even pooping can take their toll on yard areas with grass.



Plus, it's really important for any pet with high exercise needs to have a dog-friendly backyard. When pets spend time outdoors, they receive mental stimulation which helps prevent common behavior problems. Luckily for all St. Louis-area homeowners with pet pals, there are many ways you can easily create a low-maintenance, dog-friendly backyard!

Here are a few of our favorite ideas to try at your own home (or dog-friendly office!).

Doggy Pool: Adding a small-sized water feature created especially with your pooch in mind can be a great source of entertainment for your dog. There are lots of versatile ways of adding this feature to your outdoor living space, depending on your space and budget. You can get a cheap play pool or go one step further by digging out a small pool or pond for your furry friend to enjoy all summer long! Just be sure your new water feature has safe walk-in access areas.

Puppy Porthole: Does your dog enjoy people-watching? Is he always gazing out of the window, watching the world go by? Indulge his curious habit by installing a viewing porthole in your fence! All you need to do is insert a panel or Plexiglas bubble. This new view of the world can help to prevent anxious behaviors of your four-legged friend, like destructive digging.

DIY Dog House: If your favorite pet loves the great outdoors, why not build a dog house to give your pet a place to call his own? This website has some amazing (and free!) Dog House Plans. Our design team is really into creating your own dog house for your pooch — and matching the style and paint color to your own home!

Savvy Sandbox: A newly installed doggy sandbox will surely get your dog's tail wagging! Best of all your sandbox can serve two purposes — a doggy digging heaven or a poop-time patch. This newly designated area for your dog will not only help to protect your well maintained lawn, but also give your dog a special place for potty business, meaning you and your family can walk around safely in your yard.

Quiet Village Landscaping has a pet friendly office, and if you're stopping by for a design appointment, you just might be greeted by a friendly pooch when you arrive! Looking for more ideas on incorporating dog-friendly design into your landscape? Give us a call at (314) 657-7050 to discuss a few of our fun ideas, that can be tailored to your own home.

Water Your Young Trees

By Andy Cross

In these warm dry days of August, September, and sometimes even in October, the ground gets dry, hard, and even cracks open due to lack of water. While our lawns may recover from dry conditions, young trees often do not survive. The city of St Louis Forestry Division has planted many trees in Skinker DeBaliviere in recent years, and neighbors have their own plantings as well. A light rainfall, a quick summer storm, or some time with a sprinkler will help your lawn stay green, but your trees need a good soaking. The St Louis Forestry Division offers this advice:



“Run a garden hose near the base of your tree at a trickle for 10 minutes. Another option is to place a 5-gallon bucket with 1/4” holes drilled into the sides and bottom and fill 3/4 with water. Place near the base of the tree.

Infrequent and deep watering of a tree encourages a deeper root system as water penetrates deeper into the soil for root growth. Deep rooted trees are less likely to damage sidewalks and are more stable in storms.”

Trees are a great benefit to our neighborhood. In addition to beauty and shade they offer a healthier ecosystem, windbreaks from the cold in winter, they absorb pollution and provide fresh air, and studies show that trees in urban areas lower blood pressure and reduce stress. Trees are very helpful in many other ways as well, all which help build healthy communities. If you notice that your neighbor's tree needs a little care, offer to water it for him or her; it will help keep our neighborhood vibrant.

Village Aglow: An Evening to Benefit STL Village

By Liz Backus

What could be better than your morning cup of coffee? How about coffee-inspired cocktails in the evening! STL Village is excited to invite the public to a night of smooth java and jazz at the 2017 Village Aglow, Wednesday, October 18 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Kaldi's Coffee Roastery, 3983 Gratiot Street, St. Louis, 63110 in the midtown Cortex district. We'll light up the Roastery to see what's perking with exclusive tours of Kaldi's state-of-the-art facility including sampling a variety of roasts; we'll top it off with delectable culinary bites, cocktails and the incomparable sounds of Anita Jackson and Phillip Graves.

Lisa Hansen and Sally Nikolajevich are the co-chairs of this year's Village Aglow. “The Roastery is a really interesting venue for an evening event,” noted Hansen. “Village Aglow is designed to be a welcoming, social gathering where people can enjoy good company and conversation while experiencing a unique, innovative space in St. Louis. The great music, savory bites and special drinks ensure this will be a party you won't want to miss.”

Tickets are \$100 for non-members and \$75 for STL Village members and can be purchased online at stlvillage.org or by contacting STL Village at info@stlvillage.org or 314-802-0275.

Proceeds of Village Aglow support STL Village, a not-for-profit, member-driven community network that helps adults 50+ age in their own homes with access to a full range of activities and support services that promote safe and socially-connected living.

Liz Backus is a communications volunteer for STL Village.

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28th Ward Democrats 2017:
Regular meetings on the 3rd Thursday:
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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>

Check out our website at
sdtimes.org

KIDS CORNER

Calling all kids and former kids (yes anyone over 18):

For us to have something to look forward to in the November Times I want you to email Kids Corner your favorite card and board games to play and even a memory to go along with it as to why you love that game. I am talking Monopoly, Pictionary, Trivia Pursuit, Clue, Ticket to Ride . . . any game that you wish! I will publish those recommendations and stories in the November Times to share with our neighbors to hopefully spur good memories and inspire some family fun in the cooler months. In the meantime, get outside and enjoy the Fall weather with sports, hikes, cycling and playing in the leaves!

Great Forest Park Balloon Race and Glow

– This annual hot-air balloon event is September 15 – 16th! 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). All takes place on Art Hill!



OF COURSE we can't forget that Halloween is coming... and since the next Times does not come out until November here are some little tidbits to keep you safe.

- Trick or Treat during the designated hours of 6:30 – 8.
- Only go to homes that have a front porch light on!
- A long standing tradition in St. Louis is asking kids for a trick, joke or song then are rewarded with goodies . . . so get ready to charm!
- Children should be accompanied by an adult; older children should be in pairs or groups.
- Look BOTH WAYS when crossing streets . . . drivers are speeding through our streets looking at houses, not the road.
- Hold a flashlight or even a glow stick when trick-or-treating so you can see others and they can see you.
- Wear well-fitting masks, costumes and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips and falls.
- Very tempting but do NOT eat opened candy, especially if you found it on the ground! Yuck!
- Please be careful out there and have FUN!

Question for November Kids Corner:

Have a photo of yourself during the Solar Eclipse? We want to see them! Don't forget your game suggestions! 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.



St. Roch Troop 98 - A Busy Summer and Some Exciting News!

Five scouts from Troop 98, based at St. Roch Church, joined eight other scouts from three other units in St. Louis for a week of camp at S-F Scout Ranch (near Farmington, MO) in July. S-F Scout Ranch features a 270 acre lake for boating, fishing, and swimming. The scouts did plenty of swimming during one of the hottest weeks of the summer! One of the high points of the week was time at the water park with a Zip line and rope swing out into the water.

In addition to swimming, the scouts had a chance to shoot rifles and bows. They earned merit badges in subjects ranging from Lifesaving to Leatherworking and Woodcarving to Chess, and even Moviemaking, for which the scouts produced a short film. Cooking was done in camp over charcoal burners. Scouts learned to make omelettes in a zip lock bag and cooked jumbalaya for dinner. While tents were available, some of the scouts slept in hammocks under the stars.

Troop 98 is based at St. Roch Church and school. The Troop meets every Wednesday evening. For more information on Troop 98, you can contact Paul Winter at (314) 962-3377.

New Eagle Scouts

The road to Eagle is not an easy one and takes a lot of hard work, discipline, planning, and personal management. St. Roch Boy Scout Troop 98 celebrated three new Eagle Scouts on Sunday, August 6th. Elia Barker, Christian Boxdorfer, and Eric Webster, who have been in scouts together since Cub Scouts marked this accomplishment with a gathering of friends, family and mentors at Joe's Cafe. Congratulations to all three young men and to the troop. The Scout Master is Paul Winter, who grew up in Parkview and is also a St. Roch alum, is an amazing mentor to these scouts and many others in the St. Louis area. All three scouts attended St. Roch School and Christian and Eric graduated in 2013. Not many scouts make it to the rank of Eagle (only 4-5% of all scouts). Troop 98 has a rich history spanning over 100 years and to date has had 127 Eagle Scouts.



From Your Alderwoman

When I decided to run for Alderwoman, several people told me we'd be lucky if 1,000 people voted in the special election on July 11. After all, election day was in the middle of the summer when people aren't used to thinking about elections. Many people would be vacationing and the heat would keep a lot of people indoors. With nothing but an aldermanic race on the ballot, it was going to be tough to get people charged up enough to come out and vote.

Despite a 99 degree high for the day, 2,085 people voted in the 28th Ward election to fill the vacant seat left when Alderman Krewson became the first woman mayor of St. Louis. A little over 150 of those voters took the time to vote absentee. I was elated when Mayor Krewson shared with me the news on election night that, through the hard work of many people, our campaign ended up with 69% of the total votes.

Before the polls opened on election day,

already over a dozen volunteers had been up since 4 am to deliver door hangers. Over the course of the day, at least another 30 braved the heat for hours at a time in front of one of the six polling places. Still others gave up their lunch breaks to make phone calls and serve as election judges.

Throughout the campaign over 100 people volunteered their time to knock on doors, deliver yard signs, and help spread the word. I could not have turned out over 2,000 people by myself. There is no doubt this is an active and engaged ward. The 28th has benefited from strong leadership in its elected officials and neighborhood leaders.

Despite the unexpected turnout we had for a summer election, the right to vote continues to be undermined. Voting on a work day makes it difficult for people to participate. The influence of private, corporate interests discourages people from feeling that their vote matters. Missouri's new voter photo ID law threatens to deter

some people from voting (but as long as you are registered you can cast a ballot with or without a photo ID).

This past election gives me hope. If we can mobilize over 2,000 people on a hot day in July, what more can we do to carry out the change we want to see in our city and in our country?

Mark November 7, 2017 on your calendar. The next election is shaping up to have a number of items that will affect our communities. We will need more volunteers to help get out the vote. If you're not already involved with your neighborhood association or the 28th Ward Democratic Club, those are great ways to stay informed and engaged. Let's keep up the momentum and turn out to make a difference on November 7th!

For questions or more information on how to get involved contact Alderwoman Heather Navarro at navarroh@stlouis-mo.gov or 314.622.3287.

Getting Even

By Daniel Rater

I'm not really a deadline kind of guy. In my world there's always tomorrow, until all that's left is today. I'm just trying to play out the string. But now I'm at the end of my rope, so I have to put something on paper. It's not like I haven't been trying to come up with an idea. I've spent most of the summer navel-gazing; reflecting on the past and present, and waiting for the waterfall of inspiration to wash over me. Instead, I've come face to face with the abyss; staring into the bottomless chasm of writer's block, soaked in flop sweat.

Sometimes I wish life could be more like an IKEA catalog. Everybody seems really relaxed. Smiling and laughing in comfy clothes and fluffy socks. Drinking wine in a well appointed room surrounded by books and loved ones. A vision of a better everyday life, assembly required.

My wife's been trying to come up with ideas, but hers aren't any good. Although the IKEA catalog thing was her idea, I happen to think mine are better. I think men and women see things differently. I could be wrong, there is precedent. For the last twenty years I've been living in a space station of femininity, orbiting around my wife and three daughters, observing their alien ways. I feel like a scientist on the Galapagos Islands, twenty years of study and I'm no closer to the truth than when I started. I'm not trying to compare women to giant tortoises; I was just trying to come up with a clever analogy, metaphor or whatever.

I think my wife looks at me like I'm something she has to dust off and water once a week. When I call her phone, the picture that comes up is a piece of furniture; a stolid, old chest of drawers, a stationary antiquity. But I'm the one at ease, and comfortable with social media and the new technologies.

She still has an iPhone 1.0. It's a square chunk that we call the Brick. It receives calls, but can't make them, and you can't talk because it doesn't have volume. It can send texts but not receive them, it has email and weather alerts. She always complains about her phone. "Why is your phone better than mine?" I tell her my phone is more expensive. It's all about the bells and whistles.

I like expensive technology. She thinks technology should be cheap, plentiful and available to everyone for \$5.00 a year. I went to buy a new computer and she gave me a budget of a \$1,000.00. I came home, under budget at \$995.00. Feeling proud and waiting for a pat on the head, I was a little surprised when she got mad at me. "I knew it!" she said. "I knew you would go right up to \$1,000.00." I didn't have the heart to tell her I was looking for a key chain or a candy bar at the counter, just so I could round it up to an even grand.

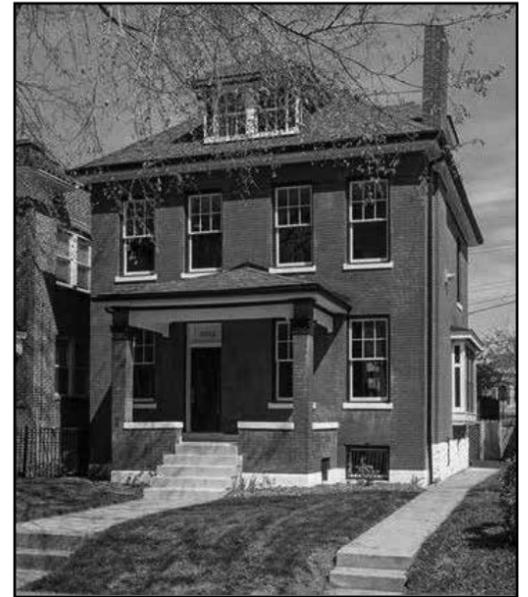
The bottom line is that I'm a procrastinator. I waited until the last minute and now the hour glass is almost empty. I don't know what I'll do for a column. I judged a science contest for one of the kid's class a while back. This one kid submitted a piece of cardboard with two different types of duct tape, spelled Duck Tape on the cardboard, each holding up a battery and asking, "Which Duck Tape is Stronger?" The kid didn't know and neither did I, but I marveled at the last minute desperation of the project, and gave him a point. That's what I'll do. I'll just half ass it and check my spelling. When is the next one of these things due?

Rehab on Washington

Stephanie Goldkamp and her dad, Dan Goldkamp, have a company named The Resas Company, LLC. Their work in Skinker-DeBaliviere includes a whole-house rehab at 6011 Washington. It is for sale and is a great family home. The Goldkamps are currently working on their eighth rehab. They started out with a 960 sf house in Rock Hill that just needed cosmetic updates. Currently, they are working on a house in Webster Groves that involved two additions and a new second floor to tie it all together.



Stephanie has a Bachelor's Degree in Studio Art and an Associate's Degree in Interior Design and does all the design and floor plan layouts, plus the kitchen and bathroom designs. Dad Dan's background is engineering and internet marketing.



Stephanie said, "We love older homes. They are filled with so much character and so many details you just don't find in houses today. They also tend to have more flexibility for updating floor plans to the way we live today, which is my favorite part! The key is trying to blend the old and the new. Some of the ways we do that are by having trim custom milled to match the original millwork and maintaining/reusing the original interior doors and hardware (and going to salvage shops to look for matching doors if we don't have enough or need to replace one that is damaged). Those two things go a long way towards maintaining the integrity of the home's original design. With our most recent Skinker/DeBaliviere renovation, we discovered a firebox that had been bricked in and plastered over many, many years ago. After uncovering the firebox and converting it to a functional gas fireplace, we tracked down an antique fireplace surround (similar to the one we think would have been in the house originally) at a salvage shop in St. Clair to refinish and complete the look. It transformed the room and is such an impressive focal point now. Bringing details like this back to life is one of the most exciting parts of what we do."

To learn more about this home, listed for \$ 399,900, visit Realtor.com or call Stephanie Goldkamp at 636-373-3451.

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Photos by Derek Knight

The Everly, a fourteen-story apartment building designed for students.



The Everly Opens

By Jo Ann Vatcha

The newest addition to the East Loop is The Everly, a fourteen-story apartment building designed for students. The Delmar Commercial Committee and other leaders from the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council recently toured the new building with Koman Group's Mark Rubin. Koman and Rubin partnered with major St. Louis contractor and developer Clayco Corporation to build the Everly. There is on-site management of the more than 200 fully furnished apartments, ranging in size from 1 to 3 bedrooms, leasing to individuals at rates ranging from \$ 800-\$ 1200. The amenities are impressive, with sleek kitchens with stainless steel appliances and granite countertops, flat-screen TVs, in-unit washer/dryers, a 4th floor rooftop deck

with lounge pool and many recreational items. The fourth floor patio is well screened, providing a buffer both to the neighborhood and the street level.

The gated parking garage is accessed only from the rear and includes more than 200 spaces, which should allay some neighbors' concerns about parking spillover. The Everly also runs a shuttle to Washington University. The trolley is right outside, and the MetroLink Station is literally across the street as well. Retail space of 4500 square feet on the first level will be leased soon, according to our tour guide, Koman Group's Mark Rubin. The Everly is already 80% leased, and the impact of having so many students on Delmar will be ongoing. More eyes on the street, and more customers for our great Loop restaurants and shops. For more information, call 896-4660 or visit Everlyontheloop.com.

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IN YOUR EAR

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

The question isn't "If?" The question is "When?" That is, when aliens from another planet contact us, what will we say? Do we greet them with open e-arms, do we warn them not to mess with us or they'll be sorry, or do we ask for their voter ID card?

This ain't no idle question. Carl Sagan once said that there are more stars in the universe than the number of grains of sand in all of North America. That's pretty mind-boggling, even more because I write this while on a beach, and I cannot even begin to count the grains of sand in my tennis shoes!

Space.com estimates that there are between 100 and 400 billion stars in our home, the Milky Way Galaxy (I don't understand why it's named after a candy bar). Doing the math - if one percent of these stars have planets and if one percent of these planets are in the Goldilocks Zone, that means that there are 2,500,000 planets with fast-food restaurants and political systems that don't work. And that's just in our candy bar galaxy. Dr. Google says that the universe - that's the whole shebang - contains 1-and-twenty-four-zeros stars. Gasp.

We are surrounded by potentially life-embracing planets and we've been broadcasting to them for years. Some of this was accidental, our television signals flying into outer space. What must those aliens think of us, I wonder, when their introduction is "The Munsters"? And then there are our intentional efforts to tell

them, whatever the them might be, that we're here. The Voyager probes, sent afar in the 1970's, contained numerical codes that attempted to identify where Earth is located and drawings of a man and a woman. Attempting to appeal to the aliens' artistic side, a recording of Johnny B. Goode by our own Chuck Berry was also included on a Voyager probe. Might this mean that the first probe lands at Blueberry Hill!?!?

It may be that our calling attention to Earth without knowing who or what is listening is not the brightest idea, sort of like building a downtown football stadium in St. Louis for the Los Angeles Rams. Some wise people, Stephen Hawking among them, think we're foolish to be announcing our presence and location to the unknown others. There's some merit in this thinking; consider what happened to the Aztecs when they greeted Cortes in 1519. But that horse is out of the cart. Chances are that signals have already been received, interpreted, laughed at, and space ships are headed our way this very minute! Sure, it will take a while for them to get here - the distance is farther even than from Chesterfield to the Central West End - but they're coming.

They may be coming for curiosity, backgammon partners, for a new planet to populate, or perhaps to find a new food source (gulp!). I asked a few friends what they think we should say when that inevitable contact is made. Jim captures

a sad truth in explaining our condition when he says, "We are a collection of billions who simply refuse to get along with one another." Tina suggests, "Well, someone's been busy! Your point?" Dick asks, "Can we be Facebook friends?" while Ann welcomes them: "Hello, out there' of course!"

Not surprising, the responses of a number of folks were clearly affected by the fact that President Bozo is in office. Reverend Matt cautions them, "If you visit earth, please don't say 'take me to your leader.' He is not so great with foreigners." Similarly, Rob warns "Avoid earth at all costs...until at least 2020." Todd says, "You can have our leader," and Bonnie agrees: "I will take you to our leader if you take him with you."

Gary thinks we really don't need to worry about hearing from them: "Any alien analyzing our current broadcast discourse would conclude there is no intelligent life on Earth and leave us alone." (True unless they tuned into American Gladiator!). Marj is even more adamant: "To whom (or what) it may concern: Beware. On this planet, a deadly brain virus has infected large swaths of the populace and threatens to return its most evolved species into zombies." (Do you think she's referring to the presidential election?)

As for me, it's pretty simple. I think we seize the opportunity to learn from an advanced species to answer an age-old question: "Who killed JFK?"

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