The TIMES of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

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Summer Start for the Loop Trolley

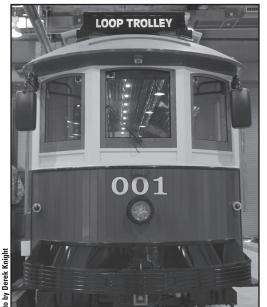
By Jo Ann Vatcha

Have you seen the Loop Trolley on its route? It's so quiet! When it's running every day, there will be tourist activity, as well as local uses for the new trolley service. The trolley will also:

- Bolster small businesses all along DeBaliviere and Delmar
- Link our neighborhoods and build better ground connections among all
 - the groups--Skinker DeBaliviere, Kingsbury Square, West End, DeBaliviere Place, the East Loop, and University City
- Revitalize the "bare spots" attracting developers to the remaining buildings and land
- Remind us--and the visitors--of our proud history and how close the magnificent History Museum is
- Give senior citizens a half-price way to move throughout the neighborhood!

It seems like a slow start, but behind the scenes, the Loop Trolley Company is busy completing all the safety tests necessary to achieve real start-up. The whole system -- including platforms, signaled intersections, track clearances and safety mechanisms -- has been assessed. Now the team is familiarization with different operating hours, traffic patterns and weather scenarios, and emergency scenarios with local police, fire and EMS divisions.

Training for the Loop Trolley operators will also perform their final certification runs to qualify for passenger service. During this time, each operator will put into action the processes and procedures learned in the classroom and at the controls. To become



certified, an operator must complete seven faultfree trips under direct supervision. A second class of operators is in training and will likewise be certified for passenger service.

Kevin Barbeau, Executive Director for the Loop Trolley Company, said, after one of the Friday night practice runs, "It made a big difference having these trolleys out when people are. We saw a lot of excited smiles, waves and selfies coming from people on the sidewalks throughout the night."

The Loop Trolley will share the road with personal vehicles in the portion of the alignment west of the Des Peres Bridge on Delmar, and regularly interact with vehicles at intersections and driveways east of the Des Peres Bridge on Delmar, and on DeBaliviere. As the trolleys cannot veer to avoid obstacles, it is important that any vehicle parked on the street-running portion park against the curb, and that the vehicle be completely inside of the striped parking lane.

The Loop Trolley is a 2.2-mile, fixed-route, electrically powered, heritage trolley that will provide a memorable way to experience some of the best St. Louis has to offer. The trolley will run through the Delmar Loop along Delmar Blvd. and continue on DeBaliviere Ave., connecting people and neighborhoods, the past and the present. From restaurants and shopping to entertainment, recreation and the arts, riders can take in the multitude of things to do along the route as they enjoy both the country's "#1 City Park" and "One of the 10 Great Streets in America."

The Loop Trolley Transportation Development District and Loop Trolley Company will soon be ready to announce its opening timeline and plans for passenger service.



SDCC Summer BBQ Concert Series 2018

The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council again sponsors the BBQ Concert Series which have proved so popular in the neighborhood.

July 14 at the Four Corners Greg Freeman Park, 6000 Kingsbury Ave. at Des Peres Ave. **August 7** at Lucier Park, Hamilton and Westminster for National Night Out

September 15 at the Four Corners Greg Freeman Park, 6000 Kingsbury Ave. at Des Peres Ave. All concerts from 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Bands TBD. Want to participate in the planning?

Contact the SDCC Office (314-862-5122 or sdcc@skinker-debaliviere.com) for future meetings!

Everyone's input is welcome!

Ivory Perry Park Concerts

Working To Bridge the Delmar Divide

This year marks the 16th annual Ivory Perry Park Free Summer Concert Series, held the 4th Sunday in June, July and August, from 6-8 P.M. at Ivory Perry Park, located at 800 N. Belt Ave., 63112, two blocks north of Delmar on Belt (down the street from the former Connect Care and future Delmar DivINe). In the event of inclement weather, visit www.UCMinistries.com or call (314) 367-2112 after 4:30 P.M. for concert updates.

June 24th

The series kicks off with pre-concert activities at 5:30 P.M. which will include delicious food, children's activities, chess, yoga and the community arts project. At 6 P.M. Kim Massie, one of the most recognizable vocalists in the Midwest, will take the stage and dazzle us with her expansive singing repertoire.

July 22th

Now if dancing is what you want to get up and do, then join Sunshine's Performance Ensemble, a professional African dance group, that provides culture through West African drum, dances and song.

August 26th

Features one of the best blues band's in the St. Louis area. Skeet Rodgers & The Inner City Blues Band stars vocalists Sandra Carter and Charles "Skeet" Rodgers who are greatly inspired by the harmonics the band expresses. Union Communion Ministries proudly presents the concert series, compliments of the Whitaker Foundation, Regional Arts Commission, Commerce Bank, Westminster Presbyterian Church (USA), Pilgrim Congregational Church (UCC), Union Avenue Christian Church (DOC), the 26th Ward Alderman, Frank Williamson; The Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy, the City of St. Louis, and many others. This is a unique and special event that brings people from all walks of life, race, and class together.

Grab your friends, neighbors, congregation members, and family and head on over to Ivory Perry Park with your lawn chair or blanket to experience good music and a good time. Food and beverages will be available for purchase along with free activities for the children.

The University City Summer Band

will be playing its twenty-second season, now outdoors under the trees in Heman Park. Our six Tuesday nights concerts will be on June 12, 19 and 26 (the special patriotic concert!), and July 10, 17 and 24 at 7:00 PM.

Editor's Notebook

By Lana Stein

Hot and gritty, summer in the city. In our neighborhood. we have to be ever vigilant personal regarding and property safety. Skinker DeBaliviere has been successful when neighbors worked together for selfprotection and neighborhood enhancement. We need to rebuild the ties that have fraved. This is not the place for individualism. Rather we need community effort. I commend the work of Molly Mulcahy and Christina McGroarty in revitalizing block units. It is a daunting task. But, they are making progress.

Cameras or increased lighting cannot hurt the quest for safety. Watchful eyes count too.

Where Has All the Money Gone?

By Lana Stein

In his commentary about the neighborhood housing corporation in our last issue, Tom Hoerr noted that the SLCHC had moved away from its original mission of rescuing problem properties as the developer of last resort. At the same time, external and internal decisions have caused the significant erosion of its investment account. The housing corp garnered \$1.2 Million Dollars from the sale of the Rosedale Square apartments, now the Forest Park Condominiums. Today the corporation has less than half that amount.

In 1997, the housing corp hired a staff person whose salary was paid by the city with community development block grant funds. Several years ago, said funding was terminated because of federal changes and city assessment. The housing corp has struggled to make up this deficit, so far unsuccessfully. Unexpected costs or unrealized surplus have led to the bleeding of the investment account.

- 1. Alanson building
- 2. Purchase and operation of a 6 family and a 2 family on 5900 McPherson
- 3. Unsecured loan on DeGiverville housing renovation
- 4. Walker Townhouse new construction

Four years of deficits on the profit and loss statements provided by the SDBCHC are as follows:

2014...\$35,734.82 2015...\$22,064.94

2016...\$37,587.67 2017...\$81,300.00

Total..\$176,687.43

The housing corp has a self-perpetuating board. For a redirection to occur, neighbors would need to demonstrate concern. There are problem properties that are not being addressed. Housing corp minutes and financials can be obtained from their director, Gary Boehnke, at 6008 Kingsbury.

A state audit may be the next step.

STL Village Celebrates Fourth Anniversary



stl village

STL Village turns 4 in June! It's a great month to enjoy one of our many summer activities. STL Village is a member-based organization for adults age 50+ who live throughout the St. Louis area. We value social connection, sense of purpose and community engagement as keys to well-being and enhanced quality of life at any age. We love exploring all there is to do in St. Louis!

Come and see what makes the Village such a welcoming community of neighbors by sampling some of our signature gettogethers. Bring a friend and make new ones.

June 21 - Happy Hour at The Monocle in the Grove Neighborhood **June 24** - Old Fashioned Village Picnic at Tower Grove Park, Turkish Pavilion (members of the newly developing City Village in the Tower Grove neighborhood will also be participating)

For more information on our events, contact info@stlvillage.org or 314-240-5020. Visit stlvillage.org to learn about membership and volunteer opportunities at the Village.

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.

<u>Deadline for next issue: August 15, 2018</u>. Please send copy by e-mail to jvatcha@gmail.com or by disc to 6117 Westminster, St. Louis, MO 63112.



Fire has again destroyed housing and uprooted families on 5800 DeGiverville. A grill that was not fully out started the blaze. The resident of the first house used oxygen and had several tanks. The tanks exploded when the fire reached them, strengthening it. The fire moved into the second floor of the house next door. That residence was less heavily damaged but was affected by smoke and the water used by firefighters to put out the fire. Brandon Sterling, SDCC Director, set up a fund to help the victims. The second house is salvageable but needs a lot of work. Laurel Management Co. has found an apartment for that family to occupy while their home is repaired. Given the extent of the fire, it is fortunate that there was no loss of life.

The TIMES of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

I am writing this column in May and should be thinking thoughts of spring. Alas though, this is St. Louis and it seems spring really only lasted a day and we jumped right to our famous summer heat. I am really excited to share with you the news we have this issue as some of our neighbors have done some very exciting traveling and have celebrated some great life events.

So, let's catch up with some of our neighbors, shall we? To begin, congratulations to the Leathers/Dahl family of the 6100 block of McPherson. They have had much to celebrate this spring. First of all, son Mike was married on March 23rd. He and his wife Megan were wed in Haue Valley in Pacific, Missouri. The biggest surprise of the ceremony was that old friend and groomsman Page Hereford married them. He was both poignant and funny. Many of you may remember Page as he also grew up on the 6100 block of McPherson. Another surprise for the big day was that Grandma Dorothy Dahl, age 94, made it all the way from Bellingham, WA. Mike's parents, Ellen and Jon walked Mike down the aisle. It was an incredibly special day for the entire family. Congratulations to all!



James Leathers, Mike Dahl, Page Hereford

More exciting news for the Leathers/Dahl family has to do with daughter Anne. As Anne was preparing to leave her job in New York for a new position in Berlin, a competing company offered her a position in New York. She explained her goal was international marketing. So she took off for Berlin as planned on April 29th, flew to Berlin, and then two days later for a job interview in London where she received the job offer of a lifetime. Her home will now be London but she was able to travel to Croatia, Greece and Spain before beginning the new position in London. And as I write this column, she is starting her new job.





Mike and Megan Dahl

Anne and Ellen Leathers

Personally, I am loving these two stories. Both Mike and Anne babysat for my children (two of whom are in college now) and I find myself pondering how time flew by so quickly as well as being so happy that life is going so well for these wonderful neighborhood kids (now adults!).

Continuing with international touring, Bill Yonker and Renée Flanders were happy to spend 5 weeks in Southeast Asia recently,



Bill Yonker and Renée Flanders in Southeast Asia

independently touring Viet Nam, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia. The photo shows them at an elephant sanctuary in Thailand. Monks, monkeys, massage parlors and motorcycles were a common sight. As artists, they were especially attracted to the numerous ancient archeological sites, such as Angkor Wat in Cambodia. Treks up mountainous rainforests contrasted sharply with sophisticated hotels in bustling cities. English is widely spoken and the people overall extremely friendly and courteous. The food was a gastronomic delight; always fresh and delicious whether streetfood or at a fine restaurant. If you go, be prepared for immersion in an amazing culture, nonstop adventures, and stunning visuals! Bill and Renée live on the 6100 block of Westminster.

The Kreuter family (of Nina Place); Matt, Charlene, Cal and Will, recently returned from an extended trip to New Zealand this spring. They started in the North Island, where they explored beaches, hiked volcanos, visited lakes, saw native birds, ran a nighttime race, and enjoyed a rugby game. They then travelled by ferry to the South Island, where they took a waka (a big outrigger canoe in which the native Maori travelled) paddling trip, visited a sheep farm, and completed two "Great Walks" of New Zealand, including a three-day backpacking hike through rain, snow, ice, and spectacular mountainous scenery on the Routeburn Track. Their itinerary led them to 24 different hotels and AirBnBs, allowing them to see much of the beautiful country and learn about its native cultures. What a memorable experience!



The Kreuter Family pics

On a personal note, I am a big believer in community service and have lived my life volunteering for different causes. My time gets divided among many things that are important to me including; Skinker DeBaliviere, St. Roch, Pedal the Cause, the Angel Band Project, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and more. In February I was honored by my company when I received the 2017 BHHS Alliance Distinguished Service Award. For those who actively give of their time, you know you don't do it for the recognition, but still, it's nice! Special thanks to my family who puts up with a lot of chaos in my schedule to make it all happen along with having a family and career!

The Cross family had a double celebration on May 12th with Sarah Cross graduating from the University of Missouri Kansas City on her 21st birthday! Sarah received a degree in Sociology with an emphasis in Cultural Anthropology and a minor in Theater. Sarah will be working with the Muny Scenic Painters this summer before heading to London in the fall to attend the University College London Anthropology Master's Program - Materials and Visual Culture. Sarah grew up on the 6000 block of McPherson and is the daughter of Andy and Linda Cross.



Sarah Cross Graduation pic

We also extend our sympathies to the family of Joe and Bette Botz who lived years ago on the 6100 block of Kingsbury. Joe and Bette's son Michael died peacefully on March 23rd. He is survived by his siblings, Dan, Bill, John, Terri, Susie, and Karen. Michael loved birding in Tower Grove Park (and other areas) and shared a great love of music with much of his family.

Long-time resident Marvin Nodiff, of 6100 Westminster Place, has co-authored an article suited for the times, which appeared in the Fordham Urban Law Journal. It is titled "Protecting Homeowners' Privacy Rights in the Age of Drones: The Role of Community Associations." The co-author is Hillary D. Farmer. Nodiff, an attorney, has represented community associations for many years. Over the years, he has given counsel to the SDCC and currently is serving on the Zoning and Housing Subcommittee.

Very sadly, Marv's wife Linda passed away a number of weeks ago. Her bright and friendly demeanor will be missed. She had participated in many block and neighborhood events. She is also survived by a daughter Monica who resides in NYC.



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!



Getting Even

By Dan Rater

There are great philosophical questions left unanswered. Does God exist? Is there life after death? Do I matter if I'm not trending on social media?

To be or not to be, with hopes of going viral, that is the question. The world is rife with instant gratification, validation and notification. Facebook, Twitter, the Instasnaps and YouTube are now the bedrock of our reality. Fake this, fake that, fake news: the truth is out there somewhere. My wife was pondering the dilemma and was succinct in her summation; "Everybody loves Facebook Dan, but I have to live with Everyday Dan. Welcome to my false reality."

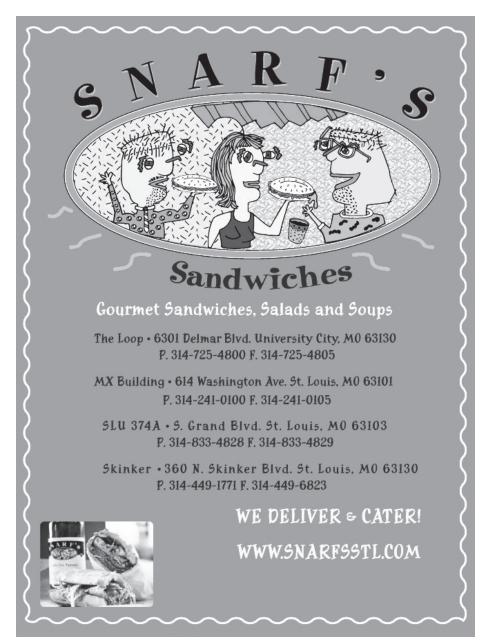
For those of you who don't know him, Facebook Dan is witty, charming and absolutely adorable. Adroit in social settings, he's fun to be around. On the other hand, Everyday Dan can be kind of an ass. He sleeps too much, eats too much and drinks too much. When he's awake, you wish he were asleep. Last year he ate an entire box of fudge bars and missed work with a stomach ache.

Facebook Dan basks in the adulation of his friends. Every thumbs up, every like, or smiley face is another affirmation of his gift for creating joy and fellowship within the community. Everyday Dan avoids human interaction and likes to talk into his echo chamber. He thinks only of himself and refuses to fill out customer service evaluations.

There are moments when the two realities intersect. Everyday Dan colludes with Facebook Dan and gets invited to parties. In a full moon fever, he'll be polite and won't interrupt. Realtime Dan will show pictures of his kids and share the secrets of the Flexitarian diet. He'll behave responsibly and listen to other people's opinions. On the way home he'll run red lights, flip off drivers and dent the car door. Then, the next day the story will be on Facebook, polished and pleasant, with no sign of the F word.

I was looking at the local news, or it might have been Yahoo's homepage when they reported the death of Happiness. The funeral was broadcast in 2010, and coincided with the ascent of social media. The cause of death was Too Much Information. In his eulogy the Pastor declared Happiness to be overrated. He said Unhappiness always had better numbers.

Social media has become my college apartment. I have a ton of roommates and they always have people over. It's fun and exciting until you want to go to bed. When I wake up in the morning, I realize someone played connect the dots on my freckles with permanent marker. It's an invasion of my personal space, embarrassing, and potentially harmful. But the photo is sure to go viral. To trend or not to trend; the answer is simple. Just wait until you see my Snapstory.



Skinker DeBaliviere Gardening

By Derek Knight

We live on a plot corner in Kingsbury Square, and neighbors came past all the time, and are often kind enough to say how they like what we are doing to our vard. As we come up to the annual Skinker DeBaliviere Garden tour, I started to wonder, what is the theme of our yard?

Weareblessedwith 3 fully established and magnificently different trees on our property, plus street and neighbors trees, so we have a lot of shade garden. In fact, I have had a battle over the last 5 years to grow a lawn along the north facing part of the yard, which is overshadowed by a Southern Magnolia.



I can get grass to germinate in the spring, but by summer it's just too shady for it to prosper. So this year I have admitted defeat, and turned the most shaded area into a hosta patch, with a variety of different types of leaves.

Bulbs lighten the west of the property in the spring, but once summer comes and the trees shade this area, it is hard to find a place where "full sun" plants will get the amount of light they need. Irises do well there, as do many ground cover plants, but as an area, it often fails to "pop" with the color we'd like. The yard area at the south of our house should be the sunniest, but it is shaded by our Locust tree and our neighbor's Bradford Pear. This makes our deck wonderfully shaded for sitting out in mid-summer, but does mean that even here we struggle with plants that need full sun. We like to grow a few vegetables and have taken to planting herbs, tomatoes, lettuces, radishes and green onions in planters on our deck, as the place that will get the most of the sun.

Our yard has evolved over the years we have lived here. I suspect it always will continue to change for as long as we are here, and, actually, I like that. If everything was settled, nothing needed to be moved, there were no sudden surprises and nothing to work on, it might be "perfect," but it would stop being interesting. Then it occurred to me: people didn't say they liked what we "had done" to our yard, rather they said they liked what we "were doing."

I think the appropriate theme for our yard is that it's a work in progress, and always will be.



KIDS CORNER

By Susanne Knese

NEIGHBORHOOD SCAVENGER HUNT!!!

Summertime is a time to be out and about right? So why not enjoy a game of Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt? There are all types of scavenger hunts: following clues, a check-list of items, photos or activities. Below are photo clues you have to find in our Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood. If you like, take a photo of yourself with the clues and email to me so I can include them in the next Kids Corner. Be safe and have fun! If you want to see the photos bigger and in color, go to the TIMES website and look at the "current issue" page 5: http://www.sdtimes.org

Question for September Kids Corner:

Tell us about your summer or better yet send a photo. Favorite adventure in St. Louis? Where did you go on vacation? Would you recommend it to other kids?

Please include your name and submit to kidscorner@sdtimes.org by August 10th!

This is YOUR corner, so make it what you want!



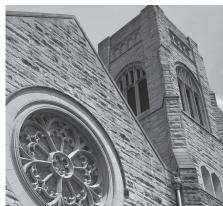


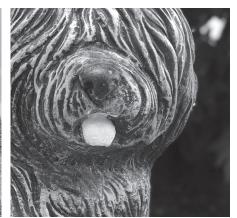






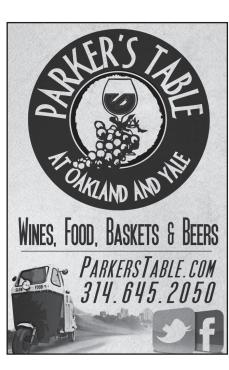














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Cal Stuart

By Jo Ann Vatcha

family The Calvin B. Stuart celebrated the life of their father on Saturday, May 12th Christ Church Cathedral. Cal and his wife Gee raised their three children, Sarah, CT, and Allison in Skinker

DeBaliviere and were very active in so many aspects of life in the neighborhood. They lived on both 6100 McPherson and 6100 Kingsbury.

At the service, the Very Rev. Kathie Adams-Shepherd, Provost of Christ Church Cathedral, spoke of Cal's being a fellow Episcopal priest, ordained in 1964 in that very cathedral and serving for seven years as priest of Ascension Episcopal Church As a neighbor in St. Louis. in nearby Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood, Cal began to serve on the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, which was, as Rev. Kathie said, "formed to restore the neighborhood as a safe and desirable place to live and raise children in a diverse urban environment. As I understand it this was no small task at that time. Cal was an activist, committed to racial equity and justice, the city, just city politics and to humanity itself. Cal preached and lived what he believed... He worked with people who were in trouble of one sort or another helping to connect them to the support needed as he continued to support them through their struggles and challenges. He would say that he was part of a community and would walk the talk- walking through the neighborhoodmeeting with police to develop a partnership in the community.... he never sought the limelight yet recognized by many for all he did to create opportunity for all and bring a community together for the good of all. The State Legislature and Board of Alderman created a proclamation honoring his tireless work. Perhaps more important to Cal were the lives that were turned around and set on a positive path. His daughter Sarah shared a story of sitting on the porch of their home when a fire truck pulled up in front. A young firefighter got out and asked for Fr. Cal. He told Cal- I'm off drugs because of you and now I'm a firefighter helping the community. Cal had



Dr. Bret Shaw, DVM Dr. Rachel Sinnott, DVM

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Cal Stuart, Nancy Farmer and Dan McGuire

connected to him as a teen and supported his recovery....'

Cal Stuart was Executive Director of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council all throughout the tumultuous 70's, and his daughters said that he always stressed that his and SDCC's success was due to the "teamwork" of those who worked together to bring back the SD neighborhood. There to honor and remember him were so many faces from those days, among them Dan Shea and Kathleen Williams; Judy Little, who worked on the historic district designation; Delores Hoefel, who worked with Betty Klinefelter to raise our kids at Grace Methodist Pre-School and later ran the food pantry for many years; Susie and Dan Feinberg, leaders in stabilizing properties; John Roach, 28th Ward Alderman during much of the 70's; Frank Burke, a quiet leader in the Rosedale Neighborhood Assn.; Alice Stanley; the Vatchas; Marvin Nodiff; Dan and Jill McGuire; Kathy Harleman, who was co-author with Gee Stuart and Sue Tepas of the "original" neighborhood history; Marj and Brad Weir, whose tireless work in the neighborhood stretches all these nearly 50 years; and so many others who felt that Cal Stuart was the ultimate neighborhood leader, whose great laughs and late night debates were legendary. Although Cal and Gee moved away a few years ago, he kept in touch. Our condolences to his children, C.T., Sarah, and Allison, and his grandchildren.





Heather Navarro, 28th Ward Alderwoman

Ward reduction is back on the agenda at the Board of Aldermen. The City of St. Louis is divided into 28 wards and any change to that number requires an amendment to the city charter. In 2012, the voters passed Proposition R, reducing the wards to 14 after the 2020 census. It was the presidential election in which Barack Obama was elected so voter turnout was very high -- 74% in fact. The measure passed with 61.5% of the vote, approximately 80,000 people. In the 28th ward, the measure passed by over 80%.

The measure had built in lead time to prepare for the reduction. We are six years in and now is the time to start thinking about the opportunities and challenges presented by ward reduction and how to address them.

I introduced Resolution 12, which is currently moving through the Board of Aldermen, to do just that. It establishes an advisory committee to look at the effect of ward reduction on the delivery of city services and how we can reduce the board while remaining strong advocates for our constituents, addressing racial inequity, and improving overall governance. As someone who has served almost a year on the Board of Aldermen, I can already see how a reduced board would improve efficiency and effectiveness.

While the population of the City of St. Louis has decreased from a high of almost one million people to around 310,000, the number of representatives in city government has stayed the same. As population has decreased in some parts of the city and grown in others, the geographic size of the wards has varied greatly. This means, for instance, that some aldermen have many more miles of streets and sidewalks than others or have to maintain more parks. Our current system does not account for those disparities. We have an opportunity through ward reduction to look at issues like this--and other ways that the current system isn't working -- and fix it.

The advisory committee will need to hear from residents about what works and doesn't work in our current system. I am committed to seeing that ward reduction happens in a way that is just and equitable and benefits all St. Louisans. Stay tuned for how you can get involved.

28th Ward Democrats 2018:

Change of Regular Meetings to – Eclipse at the Moonrise Hotel, 6177 Delmar June 21 and July 19 Meet Candidates for the August 7 Primary Election

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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"Art" Appreciation

By Jo Ann Vatcha

Admiration for a lifetime of community involvement and a wonderful personality led Marjorie Weir and me to envision a night to honor Art Perry, whose friendship and leadership have affected so many people in St. Louis. That resulted in the "Art Appreciation Dinner on May 21, held at the beautiful new CWE campus of the St. Louis College of Pharmacy. Art's life history is a classic true story.

Recounted in the St. Louis American in 2013, on the occasion of his being named the Lifetime Achiever in Health Care, his stepmother, Francis Barnes-Perry told him to get a job when he asked for a new bike. That led to work at Sun Drugstore, then to Kean Drug in 1954.

"It was one year before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery Bus, the catalyst for the Montgomery Bus boycott against racial segregation. Hundreds of miles away, the racial climate in STL was much the same. Kean Drug, located at Euclid and Laclede, was in close proximity to BJ Hospital where black and white patients were seen in segregated quarters. According to Perry, Kean Drug didn't wait for the Civil Rights Act of 1964. .. they proudly served all customers regardless of race...'These two guys, being Jewish, were aware of their being Jewish...Jews were not accepted everywhere. They were not of a mind to be discriminators.'"

In a profile in the Webster-Kirkwood Times, Art recalled that, 'the director of the Central Institute for the Deaf, a customer of the Keans, pleaded with young Perry: 'Art, you're smart. You've got to go to college.' Perry took one class at SLU, then another. His dad was furious. Why would someone sacrifice wages, accept a loan from his employers and voluntarily cut his workweek from 60 hours to 40 hours at Kean Drug, in order to attend school? It's not about current income, said the younger Perry, the first in his family to enroll in college. His focus was the future. His dad had quit school after the fourth or fifth grade. There were many years at St. Louis University, one or two classes at a time. At last heeding the advice of the Keans, he transferred his SLU credits, including many science classes, to St. Louis College of Pharmacy. There he became one of three African Americans in his class. As a pharmacy student, Perry continued to work at Kean Drug. And in 1972, nine years after first enrolling at SLU and after two years of putting his education on hold so he could work longer and harder to replenish his savings, he graduated from the college of pharmacy.'

A dozen years later, when Kean Drug closed, Perry was enticed to work for pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly for 19 years before retiring in 2000. Art served on the College of Pharmacy Board of Trustees...to move the college toward being more active in its health outreach. 'I'm trying to get the college to make sure they have personnel in clinics around the metro area so students, faculty and staff get experience in caring for people unlike them.'"

Outside his professional life, his community efforts in the early 1970's included helping to start the People's Clinic, now the People's Health Centers serving thousands of clients, originally located at 6010 Kingsbury. Many neighbors remember taking kids there for vaccinations and preventive care. He also became a leader in his own CWE neighborhood, "inviting" many Kean Drug customers to buy homes in the neighborhood, making them feel welcomed and valued. He worked not only to stabilize the neighborhood, but to improve it.

Active for much of his life in city politics, in his "so-called" retirement, Art became President of the 28th Ward Democrats. He has also served on the boards of Confluence,



Art Perry with event co-chairs Marjorie Weir and Jo Ann Vatcha photo by Ashli Wagner

100 Black Men, Forest Park Forever, and is currently the 28th Ward Committeeman, serving on the city's Central Democratic Committee and as mentor to many, including Mayor Lyda Krewson and her successor Heather Navarro. Both of them spoke with friendship and admiration at the dinner on May 21. Alderwoman Navarro noted that Art had helped her as a young mother in the neighborhood, then in law school. The Resolution honoring Art was Navarro's first as an Alderwoman. Mayor Lyda Krewson gave Art a Proclamation detailing his many accomplishments and life history, and thanks for his friendship and leadership, topping off her presentation with a framed Key to the City of St. Louis--her first as Mayor!

There were many other speakers, including Joe Keaveny, former State Senator, who served as Master of Ceremonies for the event: old friend Claude Brown, a labor and political consultant, whose friendship with Art goes back decades; Kim Tucci, businessman and former 28th Ward Committeeman; McGuire, former 28th Ward Alderman, for whom Art served as campaign treasurer for many years; Steve Engelhardt, who brought a congressional citation from Congressman Lacy Clay; Committeewoman Gail Farwell; and Dr. John Pieper, President of the St. Louis College of Pharmacy. A very special guest was David Kean, one of the original owners of Kean Drugs, who hired Art and encouraged him all those many years ago. Art's wife Carolyn and sons Brandon and Douglas were also on hand to share in the celebration.

Special thanks were given to the SLCOP's excellent catering staff Chris Lupo and Angela Hill and Events Management Macy Russell and Alexander Gargano. The planning committee included Marj Weir, Jo Ann Vatcha, Jill McGuire, David Newberger, Lana Stein, Arline Webb, David Weber, David Whiteman, Dan Schesch, Marian Miller, Newton McCoy, Mike Gras, Anna Forder, Bob Bliss, Annette Bridges, Gail Farwell, and Arthur and Nancy Culbert.

The impact of Art's warmth and personality, his integrity and leadership, his ability to guide others and articulate issues--all this and more are qualities we heard many times throughout the evening. There was only warmth and friendship in that room, truly a tribute to his character. As Mayor Krewson said, we should all be striving to make the entire city like this. As friend Lana Stein has said, "he has taken politics very seriously, following his conscience and acting without acrimony, nurturing commonalities and downplaying dissimilarities." Dwight Bitikofer in a recent West End Word gave this apt description: Art Perry--An Extraordinary Octogenarian.

If you ever doubt the impact one person can make, remember the legacy of Art Perry.

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IN YOUR EAR

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

Here I am, sitting in the doctor's office, patiently waiting to be a patient. No, don't be alarmed. I am just here to meet with one of my myriad docs. You see, one symptom of advanced age - note that I did not say "old age" - is that you have lots of doctors and many doctors' appointments. Chatting with someone while semi-clothed does convey a certain intimacy, so an appointment is sort of a like a visit with a friend. I am not friends with a bunch of morticians; one will be enough.

Doctors' appointments are accompanied with some trepidation and nervousness. Is that red splotch on my stomach just a red splotch on my stomach or is it indicative of something significant? Could I have the dreaded Splotchness Disease? What should I make about the fact that at times my heartbeat feels more like a firecracker show than the ticking of a grandfather clock? What about the indigestion I have after eating White Castles, buttermilk, and garlic cheese chips? And my left knee hurts, especially when I move it or when it's still. I have more symptoms than President Trump has foolish tweets, and that's saying a lot.

But a lack of symptoms – the technical term for this is "youth" – isn't all that comforting either. What lurks beneath my skin? Think iceberg and Titanic! I worry if I feel fine and I worry if I don't feel fine. Have I mentioned that I worry a lot? Well, it turns out that the best

remedy for worrying is going to the doctor. She orders tests, checks you out, and then sends you a bill that causes financial worries. So, I type while in the waiting room, amidst a dozen other people, all waiting and worrying (but I am the only one typing).

However, Hawkeye has a plan to lower his waiting room angst. I didn't make this up – it was noted in the April 28, 2018 NYT, in a small piece called "What To Bring To A Doctor's Appointment." I've always been a list maker because keeping a list keeps me from listing (get it?), so this is helpful.

First, it says that I should bring my vaccine card. Yikes! I cannot recall when I was last vaccinated – I am assuming that the time Mark and I depleted our cache of liqueurs while playing chess doesn't count – so I brought my library card, my AAA Card, and my Sam's Discount Club Card. (Fortunately, I'm not old enough for an AARP card.)

Next, the article says to bring my test results. This is kind of goofy because the tests were ordered by the doc, and she has the results, not me. I mean, I am here to hear the results. But as I think about it, maybe the doc wants non-medical test results so that she can get to know me a bit better! Isn't that sweet of her?!? So, I have my SAT scores (which were OK except when I responded to a multiple-choice question), my driver's license score (I was almost perfect except for parallel parking), and my 28th Ward Democratic Party Score (I passed with whiz grades because I questioned Trump's citizenship).

A "symptom diary" was requested, so for the past month I made an entry each time I didn't feel well, had a pain, wondered if something was a concern, or awakened with a nightmare having to do with running out of wine. I tried to be brief but it is 47 singlespaced pages. I don't know how the doc will deal with all of this but that's why she gets paid the big bucks. At first, I thought it might be the beginning of a novel, but it's nothing but pain, anguish, tingling, and worry. (Hey, maybe it's the beginning of a political ad?)

I am asked to bring an alphabetized list of my medicines, and that's easy: aspirin, gin, port, tonic water, and Zoco liqueur. Oh yeah, I also brought my Total Wine card.

If Mark Twain was alive today, he would say that the three certainties in life are death. taxes, and waiting for the doctor, so perhaps the best advice in the article is to have something to do while you are waiting in the waiting room. I used to bring books and magazines, but it was hard to concentrate with the incessant coughing, wheezing, and belches all around me. I tried listening to podcasts, but the earplugs didn't fit over my hearing aids. I once brought three small balls to an orthopedist appointment so that I could juggle while waiting. It turns out that I should have mastered that skill before trying it in a busy waiting room. Oh well.

But I'm fine today even though Dr. Quackenbush is

already 50 minutes late. Not only am I productively writing my column for you, dear reader, I'm also consciously observing and tallying the maladies of those around me. Ye God! If you weren't sick before going to the doctor, sitting in the waiting room would make you ill. I see and hear lots of eruptions, contractions, and regurgitations. This waiting room is a great way for my doctor to generate business! In fact, once I am home, I am going to embark on a regime so that my visits to doctors will be greatly diminished: I will drink more OJ, think about working out, and stop watching FOX News.



