

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 48, No.3

September - October 2018

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

FREE

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

Rachelle L'Ecuyer Named Executive Director

Joe Edwards, chairman of the East Loop Community Improvement District (CID) and The Delmar Loop Special Business District, recently announced that The Delmar Loop has selected an executive director. "I am delighted to announce after an extensive search that attracted over 100 potential candidates from across the Midwest, we have selected Rachelle L'Ecuyer as our first executive director. We unanimously chose Rachelle, who has a great track record for community building and economic development, and we are looking toward a bright future."



Rachelle L'Ecuyer (ra-shell lek-we-ay) will head the organization in this inaugural role beginning August 13. Under the leadership of this newly created position, the East Loop, in the City of St. Louis and the West Loop, in University City, will have the opportunity to strengthen a uniform identity and brand, develop shared goals and initiatives and continue to serve as a major regional destination for shopping, dining and entertainment.

Ms. L'Ecuyer was born and raised in the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood and grew up with The Delmar Loop at her doorstep. Her father, Jim, was the first executive director of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council. Her mother still lives in the neighborhood. Ms. L'Ecuyer has a background in real estate and economic development. She played a major leadership role in the revitalization of Maplewood's historic downtown where she spent 13 years as the Community Development Director managing economic development initiatives including developing numerous successful events such as Let Them Eat Art and the Coffee Crawl and growth initiatives that helped attract businesses and bring stability to the area. During her tenure the historic district reached 100% occupancy.

The Delmar Loop runs from Laurel Avenue in the City of St. Louis to University City Hall. The area boasts over 200 shops and award-winning restaurants and is home to iconic cultural amenities such as the St. Louis Walk of Fame, The Pageant, Delmar Hall, Blueberry Hill and the Tivoli Theater. Considerable redevelopment efforts east of Skinker along Delmar are planned for the future with funding from the newly formed East Loop C.I.D.

Rachelle said she looks forward to strengthening the Loop and its connections to the residents of the neighborhood, as well as attracting even more business and the unique development for which the Loop is known. Her office will be at 6150 Demar. For now, she can be reached at rachelle@thedelmarloop.com.

Progress on Rental Housing

After a year of activity, the Zoning and Housing Committee can report progress on its wish to maintain family/owner-occupied single family homes in our neighborhood. The committee is addressing single family homes that are leased to more than three unrelated persons by owners in violation of the city ordinance. Eight such owners representing 19 addresses faced Housing Court and were judged in violation of city ordinance. Their tenants were allowed to stay until the end of their leases and the building inspector will be re-examining the premises for compliance this fall. This is part of the agreement that was negotiated with the owners in court.

The committee is also working to find solutions to vacant and neglected properties by working with SDCC and the City to find solutions to properties that have been uncared for and represent a hazard to the neighborhood.

Finally, the committee is also looking at short term rentals such as AirBnB, Homestay.com, and VRBO. Much research has been conducted regarding the impact of short term rentals of non owner occupied homes in residential neighborhoods and has been shared with Alderman Heather Navarro who serves on an Aldermanic Subcommittee working on possible ordinances to regulate their operation. Alderman Navarro attends the Z&O meetings and interacts with our committee on all of these subjects.

The committee meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month and contains representatives from the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, the St. Louis City Housing Division and Aldermanic Wards, landlords, attorneys, real estate agents, and other pro-active neighbors. Call the SDCC at 862-5122 for more information.

WU Names New Rep

By Lana Stein

JoAnna Schooler has been named by Washington University as its director of community relations, liaison with neighborhood and community groups and local government. She is replacing Cheryl Adelstein and will be Washington University's representative on the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council.



Like Ms. Adelstein, Ms. Schooler grew up in the St. Louis area. Her family moved here from Wichita when she was in grade school. She received her bachelor's degree from Mizzou and then did graduate work at Seton Hall University in New Jersey. Her work experience has concerned communications and public relations largely at private corporations. She worked in Pennsylvania and also in London, England. But, the Saint Louis area is what is home to her and she returned several years ago, acquiring a house close to her parents. She then worked for Mallinkrodt and United Way.

in her new position Schooler looks forward to working with some distinguished city neighborhoods, including of course ours. She is anxious to learn more about Skinker DeBaliviere and looks forward to meeting more residents. She is aware of town-gown relations in other locales and sensitive to concerns that may arise.

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Sat. Nov 10

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**Just for
Grown-Ups**

Editor's Notebook

By Lana Stein

We are at perhaps the most divisive political times any of us can remember. Ironically, Americans pay less attention to the news and vote less frequently than counterparts in Western Europe. I have often felt that this could be due to the far greater number of elections we have.

In November of 2018 Missouri voters will have a significant role in determining control of the House and the Senate. Every vote will count. In choosing either Claire McCaskill or Josh Hawley, a voter chooses a different philosophy and different outcomes. The curse of such an election is the plethora of negative advertising that accompanies it. The negative messages may have a soupçon of truth but also distortion for effect. Please don't make an electoral decision based on these ads.

Also on the ballot are 3 proposals to legalize the use of marijuana for medical purposes such as treatment for glaucoma

or a means of dealing with the side effects of chemotherapy.

In our August primary election, three-quarters of voters citywide endorsed a bond issue to address purchase of capital items and infrastructure. This measure will not increase taxes. Although it may not affect Skinker DeBaliviere directly, it will redo city bridges that are no longer safe and provide new fire trucks to replace some very old trucks.

Votes do matter. If you are not registered, you can do so at our public library on Skinker, downtown at the Election Board, at motor vehicles offices, even online at the MO Secretary of State website. If you want to learn more about the issues and candidates, the 28th Ward Democratic organization now meets in our neighborhood, at the Moonrise Hotel/Eclipse Restaurant Meeting Room, where you can sit and listen, ask questions, and have food and drink if you want to order, on the third Thursday of most months at 7:30 p.m. Be part of the solution however you choose to vote.

A Dozen Years of Service to SDCC

by Jo Ann Vatcha

The SDCC Board of Directors honored retiring Washington University Representative Cheryl Adelstein at their July meeting, noting her more than 12 years of service to the Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood. SDCC President Jim Holzer spoke of her leadership in updating the by-laws, spearheading studies, including the revised Master Plan, and her commitment, financial and substantive,



from left, Brandon Sterling, Dan McGuire, Cheryl Adelstein, Jill McGuire

to our neighborhood. Andy Cross presented Cheryl with a special gift, a framed original drawing from his artist's hands.

To further recognize her service to Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, and with special thanks for her expertise and ability to work with everyone and to utilize WU resources to make our neighborhood even better, we acknowledged some of the specific ways in which she worked with the Delmar Commercial Committee and the council. Some examples for which we said THANKS!

- Skinker Lighting project!
- WU Housing innovations: Delmar/Eastgate, the corner of Skinker/Delmar and the Skinker/McPherson Apts, and for working to designate the 1 & 2 unit buildings for families
- Faithful participation in the Delmar Commercial Committee
- Retail Study to bring more small businesses to Delmar
- North Campus, bringing students and employees to the Loop!
- MLK Celebration support
- Promoting neighborhood participation in WU activities: the Home Plate Program, mentoring WU staff and encouraging student safety training
- A "Premier Sponsor" of the Skinker DeBaliviere Centennial, a fantastic party, as well as production of our neighborhood history book and digitizing over 40+ years of the TIMES!
- Coordinating WU's involvement with MetroLink expansion
- Following in the tradition of SDCC founding-WU representative Bob Blackburn, Jim McCleod, Sarah Johnson, and Steve Givens,

Thank you from all of us at SDCC, Delmar Commercial Committee and the TIMES, July 9, 2018.

SDCC Security Committee

by Lana Stein

On August 14, the Security Committee met with Captain Mueller of the St. Louis Police Department, the Loop trolley security director, a representative from Metro, and one from Washington University's police department. A recent car jacking was the principal focus. Captain Mueller urged residents to call the police if they see anything suspicious. Outsiders have been responsible for these crimes. When you are parking particularly after dark, be aware of the surroundings and if you see people you don't recognize, circle the block. Officer Skaggs will be our new neighborhood liaison and will discuss the preceding month's crime statistics at future meetings.

The next security meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 4, at the SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury. The meeting is open to all residents.

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, 2018.

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

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.

Village Aglow Gala at the Mahler Ballroom

STL Village invites the public to "Village Aglow: A Gala to Benefit STL Village," Friday, October 19, 2018, 7 p.m. at the historic Mahler Ballroom. Join us at this newly restored landmark for an evening of elegant hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and if you're "In the Mood" - ballroom dancing! Proceeds benefit our mission supporting adults to age in community, right at home. Tickets available by contacting info@stlvillage.org or 314-240-5020.



Photo by King Schoenfeld

Karen Kelsey and Karleen Hoerr enjoyed the annual Dog Show at the Four Corners.

News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Well it happened again, summer came and went in the blink of an eye, at least for me. We had a dry summer and much of it offered days of typical St. Louis heat and humidity, but we actually had some relatively nice days as well. I hope you were all able to enjoy your summer, here or traveling. If you have news about any great summer adventures, milestones in life, or other interesting news to share, I would love to hear about them and share them in the next issue of The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere.



Neighbors cleaning parking lot

Today I'm going to begin with what may be unique to some neighborhoods, but fortunately not to ours. Recently new neighbor, (actually an old neighbor too because she grew up in the neighborhood and has returned), Mary Lou Green, sent out an email to neighbors and friends on the 6100 blocks of Kingsbury and Westminster to help clean up the parking lot at Skinker and Westminster. It was overgrown and litter was everywhere. Within just a few days neighbors of all ages joined forces to clean up the lot on a hot Saturday morning. Special thanks to Mary Lou for heading up the efforts and to all of the neighbors who turned out to make such a difference in a short period of time. It looks great!

"I will get things done, for America to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier. I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities. Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere. I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond. I am an AmeriCorps Member and I will get things done."
- the AmeriCorps NCCC Pledge

Emil Banaszak, son of Mark Banaszak and Katrina Stierholtz, recently completed his year in the AmeriCorps program, having lived this pledge every day. In the past year, through his service, Emil



Emil Banaszak



worked on several large projects, including hurricane relief in the US Virgin Islands, low-cost housing construction in Wyoming and wildfire safety work in California. He also volunteered many hours on smaller projects. After graduation, he and friends found work on an organic farm near Captain Cook, Hawaii, where it's often foggy because of the volcanic activity. Congratulations Emil and thank you for your service!



Andy Cross with Instant Oatmeal Left to right; Andy, Christian, Billy, Lilia, and Lucy. Lilia (drums) and Lucy have been friends since preschool and have been playing music together since grade school at St. Roch



Lilia (drums) and Lucy have been friends since preschool and playing music together since grade school at St. Roch.

Our recent National Night Out barbecue and concert were cancelled due to weather in early August. These are always popular events in the neighborhood and so enjoyable for all of us. The cancellation stung a little more for one of the bands scheduled to play as they were wrapping up their summer and most of them headed off to college. Instant Oatmeal is an indie rock band founded by Lucy Ebeling of the 6300 block of Waterman, and Lilia Voss, of the 6100 block of McPherson. Other band members include Christian Boxdorfer of the 6100 block of Kingsbury and Billy Harned of Webster Groves. The disappointment did not last long when neighborhood hero Andy Cross hosted the band that evening for an intimate concert in his art studio for friends, family, and fans. It was a fantastic evening with the band playing their longest set ever, some covers and a lot of original music too. The next night the band played again at Failoni's on Manchester at a

fundraiser for Pedal the Cause hosted by the team Bill Box's Blue, Red, and Grey which is made up of many neighbors. Thanks so much to Andy for providing a venue and to this young talented band for sharing their music with us. Lucy and Lilia have been friends since pre-school and have been playing music together since grade school at St. Roch. Lucy is the daughter of Sean and Rachel Ebeling. Lilia is the daughter of Tim and Pattie Voss and Christian is the son of Matt and Rachel Boxdorfer.

We are always sad to hear about the loss of an old neighbor. On July 17th, Albert Joseph Nerviani passed away. Al grew up on the 6100 block of Kingsbury. One of many children of Al and Betty Nerviani. Our condolences go out to all of his siblings and his daughters. He will surely be missed.



Albert Joseph Nerviani

Marvin Nodoff of the 6100 block of Westminster was recently profiled by Common Ground (https://lscpagepro.mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?i=460909#%22{issue_id:460909,page:78}%22), a national magazine for community associations. And another issue included an excerpt of his novel, HOA Gobsnack ([https://lscpagepro.mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?i=474562#{"issue_id":474562,"page":0}](https://lscpagepro.mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?i=474562#{)). Congratulations to Marvin.

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!

Proud to be a
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Getting Even

By Dan Rater

It's amazing how fast things move when you're trying to stand still. Doesn't it seem like only yesterday? How was your summer? Mine was pretty active for a body at rest. I traversed the Iowa highways celebrating family milestones. I trolled the Wisconsin waterways, like a trailblazer armed with bug spray. I saw enough of my parents; they fled to Europe just to shake me. Then I cranked up the DeLorean and went back to high school for my 40th reunion.

The reunion was in Milwaukee; Whitefish Bay High School, honoring the Class of 1978. The buildup was tremendous, and I began to worry I wouldn't measure up to my classmates. On the way, I stopped in Chicago to meet my wife. She was at a conference for her job, and said she'd like some company. It turned out she was busy with meetings, and I was relegated to day drinking in the hotel bar.

I walked into the bar and saw an open seat. In the next seat was a dog, nursing a glass of water. I asked, "Anybody sitting here?" The dog said, "No, it's all yours." I sat down, ordered a Budweiser from the bartender, and said, "Are you one of the Doodle's?" He flashed a hang dog look, and said "Man, my name's Dabney, I'm just a mutt. What's your story?" Maybe it was the puppy dog eyes that did it, but I couldn't stop yapping. I told Dabney how I felt about the reunion; I talked about hopes and expectations, lost opportunity and regret. "Dabney, I'm nervous how I'll be perceived. I haven't really accomplished anything with my life."

Dabney slurped his water with his big pink tongue, then looked at me and said, "Just be genuine, don't try to be something you're not. Most people appreciate honesty. It's worked for me." I said, "I know, but people love dogs, it's different with humans. We can be kind of catty." I could tell Dabney was impatient, wagging his tail on the bar stool in exasperation. He growled, "Listen, I live seven years to your one. I don't have time to be wistful. If people won't accept you for who you are, that's their fault, not yours."

He let out a little bark to get the bartender's attention, "Hey Phil! How about another round for me and my friend." I patted his head and said, "Dabney, you don't have to do that. Besides, where do you keep your money? You're not wearing any pants." He flashed a toothy grin and winked, "I'm a service dog. I never pay for anything." I let out a laugh, tousled his fur and rubbed his belly, "There's a good boy! What a good dog! Thanks for everything Dabney." I finished my beer and laid down a tip. I left the bar and met my wife for dinner at Shula's Steakhouse. When the server brought out my doggy bag, there was Dabney's face on the cover.

I could hardly wait for the reunion. I made the short ride to Milwaukee with my tongue wagging, and head hanging out the window; the wind blowing back my hair. It's a dog's world, after all.

Breakfast Garden Tour 2018 Celebrates 20 Years

By Andy Cross

Each year on the Breakfast Garden Tour we explore a different part of Skinker-Debaliviere. For our 20th annual tour in addition to backyard gardens, we also visited other areas that gardeners take care of outside of their own backyards. We hope you will discover the talent and hard work with which these neighbors grace our community!

On 5900 Kingsbury at Nina Place, Cecelia Younger's garden was only three weeks old on the day of the tour. When she bought her house, she was surprised to learn that the garden next to her house was also her property! Cecelia now takes care of this triangle of land with a beautiful berm garden, which sports hostas, two varieties of liriopie, cockscomb, and sedum, all of which are shaded by two flowering cherries, backed up by a row of flame bushes. Back by the alley, two colors of barberry make a vibrant live fence, to protect the greenspace from heavy foot traffic.

In the street at 5900 Kingsbury are three concrete planters. Neighbors at first did not like these planters and tried to get rid of them until the beautification committee and a St. Roch girl scout troop magically turned these white concrete pipes into stone masonry. Beverly Price adopted these planters and grows gorgeous colorful flowers in them. Beverly's private garden, which was also on the tour, is a beautiful New Orleans style garden featuring Mardi Gras colors of purple, yellow and green, and 50+ year old ferns from her mother's garden in New Orleans.

Next to Beverly, Jim and Mary Ellen Price's private yard has an open fence for all to enjoy, along with an area between the street and alley which they maintain for nature to thrive in. Coneflowers attract birds that love the seeds, along with phlox, columbine, native hibiscus, and native grasses, along with non-natives stella d'oro daylilies, and lilac. Their Ohio Ironweed grows to be 4½ feet tall, with pale blue blossoms, which pollinators love. They used to stop feeding the birds in the summer, because of damage to the plants, so they now grow native grasses under the bird feeders: a sustainable pair! An avid birdwatcher, Jim says the three kinds of bird feeders draw "all of the usual suspects," and even occasional cooper hawks. It is thrilling to see blue jays again!

Lucier park was recently planted with 50 trees and 25 shrubs as a grant from Project ReLeaf. Many long-time neighbors joined in planting these trees as a family project, as they got to label each of their trees with their family names. In 2007, the beautification committee and St. Roch Girl Scout Troop 3528, planted the row of now-mature trees along the Delmar alley. The new trees are maintained and watered by neighbors and the SD Beautification Committee. As these new trees grow, the park will be even more beautiful, healthier, and cooler. Another gardening project is a pair of large metal planters halfway down the park, by the 5900 DeGiverville alley, planted and watered by neighbors of this block. Neighbors pick up the trash which lands in the park, and are working on maintaining a garden which surrounds the sign at the park entrance.

In Kingsbury square, not many houses have backyards, but many have narrow planting areas in front of their houses. Inspired by his neighbor Irving Clay, who placed pavers in his pathway, Jim Schmidt took the initiative and placed pavers in his yard and other's yards as well. Jim developed a watering system for his garden and the nearby neighbors' grow spaces. It is low maintenance: Jim says, "turn on water, make a cocktail, sit and water the plants".

Also in Kingsbury Square, Derek and Jenny Knight have a corner yard which they grace with a lovely garden. Derek is a regular contributor to the Times of Skinker DeBaliviere and wrote a wonderful article about his garden in the previous issue.

The tour wrapped up in Kingsbury Square Park. The soft rolling landscape is not hilly, but much more interesting than just a flat plane. You'll find a wide variety of trees of many sizes and different foliage including mature pin oaks, redbuds, and flowering trees. The boxwood, pachysandra, and begonias grace the gardens at each corner entrance to the Kingsbury Square Park. The inside gardens at these corners have boxwood, hostas, and bright green and yellow liriopie. These gardens are meticulously cared for by James Baalman and Steven Weisenfels along with Delores Horstman. In the shade garden near the gazebo is a collection of around 100 hostas of different varieties. This park has been the site of neighborhood gatherings including the senior ice cream socials and the Porchfest music festival.

Thank you to the many neighbors who attended our special 20th anniversary tour. Thanks also to the gardeners who opened their private yards, and a very special thanks to the gardeners who take care of the open areas for all our neighborhood to enjoy.



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WHEN PEOPLE PUT THEIR

RECYCLING IN A PLASTIC BAG

KIDS CORNER

By Susanne Knese

Holy Cow! Olive and Van Meara trolled our neighborhood and found all our clues in



last edition's Scavenger Hunt . . . they even found the dog statue in Kingsbury Square! Great job and thanks to their "paparazzi" dad Sean for the photos!



Send in a pic of your creations!

I don't know about you, but my daughters love all the kids' cooking shows on television! The crazy desserts. Cooking with random ingredients. Culinary delights, all of them! So here is your chance to shine . . . many of you grow your own produce in your gardens OR just enjoy cooking and baking in your kitchen. I challenge you to make your greatest creation, email me

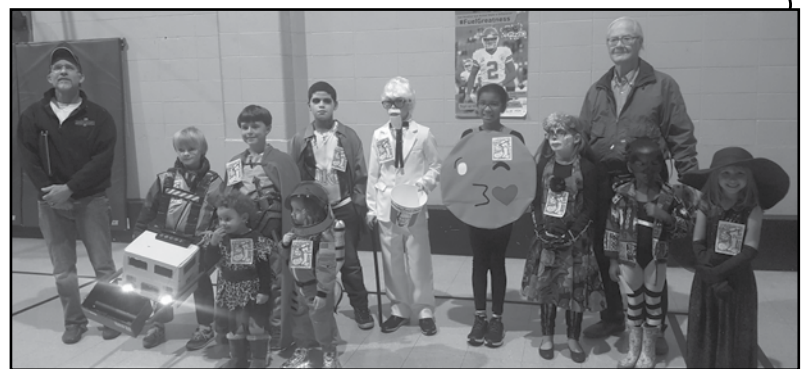
a photo of you with your delicious results and the recipe to share with your neighbors to be featured in the November Times. Categories are Best Decorated Dessert, Salivating Entrée and Halloween Themed Snack. PLEASE ask your parents to help as we want to keep you safe in the kitchen!

Submissions for November Kids Corner need to be submitted to kidscorner@sdtimes.org by October 10th! This is YOUR corner, so make it what you want!

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!

Don't forget to bring your children to the annual Halloween Party at St. Rochs, organized by Art Santen for more than 40 years, aided by Dan Hudspeth, President of Rosedale Neighbors and board member of the SDCC. The party starts at 5:30, with entertainment and costume judging in the St. Roch gym on Waterman. The great tradition of neighborhood trick or treating starts right afterwards at 6:30.



The 2017 Halloween winners, from left, rear: Jonathan Taylor, age 7, attends Mallincroft Elem, "Trash Truck", Isaac Upchurch, age 8, attends Mallincroft Elem, "Sir Lancelot", Aiden Yount, age 9, attends St. Roch, "Damaged Clown-Joker", Cal Kreuter, age 12, attends St. Roch, "Colonel Sanders", Kai Logan, age 9, attends St. Roch, "Emoji", Gillian Markarian, age 9, attends St. Roch, "Day of the Dead, Lamuerta", Autumn Turner, age 6, attends So. City Community School, "Tiger Mosquito", Alex Upchurch, age 6, attends Mallincroft, "Hedi Lamar". In front: MiKah Mosley, age 2, "Pebbles", Mae Huy-Myers, age 3, "Astronaut"

One Gardener's Experience

By Derek Knight

When I was asked to be on the Skinker DeBaliviere breakfast garden tour, I was, I have to admit, taken aback. After all, although I like my yard, it is just another one of many, so why me? But I said yes, and spent the days before the tour tidying up and thinking what on earth I could say to people who came by.

The day of the tour broke beautiful and sunny, with just a few clouds in the sky. As the start time approached, I sat outside, wondering if anyone would make it to the far reaches of Kingsbury Square to find us. I need not have worried, the first visitors turned up very soon, and I happy to see them and to show them around. There followed a steady stream of visitors, some just stopping briefly, others staying and chatting for longer.

Any young children in the parties we asked to check for fairies, and they were amused when they found the first Fairy Garden but amazed when they discovered the second. Some visitors asked how I got my grass so green, and that frankly surprised me as I struggle to get it to grow. I showed them the newly planted hosta garden, and many commented on how it would all grow in, which is indeed my hope. Others were interested in the vegetable patch in the backyard and the herb planters up on the deck. Of course, Shaggy Dog, our statue of an old English Sheepdog that sits patiently on the front step, won everyone's hearts. But what got the most attention from almost all the visitors were the native Missouri wildflowers that had grown from seed scattered earlier in the year. They were indeed impressive and still are all these weeks later.

Being a part of the event meant, of course, that we couldn't go on the tour ourselves, but Andy, the organizer, had thought of that, and a week later those of us with gardens on display got to do a private tour. This was very interesting, and it was also good to compare notes with the other participants on what they had done. It was also reassuring to find out that we were not the only ones scrambling to get our yards ready in time.

Overall it was a great experience, and I look forward to next year's Garden Tour, and admiring others' hard work!

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St. Louis ArtWorks

St. Louis ArtWorks is located at 5959 Delmar. One of the summer activities involved painting several outstanding murals across our community. Great Rivers Greenway: Mary Meachum Crossing Mural was one outstanding example!

St. Louis ArtWorks also announced a new Program Manager Genesis Powell. Genesis has more than 10 years experience working with nonprofit organizations, 8 with disadvantaged youth. She holds a Masters in NonProfit Management from Eastern University. Welcome, Genesis!





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Grace & Peace Shelter Trivia Night

By Melody Perkins, The Grace & Peace Winter Shelter

Come to our Trivia Night! Have fun playing the game, and support our shelter for homeless women this winter! On Friday, September 7, 2018, 6:15 PM – 10:00 PM, our Trivia Night and Silent Auction will feature interesting (challenging?) questions about a wide range of subjects, and auction and gift/surprise items from dozens of St. Louis places and vendors. All proceeds will go for Grace & Peace Winter Shelter expenses for this fall and winter, including Staff wages, transportation for the guests, food, necessary supplies, blankets, and some new mattresses and other equipment. Put on your thinking cap and be ready for some fun! Our very own Rev. Thurman Williams is our MC! Tickets are \$25 per person or \$200 per table of eight. (The Shelter gets more funds if you buy a table, since table fees are slightly lower as a percentage of tickets.)

In keeping with our policy of sponsoring alcohol-free events within the church building for the sake of our members and visitors who struggle with addiction, this is an **ALCOHOL-FREE EVENT**. Sodas, water and munchies will be available for your table (1 per ticket quantity) as well as for purchase at the event. You are welcome to bring additional, non-alcoholic beverages and your favorite sweet or savory snacks as well.

The Grace & Peace Winter Shelter is an outreach of Grace & Peace Fellowship, which is a 501 c 3 non-profit corporation registered federally and in Missouri. Our EIN is 43-1319188. Donations are tax-deductible according to IRS regulations. Please consult your tax adviser to determine your donation's deductibility in your unique tax situation.

You can drive, and park on Clara or Delmar (parking meters active till 7 p.m.). We do recommend carpooling! Or take the Metro to Forest Park Station, and walk about 1 block to the East on Pershing, then 3 blocks north on Clara Ave. Enter at side door of church (622 Clara). The 97 Delmar bus stops right in front of the church, as well.

For more information, email Melody at graceandpeace1@sbcglobal.net.

How to Divide Perennial Plants Properly

By Sally Evans

Save money in your garden and keep your perennial plants healthy by learning how to divide them yourself properly. Follow our helpful guide to get this fun gardening job done right. Avid gardeners know that it never hurts to divide your perennials. Dividing your perennial plants will help keep them healthy and beautiful. It also makes more plants for future plantings! The reasons you should divide your perennials are endless. Many perennial plants grow quickly, forming large clumps. If you don't divide them every 3-4 years, these clumps can die out in the middle, leaving an empty, bare hole. Overcrowding these perennials can lead to fewer or smaller flowers than if they were well-spaced and divided. Dividing plants also leaves you with more individual plants of the same variety, perfect for adding to other places in your garden or gifting to family, friends or neighbors! Here are a few things to keep in mind before you begin dividing your perennial plants.

When to Divide Your Perennials: You can divide most perennial plants any time of the year, from spring to fall. However, those two seasons are usually best. Dividing plants can be stressful to the actual plant and they will recover better from the shock if conditions are cool and moist. If you do divide plants in summer, just be sure to keep them well watered. Also make sure plants are large enough to divide into several clumps.

How to Divide Perennials: Perennial plants such as hostas, asters and yarrow can be divided easily with no hassle. All you need is a shovel and work gloves to get the job done. First, you dig up the clump of perennials that will be divided. Insert the shovel deep into the soil around the perimeter of the plant to loosen the roots and isolate the clump. To help, you could water the perennial plant a few days before you dig it up to help soften the soil, saving you a bit of effort. Then, lift the shovel and root ball. Be careful to keep the root system as intact as you can. Then gently shake or brush any excess soil from around the root ball. Now you can cut or pry apart individual crowns. Each clump needs to have a set of leaves and roots in order to grow. Replant all divisions quickly so roots don't dry out. Plant at the same depth as the original plant and water well. You can also cover the soil with mulch to help conserve moisture while your new divisions become established.

It's important to keep in mind that these general instructions work for most perennial plants, but not all! Some perennials don't benefit from being divided, such as: bleeding heart, butterfly weed, lavender and oriental poppy. If your unsure, most plants have plenty of resources available online for information. Just look up the specific variety of plant you have and find it's recommendations on dividing. Use your divided perennial plants to add more landscaping plants to your own yard, or give them as fun summer gifts to family and friends! Learn more at: Quietvillagelandscaping.com.



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From Alderwoman Navarro

CLEAN up Missouri politics - YES on 1

How can we clean up politics in Jefferson City? In the absence of meaningful legislation by lawmakers in Jefferson City, a citizens' petition will be on the ballot in November to do it for them. Amendment 1 will do five things: 1) ban all lobbyist gifts over \$5, 2) cap individual campaign contributions at \$2,500 for state senators and \$2,000 for state representatives, 3) require politicians to wait two years before becoming lobbyists, 4) establish a nonpartisan citizen commission to draw political boundaries, and 5) open legislative records to the public.

In the last few years we have seen a role reversal with the traditional champions for local control blocking efforts by cities and counties on everything from public health ordinances to minimum wage. The only way to explain this flip is that lobbyists for large, private corporations have more sway in the Capitol than the average Missourian. The role of money in politics is not unique to one party; given the opportunity,

the majority party can take advantage of our current system of redistricting for their own benefit.

The other disturbing trend is the revolving door between legislator and lobbyist. One of the side effects of term limits is legislators plotting their next career move while still in office. Corporations and lobbyists are not only potential donors but also potential employers. Amendment 1 creates a cooling off period so lawmakers stay focused on representing the best interests of their constituents instead of making policies with an eye towards future employers and clients.

In August, 44% of the 28th ward's registered voters turned out to vote! We need you again this November to support Amendment 1 and re-elect Senator Claire McCaskill for U.S. Senate. Mark November 6 on your calendar and I'll see you at the polls! For a complete listing of ballot initiatives visit sos.mo.gov.



Back in the Neighborhood

By Frank C. Schaper aka Frank the Fireman

Hello Neighbors! Frank the Fireman here and it is good to be back in the neighborhood. I first moved into the neighborhood in 1975. I lived at 541 DeBaliviere. Does that address ring a (fire) bell? That's right - I lived at the firehouse located on DeBaliviere Avenue as a St. Louis Firefighter. I lived at that firehouse until October of 1980 when I got promoted to Fire Captain and moved to another firehouse located in north city. But I will always remember my assignment at Engine House #30.

I found a copy of The Times of...Skinker DeBaliviere at Grace Methodist Church and started to read it. That is when I spied a news item about the house fire on DeGiverville. I was saddened to read that fires still occur in my old neighborhood. I certainly had my share of them in the five years I served on Engine #30.

Then I saw another item, "Do you have news to share?" "Why yes I do," I thought. So I contacted Rachel Boxdorfer who was kind enough to put me in touch with JoAnn Vatcha and suddenly Frank the Fireman is back in the neighborhood via your fine neighborhood newspaper.

First off, I would like to thank all of you for having me back. It has been a long time. Secondly, even though I have been retired from StLFD for nineteen years (O, my), I still know something about fires and fire prevention. I thought I could share some of my fire safety tips with you over a course of several articles and perhaps a little history about Engine House #30. These first two tips will have to hold you until we get back together again next time. Tip #1 - Clean and test your smoke detector frequently. Tip #2 - Blow those candles out twice. Candles give off a nice warm glow and smell good, but they are one of the leading causes of house fires. Be careful how you use them.

This Land Is Your Land Plant more trees!

By Mark Banaszak

This is a call to action. Plant more trees! The 2014 Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood Development Plan places a high priority on creating a comprehensive reforestation plan. Our neighborhood is blessed with many large trees because of the thoughtful stewardship of previous generations; however, there are problems. Our larger trees are nearing the end of their lifespans. Some replacement trees are not thriving or are ornamental varieties not intended to serve the same function as the larger trees they replace. The neighborhood tree canopy map also reveals many open areas that would benefit from tree replanting.

A healthy, extensive urban tree canopy has many important benefits according to the urban foresters who work in Saint Louis. Christine McCarthy is a certified Arborist in the City of Saint Louis Forestry Division. She manages the street tree program. Trees are planted based on Citizens' Service Bureau requests, Aldermanic requests and data acquired from the Street Tree Inventory, a database of street trees. Under her direction, the City plants over 3000 trees per year. For more information on the

City of Saint Louis Street Tree Program, go to goo.gl/x2WMnk.

Tom Ebeling is an Urban Forester with Forest ReLeaf of Missouri. Forest ReLeaf is a nonprofit whose mission is restoring and maintaining a healthy urban forest. They provide low-cost or no-cost trees, educational outreach and community access to tree canopy reports. According to Tom, Urban Foresters maintain databases of current trees (including species and locations), coordinate tree maintenance, assess trees for safety and health, and remove and replant trees. Forest ReLeaf was a key contributor to the tree planting projects conducted by neighbors in Lucier Park. To learn more about Forest ReLeaf and their tree programs, go to moreleaf.org.

According to Mr. Ebeling and Ms. McCarthy, there are public health costs to an inadequate tree canopy. Having trees increases the amount of breathable oxygen and reduces the amount of pollutants in the air. This leads to lower incidence of respiratory diseases, like asthma. Trees can reduce both winter heating and summer cooling costs. This is particularly true in the summer, when the urban heat island can raise temperatures by more than 10 degrees. The urban heat island is most common in cities where the urban tree canopy is not strong, like Saint Louis. Currently, Saint Louis typically has 19 more days over 90 degrees than surrounding rural areas. The cooling benefit of the tree canopy doesn't just help reduce your a/c bills; shaded asphalt pavement breaks down more slowly, saving tax dollars as well. In general, housing prices are higher in neighborhoods with a healthy tree canopy. Trees also help storm water runoff, which may not only help your basement, but also our aging Des Peres River storm water system. Finally, a healthy Urban Tree Canopy has been linked to reduced crime, slowed traffic and an overall reduction in psychological stress.

Although our neighborhood is blessed with many shady streets, many of our trees are old and large, and will not live much longer. The high priority placed on developing a neighborhood reforestation plan requires two things: a neighborhood effort to assess, replant and maintain our shared tree canopy and homeowner efforts to plant trees on their property. To help begin our neighborhood tree assessment and plan for planting, join us on Saturday, October 20th, from 10:30am to 12am. Training will be provided. Also, plant a tree this fall because, "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now."

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IN YOUR EAR

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

Well, it was only a matter of time until we learned that we are not, truly, alone in the universe. This shouldn't be a surprise. After all, there are more suns in the universe than there are grains of sand on the Earth, and that's, like, a lot. And most of these suns have planets orbiting them. Don't doubt me; I know this is true because I just heard it on "Sixty Minutes." But we flawed humans are often surprised by the obvious.

For example, should we be surprised that a television reality show host who's elected president treats the job like it's a television reality show? Should we be surprised that global warming warms the globe? No, neither should catch us off-guard but they do. So, I'm not surprised that we're surprised that we don't have a monopoly on life even though it's not surprising.

What? You hadn't heard? Well, news sources have been shouting that the European Space Agency's Mars Express orbiter identified a 12-mile salty lake existing under the surface of Mars. Holy cow! Now, mind you, water, alone, doesn't guarantee life any more than free beer guarantees foolish behavior. But the chances are pretty high. (When was the last time that you were at a party with free beer and no one acted foolish? Right, case closed.)

OK, we know there's water, we know it's underground, and we know it's really, really cold, approximately 26 degrees, but the water is not frozen because of the high salt content. That's all that the Europeans know, but come close because Hawkeye has some inside knowledge. I cannot tell you how I know this (or I'd have to kill you), but trust me, it's true. After all, I'm the guy who predicted that the Loop Trolley would be completed on time. In the interests of keeping the readers of The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere on the cutting edge, Dr. Hawkeye will share his secret knowledge about the Martians.

When we do meet the below-surface Martian life forms, we can be sure of the following:

1. Contrary to what we might have thought, these life-forms are not like fish or sharks. Think penguins with smart phones, astride self-driving water-skis, because the underground Martian society is far more advanced than ours. They have world peace, can eat chocolate without gaining weight, and every city's home team wins all of its games! Indeed, the Martians

have been monitoring life on Earth for thousands of years but never reached out to us because, well, why bother? They saw us engaging in war after war after war, they witnessed the birth of television, and now they see President Trump. I can't say that I blame them for not initiating contact.

war, they witnessed the birth of television, and now they see President Trump. I can't say that I blame them for not initiating contact.

1. The Martian mavens will be wearing wool socks and mittens. I'm not sure how many feet, arms, or flippers they will have, but they'll want to keep them all warm, and what works better than wool socks and mittens? (Perhaps given the scientific nature of this column, I should say that "I don't know how many meters, arms, or flippers they will have"; get it?) Yes, having wool for socks and mittens means that they will have cloned sheep that can live underwater - Hello, Dolly! - to gather the wool. Their sheep farms may have Nauga too so that they can skin them to make Naugahyde for their couches. Their sheep and Naugas belch cocoa-like gas which becomes pressurized to turn into chocolate - think carbon becoming diamonds - their basic food group. It's so good, it's sort of like something you would find at Parker's Table.

1. Given the cold, dark, and wet living conditions, our Martian friends will have advanced far beyond the Internet. Instead, the Martian mavens will communicate using mental microbes, jolts of electronic messages that zap at the speed of light. This means that everyone - oops, every Martian - will be simultaneously communicating with everyone else on every issue whether or not they know anything. What a cacophony of ideas and thoughts! It will be like a bar with free beer.

1. The Martian Mavens will vote Democratic. You may wonder why since they already have peace, all the chocolate they can eat, and single-payer health care, but they are wise. You see, in addition to having achieved an underwater nirvana, they have also been keen observers of what happens on Earth, and they've seen where last two Republican presidents have taken us - hello to Iraq and Stormy Daniels - so they consistently vote for the Democratic porcupine (their equivalent to a donkey). Once again, I can't say that I blame them.

Keep your eye peeled because it won't be long until we hear from the Martian Mavens. If it hasn't happened before, I am sure they will initiate contact when President Winfrey is inaugurated. Remember, you heard it here, first!

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More info at <http://ward28.citywestend.org/index.html>

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