

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 48, No.5

February - March 2019

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

FREE

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

Valentine's Day in the Delmar Loop

By Rachelle L'Ecuyer, Executive Director

The Delmar Loop is an animal that doesn't hibernate so what are you doing? Have some fun this winter. For those of you who may be hibernating, Valentine's Day is February 14 and there's plenty for you to indulge your sweetheart. The Loop's music venues offer some fun entertainment options including Pen 15 - The Ultimate Boy Band Experience performing at The Delmar Hall on February 15, tickets online at delmarhall.com.

Blueberry Hill's famous Duck Room calls for you to come dressed to impress for a night of love and laughter on Saturday, February 16 for Dancing with Your Sweetheart. More information is available online at blueberryhill.com on the shows page. 560 Music Center offers an array of Classical offerings during Valentine's week check out the listings on their website at 560.wustl.edu. Or go the easy route like a movie at the Tivoli theater or bowling at the Pin-up. No matter what you do, riding the Loop Trolley for Valentine's Day is a way to start a new tradition. The cars are charming and the ride offers a new perspective of the vibrant streetscape. The schedule runs Thursday through Sunday. Visit their website for fare information, updates and travel alerts at looptrolley.com.

Wining and dining are not a problem, there are over 70 food establishments in the Delmar Loop and close to 20 countries represented. You can travel to any continent, except Australia and Antarctica, what a way to impress your date. Looking for that quiet romantic restaurant? The Melting Pot, 6683 Delmar, offers cozy booths and a special menu for the evening. All restaurants are listed on our website, visittheloop.com. Don't forget the flowers! Flamenco Flowers & Sweets at 6346 Delmar will deliver but be sure to plan ahead. Visit them online at flamencoflowers.com.

First Fridays and New Businesses in the Delmar Loop

First Fridays in the Delmar Loop with Get Looped are a great way to kick off the month with specials from over 30 Delmar Loop restaurants and shops. Stroll over and spend the evening, most specials start around 5 PM and the last ones go until 2:45 AM. Updates are posted at visittheloop.com.

The new year brings new businesses! Street Stylz Boutique has opened at 5854 Delmar Blvd, Suite A, opened during the holiday season. They offer a unique collection of casual clothing for men and women. They are right by Krab Kingz Seafood, 5860 Delmar, that opened in the fall to much acclaim.

Modest 'n' Chic Boutique at 6161 Delmar, Suite 102, is set to open in early February. The boutique offers a curated collection of women's clothing, accessories and skin care products. On the food scene, the much-anticipated Masala, a Pakistani and Indian restaurant, is planning a February opening at 6170 Delmar. Also coming soon is Prime 55, 6100 Delmar. According to St. Louis Magazine, "The menu will present some Cajun and Creole items, island-themed dishes like jerk chicken tacos and a Hawaiian grilled shrimp wrap, and sure bets like fresh Atlantic salmon."



New SDCC President

By Lana Stein

At its January meeting, the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council selected officers and committee chairs. Molly Rater of Kingsbury Square was selected as president. She has previously served as Vice President and secretary. She has served on the council for over half a decade. She has also volunteered at numerous council events. She also serves as president of the board for Kingsbury Square.



Rater is from Buffalo, New York. When she was 13, she moved to St. Louis with her family. She is married to Daniel. They have three daughters. They have lived in Kingsbury Square for 21 years. She works as a nurse practitioner in cardiology at Barnes.

As president, Rater wants to see the SDCC continue its mission, such as maintaining stabilization and ensuring security. She is concerned about maintaining the Council's level of funding. It is running at a deficit now. Rater's commitment and energy will certainly be positive factors.

2019 Police & FireFighter
APPRECIATION LUNCH
DONATE ENTREE, SIDE, SALAD OR DESSERT - STAY FOR LUNCH
FRIDAY, FEB 15 • 11AM-2PM
Food Drop-Off Starts @ 8am. 6008 Kingsbury Ave. 314.862.5122. www.SkinkerD.org

EDITOR'S NOTE: See page 7 For a history of our DeBaliviere Firehouse from Fireman Frank!

Pop-Up Dog Park a Success!

By Mickey Clarke

October 13, 2018 was sunny and clear. Neighbors and their pets gathered at the site of our future dog park to frolic (the dogs that is) and visit. At its busiest, more than 30 dogs and owners jockeyed for position in and around the fenced in area. It gave us a taste of what a dog park would mean for the neighborhood and for their pets. Best of all, neighbors who had never met became acquainted over a shared love of dogs.

Dog treats and conversation were the order of the day as the area surrounding the park teemed with dogs (and their owners) coming and going. To top off the fun, Purina donated a gate prize. The winner was David Hoffman and his Boston Terrier Bruno. Both are pictured with Pam Venn and Mickey Clarke, who are working to make the dog park a reality for the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood. David and Bruno reside on the 60xx block of Clemens Ave.

A big thank-you to Washington University for erecting the temporary enclosure and to the SD Housing Corporation, owner of the site. If you are interested in working to make this park a reality, contact Mickey Clarke at mickeyc51@gmail.com.



Editor's Notebook

By Lana Stein

Perhaps it is time to address our vision of our neighborhood. From my perspective, owner occupancy and single family homes housing families are important. Because of our proximity to Wash U, we will always have students and many contribute to neighborhood safety and events. But they are now a quarter of the neighborhood population. The Great Recession with accompanying foreclosures laid the seeds for an increasing student presence in Skinker DeBaliviere. The Zoning and Housing Committee is working to see that rentals have no more than three unrelated residents.

There is another threat to family living. Airbnb is expanding everywhere. Unfortunately we have a worst case scenario. There is a large home on the 6100 block of Westminster. The owners moved out and made their dwelling part of the Airbnb network. Their house has been advertised for up to 19 people. A backyard pool has also been an attraction. Neighbors have complained about noise and other interferences to normal

living. Police have met with the parties and neighbors will call police if problems arise. In the meantime, the Zoning and Housing Committee has discussed ordinances to deal with Airbnb. Some do not want a business in the midst of single family homes. At the very least, Airbnb units should be licensed. If there are problems, the license can be revoked. Action at the state level could preempt local action and bills there should be monitored closely.

Our neighborhood fits into two wards. An election is coming up in March for even-numbered wards and president of the board of aldermen. Our 28th Ward alderman, Heather Navarro, has no opposition but there are five contenders for the open seat in the 26th. The candidates are Leata Price-Land, Justin Idleburg, Amin Brandy, Shaheem Hubbard, and Jake Blanton. The SDCC is sponsoring a debate and, hopefully, residents can take the opportunity to meet the candidates. There are three candidates for president of the board: Incumbent Lewis Reed, State Senator Jamillah Nasheed, and 15th Ward Alderman Megan Green.

Report to SDCC

By Michael Stephens

As a Council Board Member, following multiple requests from residents and other interested parties, I reviewed the history and current status of the Housing Corporation and presented my findings and recommendations to the Council on December 4, 2018. In summary, the Housing Corporation is not financially healthy and operates at a deficit regularly. As far as I can tell, there is no current viable plan to cure the deficit. The basic problem is that the Housing Corporation owns undeveloped lots that do not generate revenue and the assets it does own that produce revenue do not produce a revenue stream that is sufficient to cover the Housing Corporation's costs and expenses. Corrective options include liquidating assets to cover operating costs and future projects, as well as avoiding "new" development, while sticking to restoring properties that for-profit developers are reluctant to initiate. The Council has not yet addressed any recommendations. It should be noted that the Housing Corporation is a separate entity from the Council, with its own officers and directors. Below are my notes, which were published in the Council's minutes.

SDCC HOUSING CORP REPORT - 12/4/18

TASK: Residents request investigation into status of HC and fit with neighborhood

PURPOSE: Evaluate status and fit and make recommendations to SDCC Board.

INVESTIGATE: Interviews with residents, former HC board members, Gary Boehnke, Documents - historical, financial

FINDINGS: Governance by board of directors, Alice Stanley, Richard Bose, Joe Fank; Officers-Erich Friesen, Alice Stanley, Paul Hohmann

MISSION CHANGE:

Original (1988) - Combat community deterioration and improving quality of life by promoting and undertaking neighborhood improvement and housing development activities within service areas defined by the board of directors.

Now - to be the buyer/developer of necessity; empowering strong development and homeownership, with the goal of improving the character, heritage and quality of the SD neighborhood and community. From housing rescue to developer

Assets - Improved lots

- SD office - 6008 Kingsbury
- 6 family - 5906 McPherson
- 2 family - 5946 McPherson (exterior and interior work)

Unimproved lots

- McPherson Community Garden - 5937, 5941, 5943
- Westminster Community Garden - 5834 Westminster
- Lot at north end of Des Peres
- Lot at Delmar and Hamilton
- 5869 Washington
- 521 Des Peres (Walker townhomes) - 3 years old
- 520, 526, 532 Des Peres (Dog Park)

Investments -

- 5888 Delmar - Alanson Building
- 5859 DeGiverville - waiting 2 years to complete
- 22k a/r from Eric Trudo

Financial health

Losing 25-30k each year
10 years of life left
No block grant for director

Can't meet current objectives

Increase revenue and balance operating budget
Walker townhomes
Expand capacity of HC
Interact with other groups and people
Distrust and lack of transparency

RECOMMENDATIONS:

* Understand SDCC has no legal control over HC

Conceptual

1. Decide whether we need a housing corp;
2. If yes, should housing corp be housing rescue or economic developer;
3. If it should be rescue and this one doesn't change, should we start a new one; Resolutions
 1. Resolution encouraging HC to liquidate non-performing assets to for profit developer
 2. Resolution encouraging HC to identify targets for restoration, not new construction
 3. Because developer concept is not working, resolution encouraging HC to return to housing rescue

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: March 15, 2019.

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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The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere is published by the West End Publishing Co., a not-for profit, independent, community organization. Layout: Karen Hilmes Printing: Arcade Printing

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News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Skinker DeBaliviere is a neighborhood with many wonderful events and traditions. One of those special events celebrated its 50th anniversary on Halloween. Yes, for 50 years, Art Santen, of the 6100 block of McPherson, has organized a neighborhood Halloween party that offers entertainment for neighborhood children and serves as the official kick-off to trick or treating in our neighborhood. The celebration also includes a costume contest. As someone who enjoyed these parties as a child and then attended as a parent of three children, I would like to say thank you and congratulations to Art on this incredible long history of service. He has certainly provided wonderful memories for so many children and families in our neighborhood.



For those of you who know Art, you also know that Art is an avid collector of bottle openers and all things related to the Gateway Arch. He often has new acquisitions with him to show friends. Mayor Lyda Krewson recently presented Art with some mayoral collectibles: statues of the Gateway Arch with the names of all the mayors since it was built. Art's son Scott and Scott's sons Peter and Frank accompanied Art to City Hall. What a great addition to what must be an incredible collection.

The Bi-State Development Board of Commissioners recently named



Taulby Roach as their new president and CEO. Taulby is a longtime transportation consultant for St. Clair County with deep ties to St. Louis city government, politics, and Skinker DeBaliviere. We congratulate Taulby who resides in Parkview on the 6200 block of McPherson and grew up on the 6100 block of Kingsbury.



I'm happy to provide some follow up to a story many of you remember from earlier in 2018. In the early morning hours of Sunday, May 6th, the Rivers family, of the 5800 block of DeGiverville was awakened by the sound of people shouting. When Nathaniel and Jodi looked out of their bedroom window, they saw the back of their neighbor's home engulfed in flames. They grabbed nothing but their children. When they were nearly out of the house, an explosion shattered almost every window on the side of their home closest to the fire. The explosion originated from oxygen tanks and fed the flames. It wasn't long before the fire spread to the Rivers home.

Once outside, the Rivers family was immediately attended to by various neighbors, some they knew well and some they did not (yet) know at all. They were given warm clothes to wear, coffee to drink, and a place for their children to retreat. This support continued with the

arrival of Mark Gorman who turned out to be an important part of their recovery story. Following a brief stay in a hotel, Mark was able to relocate the family to an apartment he owned in the neighborhood. Jodi and Nathaniel often joked that they had a home on DeGiverville but they summered on Pershing! Mark and his employees then handled the restoration of their home for many months.

After five months of construction, the Rivers family was able to move back home in the fall of 2018. They are so grateful to the Saint Louis Fire Department, the American Red Cross, neighbors and friends in the Skinker DeBaliviere community (especially the 5800 block of De Giverville), St. Roch School and Church, the SDCC office and community members, and of course, Mark Gorman, Ben Gorman, Brian Helt and their fantastic crew. They don't have any family in the St. Louis area, but Jodi said they truly feel like they do.



Bob Moore, publisher of St. Louis Front Page and noted photographer and former SDCC president, died peacefully Monday, January 14, 2019, at home, following a long battle with dementia. He was 80. A "Celebration of Life" for family and friends is planned for March 21, 2019 (his 81st birthday and first day of spring), at 10 a.m., at Bellefontaine Cemetery. He is pictured here with Calvin Stuart, longtime Executive Director of SDCC, at the party

unveiling the pictures of all the directors and presidents of the organization. Stuart passed away last year. Our condolences to Bob's widow Betty and all who knew them.



Longtime Skinker DeBaliviere resident, John George Storey passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, November 17, 2018, at age 91, surrounded by his loving family. George was a Navy veteran, and he worked as an engineer for 37 years at McDonnell Douglas Aircraft. He was a leader for many years in the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood and a long-time parishioner at St. Roch Church; long-time Democratic Committeeman for the 28th Ward; and a City of St. Louis Airport Commissioner. George participated in Washington University Memory and Aging project. He loved playing golf in Forest Park, horse racing, playing cards and games and travelling with his family and friends. George's life was celebrated by many family and friends on November 23rd. Our condolences go out to his wife of 64 years, Rose Storey, and their eight children, spouses, grandchildren and extended family.

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!

Thank You to our 2018 Donors! Over \$ 2,100 to Date!

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Getting Even

By Dan Rater

I work the night shift. People who don't work the night shift ask me, "What's it like working the night shift?" I tell them, it's like living on the other side of the world. My day is night, my down is up, summer is winter and the toilets swirl backwards. Imagine I live in Australia, but without the beaches, coral reefs, wallabies and Sydney's Harbor. That's what it's like. Australia without the scenery.

I like to drink beer on my deck when I get home from work. I watch the neighbors walking their dogs and sometimes I'll say, "Good morning! Come on up and have a beer!" No one has ever accepted my offer. They usually have an excuse like, "I have to go to work." Fair enough, but please don't mow your lawn until I wake up.

People will ask me, "Do you like working the night shift?" I answer them by saying, "At this point what

does it matter? Saturday is Monday, Friday is Tuesday and I think it's April." Nobody needs me anymore. I shamble through the house unseen and unheard, a philosophical conundrum. "If Dan Rater fell down the stairs would he make a sound?" I've achieved existential nothingness, so I have that going for me.

My job as a parent is pretty much done. It wasn't that hard. Three simple rules: Say please and thank you, do your homework and don't take heroin. My wife helped, but they're pretty good kids. All they really want from me now is to bankroll some snacks and spray tans.

I'm sure they love me but do they respect me? In a recent photo they all said I looked like a thumb. We'll be at family gatherings and I'll be telling stories, spinning gold like Rumpelstiltskin. The girls are watching and they'll say, "Dad nobody is listening to you", which I suppose is the answer to the conundrum. That's what it's like living down under.

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

Grow some of your own food in a garden!

By Mark Banaszak and Katrina Stierholz

Before explaining why it is such a good idea for us to grow some of our own food, one must first admit it is not necessary. It is easy to get food that is ready to eat at any level of quality or price every day of the year. We can get bacon triple cheeseburgers 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and have it delivered directly to our doors.



As wonderful as that is, there is a special joy in growing your own food—you know what has gone into it and you enjoy it at its ripe perfection. One of the great benefits of living in Skinker DeBaliviere is that you can participate in a community garden and grow your own food. You'll enjoy better tasting food at a lower cost. You'll get fresh air and exercise, too.

One important reason that people grow their own food is due to concern about food security and desire for food grown using healthy practices. This has led to the spread of organic food growing methods; growing food using little or no pesticide or synthetic fertilizers. Synthetic fertilizer can leach into groundwater, affecting community water quality. Many pesticides have been shown to negatively affect a much wider spectrum of life-forms (including humans) than intended. When you grow your own, you can choose to use organic practices.

Concerns about healthy food production is just one of reasons to garden. Growing your own food in a garden also, by necessity, increases time spent outside exercising. People who garden have lower incidences of both physical and emotional problems including depression, diabetes, and heart disease. They typically live longer.

Food grown at home often tastes better than food grown for commercial production, because commercial varieties are often developed for storage and safe transport, not for flavor. Tomatoes are the best example in our region. Supermarket tomatoes cost more and are not as tasty as those grown from a three dollar packet of seeds.

Gardening can seem intimidating if you haven't done it before. The best way to learn, however, is not by getting a bunch of books and reading. The best way to learn about gardening is getting a plot and seeds or starter plants and 'digging in' through the local gardening community.

Skinker DeBaliviere is blessed with an active gardening community. Our gardening community is anchored by our community gardens. McPherson Community Garden and Block Unit 1035 Community Garden both exist under the umbrella of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. The McPherson garden is on the 59XX block of McPherson, and the Block Unit 1035 garden is on the 58XX block of Westminster. Both gardens are equal parts community and garden and welcome gardeners of all experience levels.

It is possible to learn gardening from books, but it is much easier to learn by asking your neighbors while looking over their tomatoes. You'll get to know more people in our community and have the added benefit of homegrown vegetables and flowers. There is a joy in things you grow yourself that you don't get from purchased food. To join in a garden, call the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council at 314.862.5122 and they will put you in touch with a community garden with an open spot.

Upcoming Events at STL Village

By Liz Backus

In 2019, STL Village is celebrating five years serving adults age 50+ plus in the St. Louis area. STL Village provides a supporting network of services to help adults age in place successfully and programs designed to enhance the quality of our lives and our community. Our office is located at Second Presbyterian Church in the Central West End.

This year, through our partnerships with Oasis and St. Louis Area on Aging, we're excited to be hosting a variety of wellness classes to help adults thrive and stay healthy. We're also growing our calendar of activities that make it easy to meet new friends in a fun and welcoming environment. We'd love to meet you!

Please join us at one or more of these upcoming events:

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention— Tuesday/Thursday Feb. 5 – April 25, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.; STL Village, 4501 Westminster Place, St. Louis, 63108. Free, register through Oasis at 314-862-4859.

Safe at Home: Home Modifications for Aging – Thursdays, March 7 and 14, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.; STL Village, 4501 Westminster Place, St. Louis, 63108. Free, register through Oasis at 314-862-4859.

STL Village Happy Hour – Thursday, February 21, 5 p.m., 1764 Public House, 39 N. Euclid, St. Louis, 63108. Bring a friend and join us for drinks, appetizers and learn about our calendar of activities for 2019. Call 314-240-5020 for more information.

Bridging the Divide: A Discussion of Housing North of Delmar – Sunday, March 24, 3 p.m.; Second Presbyterian Church, 4501 Westminster Place, St. Louis, 63108. Free and open to the public.

For more information about STL Village including membership and volunteering, visit stlvillage.org. Contact us at: info@stlvillage.org or call 314-240-5020. STL Village, 4501 Westminster Place, St. Louis, MO 63108.



St. Roch 8th Grade Class is Heading to Washington DC

By Rachel Boxdorfer

The St. Roch Class of 2019 is headed to Washington DC in March. In a first ever trip for the school, St. Roch's 8th grade class is going to be in DC for a very busy three days. Included in their itinerary will be tours of many museums including the US Holocaust Museum, Smithsonian Air & Space Museum, Smithsonian Museum of American History, and the Smithsonian Museum of African American History. They also plan to visit Arlington Cemetery, the Washington Monument, Lincoln & Jefferson Memorials, the MLK Memorial, and the Vietnam Memorial. And thanks to some assistance from 28th Ward Alderman Heather Navarro, the students will also be taking a tour of the Capitol and will be meeting with Congressman Lacey Clay after their tour.

In order to make the trip affordable and possible for every student, the class and their parents have been raising funds in a variety of ways. Included in these efforts so far were the annual St. Roch Breakfast with Santa, an 8th grade booth at Wintermarkt in which many of the students made and sold various crafts, and Dine Out nights at both Zza on Skinker and Three Kings in The Loop. Students have also been doing odd jobs and working other St. Roch events like the Progressive Dinner. They are all very excited to attend this trip together, many of them going to Washington DC for the very first time. What an incredible opportunity for these students.

If you would like to help support the trip, there is also a Go Fund Me page set up. The link for the page is <https://www.gofundme.com/st-roch-to-washington-dc>.

KIDS CORNER

By Susanne Knese

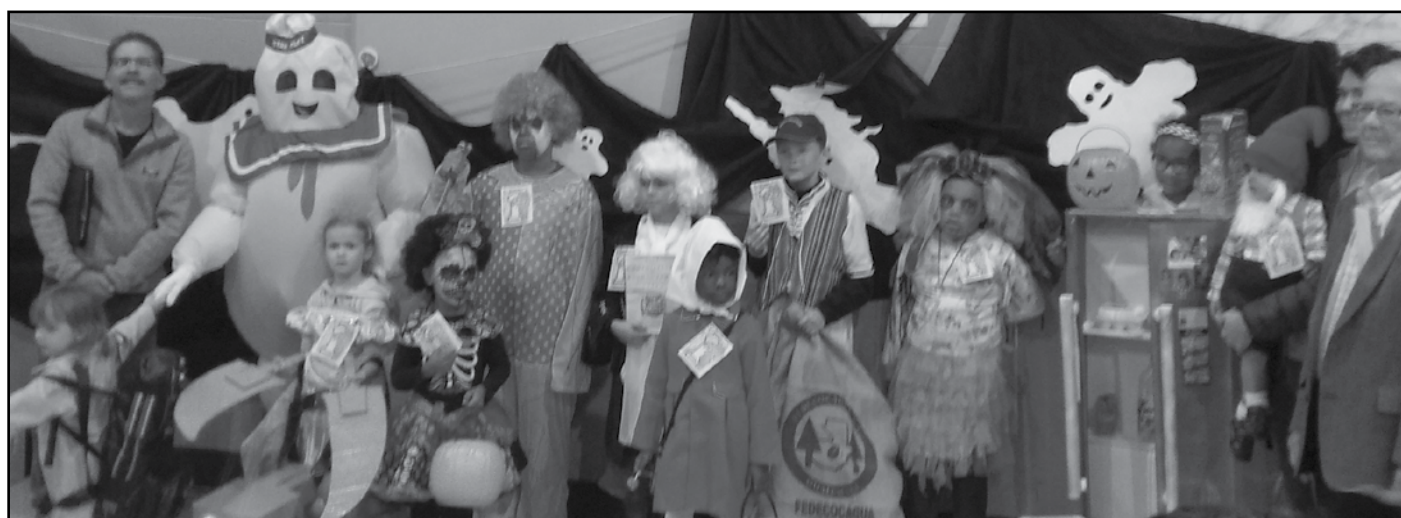
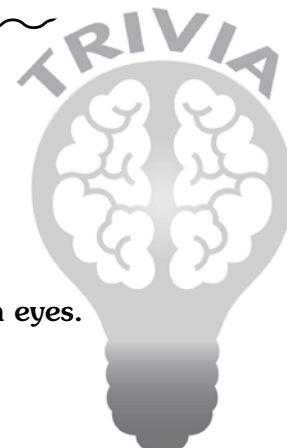
Who doesn't like useless trivia, especially over a cup of hot chocolate during these cold winter months? So grab your cup and be ready to impress your friends with some facts I am pretty sure you NEVER thought about before.

- The only king without a moustache in a deck of cards is the King of Hearts.
- The most pushups ever performed in one day was 46,001... up for that challenge?
- The best time for a person to buy shoes is in the afternoon. This is because the foot tends to swell a bit around this time.
- The Atlantic Ocean is saltier than the Pacific Ocean.
- Rice paper does not have any rice in it!
- Pollen can travel up to 500 miles in a day.
- Oak trees do not have acorns until they are fifty years old or older.
- Iron weighs more after it rusts.
- In an average lifetime a person will walk the equivalent of 3 times around the world.
- Bamboo plants can grow up to 36 inches in a day.
- Airports that are at higher altitudes require a longer airstrip due to lower air density.

- A moth has no stomach.
- All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.
- A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than it's brain.
- A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.
- Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.
- A dragonfly has a lifespan of 24 hours.
- A goldfish has a memory span of 3 seconds.
- No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver or purple.
- Almonds are part of the peach family.
- Honey is the only food that does not spoil and 1 single teaspoon of honey represents the life work of 12 bees.
- Humans are born with 350 bones in their body, but when reaching adulthood, we only have 260.
- Astronauts get taller in space due to the lack of gravity.
- An octopus has 3 hearts, 9 brains and blue blood.
- The hair on a polar bear is actually not white, but clear. They appear white because it reflects light.
- Snails can sleep up to 3 years.

Sources: www.funfunnyfacts.com, www.laughbreak.com

Kids please submit photos of you having fun this winter to kidscorner@sdtimes.org by March 10th!



The 2018 St. Roch Halloween Costume Competition Photo

Judge Dan Hudspeth (on the left), Rosedale Neighbors President, was joined by new judges Lars and Leah Johnson this year. Here are the winners:

Ghostbuster--Ethan Taylor, 3 years old (Mom is the Dough Boy holding his hand)

Pink Dragon--Alaura Taylor, 1st grade

Voodoo Princess--Kabella Johnson, 5 years old, Kindergarten

Murder Clown (from Special Effects)-- Aiden Yount, 10 years old, St. Roch 5th grade. Aiden's special enhancement was a zipper glued to his face!

Sir Isaac Newton--Isaac Upchurch, 9 years old, Malinkrcrot

Lisa and Cordouroy--Autumn Turner, 7 years old, Homeschooled

Coffee Grower--Joshua Freeman, 6th grade, McKinley

Zombie Bride--Olivia, 3rd grade, Mulanphy

Refrigerator--Kai Logan, 5th grade, St. Roch

Garden Gnome--Ben Rettig, 1 1/2 years old!

Master of Ceremonies and Party Founder Art Santen, shown on the right, told the TIMES that this was the 50th Anniversary of the annual Halloween party, and it was also his 85th birthday. "Because of these reasons, I am resigning my position as chairman of the party." It has been a wonderful tradition for our neighborhood, one which should continue for many years to come. Thanks, Art!

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Reflecting on The Issues Which Affected the 28th Ward in 2018

By Alderwoman Heather Navarro

The end of one year and the beginning of a new one is always a time of reflection for me. 2018 was my first full calendar year as your alderwoman, and as I review the work that was accomplished and contemplate the challenges ahead, I want to share with you a few reflections on some of the issues that were significant for the 28th Ward in 2018.

SAFETY AND SECURITY: Overall, crime in the 28th Ward is down. The efforts of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council and the Central West End Neighborhood Security Initiative are responsible for keeping neighbors informed and aware of crimes.

ENVIRONMENT: The 100% Clean Energy Resolution was passed in the fall of 2017 by the Board of Alderman. The recently formed 100% Clean Energy Board is focused on developing metrics that ensure the city's plan is cost-effective and promotes health, equity and jobs. The tools and strategies they anticipate will help the city meet its goals, including continued benchmarking of energy use in city-owned buildings, participation in Ameren energy efficiency incentive programs, city-owned rooftop solar and community solar projects, and contracting for wind through Ameren's Green Tariff. Additionally I worked with the Sierra Club and the Green Building Council to advocate for the passage of the 2018 building codes that will result in new homes being 25% more efficient.

DEVELOPMENT AND INCENTIVE REFORM: I introduced the first redevelopment plan using tax assurance in lieu of traditional tax abatement – giving the developer an assurance of the tax amount without depriving schools and other entities of the taxes post-development. I'm also advocating for the use of a new map that describes what level of incentive is available and where in the city for residential projects under \$1 million. Such an approach would establish a collective plan and consistent guidelines helping both developers and the city.

RACIAL EQUITY: The Equity Indicators Project will quantify the state of racial equity in St. Louis and measure progress over time. A report from the project was released at the beginning of January and is available on the city website. The city has also been offering workshops on "Understanding and Analyzing Systemic Racism" in which I've been participating.

WARD REDUCTION: In 2012, the voters passed a change to our city charter that reduces the number of wards in the city from 28 to 14 after the 2020 census. As we go into 2019 it is critical that we look at what this means for the functioning of the Board of Aldermen and the delivery of constituent services. I am co-chairing an advisory committee on ward reduction with Alderwoman Boyd.

SHORT-TERM RENTALS: Legislation was introduced to regulate short-term rentals (e.g. airbnb, VRBO, Homeaway). The legislation aims to help the city adapt to the opportunities presented by short-term rentals while protecting housing stock and our neighborhoods. The current legislation is a starting point and companion legislation distinguishing between low-density and higher-density neighborhoods is also being worked on. Please stay tuned in 2019 for more progress on Board Bill 183.

Besides these issues, much of the work of an alderwoman is constituent services—making sure your trash is picked up, maintaining our streets and lights, helping you navigate city bureaucracy, and responding to neighborhood issues as they arise. This work connects me with the people who live in our ward every day and the relationships that spring from this work are the most gratifying aspect of being the 28th Ward's alderwoman.

This is just a sampling of all that happened in 2018. For more about last year and updates in the coming one, visit my website, www.heathernavarro.com and sign up to receive emails from me.

I hope that 2018 was a fulfilling year for you and your loved ones. I look forward to another year of serving the 28th Ward in 2019. And remember to vote on March 5th!

There will be change

By Jo Ann Vatcha

The Board of the SDCC approved revisions to their by-laws at the January 14, 2019, meeting, including a major change to the structure of the Delmar Commercial Committee. This Committee will be renamed the Commercial Districts Committee and will incorporate DeBaliviere as a target area. In addition, after more than twenty five years, I will be retiring as Chairman of the Committee, and Randy Vines will become Chairman. Vines has lived in the neighborhood, Forest Park Condos on the 6100 block of Washington, for several years, and is a small business owner of STLStyle, an independent retail and online business located on Cherokee Street. He has served on the Delmar Committee for the past five years, and he is a member of the City of St. Louis Preservation Commission and the Planning and Zoning Board. His experience and residency are among his excellent credentials for this committee chairmanship.

Committee members who will continue to serve in 2019 include: Residents: Anne Voss, Lana Stein, Loretta Lloyd, Jo Ann Vatcha, James Handson, Sharon Spann, Randy Vines, Richard Bose; Businesses and Organizations: Paul and Susanne Schoomer, Rachele L'Ecuyer, Dave Mastin, Eric Friedman, Steve Condrin, Joanna Schooler, Todd Antoine, Kevin Barbeau, Kevin Flynn, Joe Edwards. Other business owners, neighborhood residents, and representatives of active organizations will continue to be invited to attend meetings. New Chairman Randy Vines will be inviting other neighbors to join the committee's work, especially as its role expands to DeBaliviere.

Chairing the committee has been an honor--and a really exciting part of my life--for many years, and I "retire" with gratitude and pride. The energy and enthusiasm of our new chairman bodes well for continued accomplishments, and I'm so glad to have recruited such a great new leader. As the Pace development at Delmar and Skinker with its new CVS store gets underway, and with Joe Edwards' renovation of the old Olivet Baptist Church and adjoining new Magic Mini-Golf, we will have much to report in the coming year!

To read the specifics of the by-laws changes to Delmar Committee adopted 1/14/19, contact SDCC Director Brandon Sterling, or email Jo Ann Vatcha at jvatcha@gmail.com.

Spire Issues

By Dan Hudspeth

Our 28th Ward Alderwoman Heather Navarro recently wrote an UPDATE ON SPIRE UPGRADES IN THE 28TH WARD: "Spire (formerly Laclede Gas) has been making upgrades to a higher pressure gas system and part of the upgrades includes moving meters from basements to the exterior of homes and buildings. Most of the 28th Ward is in an historic district, which generally prohibits changes to the front facade of homes. Meters are to be placed in the back and on the sides of homes and buildings unless it's not possible."

May I add: Spire doesn't get to dictate the way our homes look! We love the architectural features of our grand beauties here in S.D. Each and every one has its own unique details. And dear neighbors, we have options, If you are fortunate enough not to have had a new gas meter put in, then you can ask them to set it on the side of your home, hopefully in a non-offensive location. They can do this. Direct installs shall only be

accepted if it is the ABSOLUTE only location available, as long as it is not behind your front fence line. They need the convenience of the outside meter to do their readings without the inconvenience of the homeowner having to stay home and wait all day.

If you are one of the unlucky ones to have had this done already, you have the right to push the issue and ask for a relocation to a more direct set back. In most cases this is possible. On the extreme where it is not, depending on the location of our old interior line-sets, a new location where it would impede a walkway or behind a fence, and it is the ABSOLUTE ONLY LOCATION AVAILABLE, then we just have to come up with some sort of well placed greenery, as I did to my home. I love the new boxwood I planted last year.

Neighbors, let's do our part in keeping these grand ladies beautiful and help these outside contractors - including Spire - conform to our historic standards.



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Dressels Pub on Euclid

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Eclipse at the Moonrise

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

History of Engine House #30

By Frank C. Schaper, StLFD, Retired
 Bob Pauley, StLFD, History Curator

I have been asked to share some of the history of Engine Company #30 with our Times readers. Well here goes.

Originally fire protection for the City of St. Louis was provided by several volunteer fire companies. Because of several different factors, these volunteer fire companies were reorganized into a paid fire department. Thus in 1857, the St. Louis Fire Department was established making it the second paid fire department in the nation following Cincinnati, Ohio. The St. Louis Fire Department started out small but increased in size over the years. At one time, the department boasted 56 engine companies, 23 hook and ladder companies, 9 hose wagons, and assorted other equipment. These companies were organized into 10 fire districts. One of those engine companies was Engine #30. This company was organized in 1892 and was located at 5524 Vernon Avenue. That was the beginning of what remains today a very impressive fire company.

Engine Company #30 was originally a horse drawn unit, but by 1915 was operating a motorized Robinson fire engine. The Robinson could pump 900 gallons of water per minute. That was a considerable amount of water to throw on a fire in that day. Interestingly, Robinson fire engines were built in St. Louis.

On June 4, 1946, Engine #30 was involved in a collision with a bus at Clara and Waterman. Fireman Thomas Anderson and Fireman John Briggs were killed in the accident. Over the years, several firefighters have been injured while serving on the company, but Anderson and Briggs are the only members who have lost their lives. May their souls rest in peace.

The Engine Company moved to new quarters in 1957. The firehouse is still active today and is located at 541 DeBaliviere Avenue. Why not stop in, take a look around, and tell the firefighters hello? They may brew a fresh pot of coffee for you. That's what we did when I worked there.

Editors' Note: You can also greet and thank firefighters at the annual SDCC Police/Firefighters Lunch on February 15 at the SDCC office. "Fireman Frank" and Bob Pauley, StLFD, History Curator have been invited to attend, as well.



1977 photo shows a Howe, 1250 gpm pumper painted yellow, of Engine Co. 30.

Left to right: Captain Kenneth Beekman, Firefighter Jack Thomas, Fire Buff Terry Buchiet, Driver/Operator Robert Hummell, Firefighter Frank C. Schaper



The men of Engine Company 30 at 5516 Vernon Ave. pose outside their station house in March 1931.

Don't miss the Missouri Historical Society's new "Then and Now", pairing historic photos with current updates. We'll have some SD sites in the next TIMES.

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IN YOUR EAR

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

Dear Readers, Hawkeye was busy trimming the tree, so he asked his cousin and doppelgänger, Tom Hoerr, to write this month's column for him.

Imagine education as a forest. We love to identify and categorize trees. We try to determine which kind will grow best in this kind of soil, which tree will provide the most shade, what kind of wood will be strongest, which tree will grow the most rapidly, and when a deciduous is preferable to an evergreen tree. Every week, it seems, there's a debate on why we should plant this kind of tree versus that kind of tree, and what trees will be most useful in the future. We focus so much on trees that we ignore the context, the forests, in which they grow and the regions in which they live.

Of course, trees aren't the issue, but there's a reason why this analogy is so apt. It's natural to give attention to discrete areas that we can seize and understand, but we ignore the larger and more complex issues when we do this.

We educators fall into this forest and trees trap when we focus incessantly on the scholastic skills that students will need in the future, and fail to consider the larger question of how problems are solved. I've been reading about digital literacy, workplace-oriented literacy, general literacy, and classical literacy (that would be the 3 R's). And how long will it be until there is a plea for citizenship literacy?

There's a good reason for these pronouncements. As the economic world becomes globalized, competition for many jobs transcends political boundaries and continents. We have to wonder whether tomorrow's technological advances will enhance our ability to solve problems or if they will render our human, carbon-based efforts superfluous. These questions have enormous implications for what schools include in their curriculum.

But if we step back and look at the big picture—if we consider what is essential in every situation, regardless of what technology or the workplace may require—it's the ability to know oneself and work with others, our human literacy, that is essential for success. Today and tomorrow, people with strong intrapersonal and interpersonal success skills will be better able to solve just about every problem.

On that rare occasion when a problem truly is best solved solo, a strong intrapersonal intelligence provides the self-control needed to focus and fuels the grit required to persevere through frustrations and failures.

If the problem is being addressed by a team, group, committee, or task force—all slightly different configurations that each require people to work together—the group will be more effective when people listen to one another, work to understand each other, and appreciate the differences we possess in background, status, and perspective. Character matters, too. We want to work with honorable people who are motivated to do the right thing because it's the right thing.

The qualities I call the "formative five"—empathy, self-control, integrity, embracing diversity, and grit—comprise these intrapersonal and interpersonal success skills and become human literacy.

These success skills must be consciously taught, included in the curriculum at every grade level and in every subject

matter. The difference between empathy and sympathy—embracing the feelings held by others and seeing things the way they do versus simply mourning their condition—should be taught to elementary grade students, for example. High school students should investigate when protagonists in literature have exhibited honesty but not integrity. Self-control should be a focus in every class, as students work to improve by identifying and changing habits that are counterproductive to their learning.

Teachers and principals should look for opportunities to help children understand their backgrounds and biases as a first step in appreciating and celebrating others who are different than themselves. A school's halls and walls should highlight student growth and positive trajectory, not just displaying perfect papers or the art work of the top 20 percent of the students. And everyone appreciating the role of good failures in learning—working to make new mistakes—creates a learning organization.

Teachers and principals sometimes agree that these success skills should be taught, but they add that they don't have enough time to address them. It's true that we do a much better job of adding expectations than discarding responsibilities, but these success skills are too important not to be directly taught throughout the curriculum. When we teach empathy, self-control, integrity, embracing diversity, and grit, we are developing people who will make a positive contribution in every situation, whether solving a problem at work,

coaching a 3rd grade sports team, or being a good friend.

Because we measure what we value, we need to find ways to assess and share students' progress in these success skills. That doesn't mean assigning letter grades or numerical scores; it means using rubrics, student reflections, and digital photographs of performances or group efforts to capture where students began and how far they have progressed. Classroom walls and bulletin boards can have photos of students learning about and exhibiting human literacy. The success skills should be taught with intentionality and transparency, so students should be involved in creating the rubrics then reflecting upon and monitoring their progress. We cannot let our efforts to teach human literacy be deterred by the fact that these skills are less amenable to measuring and counting than traditional areas.

When we think about the future and what skills and understandings our students will need to be successful, we must begin with the end in mind: We want to develop good people. By asking what kind of people we want on our team and in our neighborhood, we will appreciate the need to teach human literacy.

Editors' Note: Thomas R. Hoerr (aka "Hawkeye") is currently a scholar in residence at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, teaching in the Educational Leadership program. Previously, he led the New City School, an independent pre-K-6 school in St. Louis, for 34 years. This article was featured in the January 15, 2019, edition of Education Week.



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