

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 49, No.1

April - May 2019

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

FREE

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970



Kicking Off Our 50th Year

All this year we'll be honoring our history as the "oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis." The publication began in April, 1970, named "The Paper." The editors in 1970 were Sharon Mier and Jody Creighton. The name was changed to the *TIMES* of SKINKER DEBALIVIERE in 1985. You can catch a glimpse of the first issue on page 7 of this issue and visit our archives anytime at <http://sdtimes.org>.

Save the date for a special party to kick off our 50th year, when we will be "Turning the Page". Admission to the party will be \$ 10. The date is Friday, May 17, starting at 5:30 p.m., at the Cross art studio at Kingsbury and Des Peres. Join us for a few surprises and to see all our great volunteers! For more information, check our website: <http://sdtimes.org>.

Gas Line Replacement Progress Report

By Marj Weir



Time has rendered our existing gas service infrastructure prone to leaks and difficult to maintain. It is a neighborhood-wide project to replace our old cast iron gas pipes with new high-pressure plastic pipes.

Spire will move the gas meters from the inside of buildings to the exterior for easier meter reading and service. This will permit the company to turn off the gas more safely and easily in the event that work must be done within the building.

From Spire: Spire has been doing extensive work in the Skinker-Debaliviere neighborhood. We plan to be complete with our work this fall. Our approach to these upgrades is to do everything at once. I know it can seem inconvenient at the time, but once we are done, we're done.

If you are a homeowner, we want to talk with you. We want to work together to find a new location for your natural gas meter that works for both you and Spire. With proper space we can place a gas meter on the side or the back of your home. We can also work to blend in the gas meter with your existing décor, or even paint it or provide shrubs to go in front of it. The gas meter won't change your façade or the appearance of your home or business. But sometimes, the front is the only and safest option.

From the *TIMES*: By this issue we had hoped to provide our readers with a progress report on where and when the disruption to our neighborhood streets is scheduled. That information did not make our deadline. When we do obtain this information, it will be posted on our website so that it will be available in a timely fashion.

Our website is <http://sdtimes.org>.

The Link in the Loop Moving Forward

By Richard Bose



The Link in the Loop at the northwest corner of Delmar and Skinker is a go. The developer Pace Properties presented its latest design to the Preservation Review Board in February. Pace was issued a building permit on March 8th. The \$26M project received a \$4.4M TIF. The gas station and the one story building facing Skinker previously owned by Washington University have been demolished.

The new building will mostly be 3 stories with two retail spaces on the ground floor fronting Delmar and two floors of offices, 25,000 square feet each, above. Its height will slightly surpass the buildings to the east and west. Parking for the retail tenants is under and behind the building. A \$850,000 building permit has

been issued to build a parking lot on Washington University's North Campus for the office tenant. A CVS will occupy the corner commercial space. It includes a drive-thru accessed from Skinker. There is one fewer curb cut down from 6 and none on Delmar.

The addition of a pharmacy addresses an issue cited in the Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood Plan. It also enhances walkability and helps build a continuum of human-scaled development, hopefully bridging the gap at Skinker. First made public in the fall of 2016, Pace has worked with the neighborhood to create a site plan and design to the benefit of both the developer and the community.

HomeShare St. Louis Offers Seniors Companionship & Extra Income

By Karen Backes, HomeShare St. Louis Program Coordinator & Harvey A. Friedman Center for Aging, Research Fellow



HomeShare St. Louis is a SDCC sponsored program with support from the Washington University of St. Louis Harvey A. Friedman Center for Aging and STL Village (a peer-to-peer network for seniors). The premise was simple - many properties in Skinker DeBaliviere are quite large and can be expensive to maintain, but their size also means they have extra rooms that can be rented out to students. The program helps older adults cover housing expenses and/or gain social interaction.

Older adult homeowners provide their spare rooms to Washington University graduate students at below-market rates. This allows students to limit the amount of debt they have to take on while pursuing an education and live in high-rent neighborhood without overcrowding themselves in apartments. At the same time, older adults benefit socially from sharing their homes with a younger housemate and have an extra source of income that help

them maintain their homes and their health.

"Older adults can expect to earn between about \$4,000-6,000 per academic year and students will save 30-50% on off-campus housing - and if both parties are open to it, find a great companion as well" says Brandon Sterling, Executive Director of SDCC.

Participants are matched by housing needs, personality types, schedules and values, and undergo a criminal background and reference check. The older adult's home is also inspected before the match is finalized. Once a match begins, participants receive regular check-ins by trained STL Village senior volunteers and Washington University graduate students. While students pay \$170 to be matched, older adults only pay for their background check, which is reimbursed if they pass.

To learn more...sdcc@skinker-debaliviere.com.

Editor's Notebook

By Lana Stein

Obfuscation?

In early December of last year, SDCC board member Mike Stephens gave a report to the Board on the status of the Skinker DeBaliviere Housing Corp. He had been asked to make this report based on queries concerning its relation to the SDCC because of a proposed dog park. Stephens found mounting deficits and a very changed mission. The report was well-received and people talked about working together in the future.

JoAnn and I asked Mr. Stephens to submit his report for publication in the Times. We ran it as submitted in our last issue. It created a brouhaha. The SDCC Director challenged having a board member published without board approval.

At the February board meeting, a few members questioned the name of an individual who had redeveloped a house on DeGiverville under accounts receivable in the report. Why was he singled out? The answer was because he was the only individual in the list of receivables. The rest were property names. The loan had been repaid in January but, regrettably, the story had not been updated. The editors regret that.

There is considerable irony here. The redoing of the DeGiverville house was most in keeping with the Housing Corp's original mission, namely restoring problem properties to home ownership. This was a fine restoration and sold quickly.

Otherwise, the Corp has been unable to absorb a loss of federal funding and has made investments that did not produce the intended income. The Corp has not impeded speculators from purchasing single families and turning them into student housing. Its critics see the need to return to restoration of existing historic homes. It may be too late. The Corp has produced deficits the last few years and has taken good-sized bites from its capital. Stephens predicts that at this rate it has only a decade left to function.

Discussion of a name listed in Stephens' report was regrettable and we are sorry for the discomfort it caused. However, we are also saddened by the obfuscation of the causes and conditions described in that report. We are losing homes because the entity set up to save them has moved away from a still needed mission. Kudos to other developers who attempt to fill the breach. But, the housing corps is still needed to preserve the neighborhood.

We now in effect have 2 self-perpetuating boards attempting to make policy without much transparency. The neighborhood still needs action on a variety of fronts. Let's concentrate on the bottom line. After all, deficits are being incurred by both organizations. Both should be serving Skinker DeBaliviere residents and their historic habitat.

Finally, it should be reiterated that, since our first issue in 1970, we have been an independent institution and not a voice for the Council or any other entity.

New Alderwoman for 26th Ward

By Lana Stein



Ruth Johnson, Gwen Lazard, Shameem Clark Hubbard, and Ruth Beckloff at the 2019 SDCC Police and Firefighters Luncheon.

On March 5, voters in the 26th Ward selected Shameem Clark Hubbard to be their Alderwoman. Ms. Hubbard is 42 and has been a cosmetologist for 24 years. She is married with 5 children. She served as committeewoman of the Ward between 2012 and 2016. She is the granddaughter of Joseph Clark, an alderman and the first African-American Director of Public Safety in St. Louis.

Ms. Hubbard has attended some of our Commercial Committee meetings in the past. She wishes to be open and accessible and ensure access to city services for her constituents.

STL Village News

By Liz Backus

Spring is finally here and STL Village is ready to get outside! We invite our neighbors to join us as we explore St. Louis and beyond. STL Village is an active community of adults age 50-plus living throughout the St. Louis area. We get together to enjoy the wealth of cultural and educational opportunities in the community, and we support each other and the community by volunteering in areas of interest. Together, we are thriving

in the homes and neighborhoods we love. We look forward to meeting you! Here is a sample of our spring events:

Saturday, April 6 - Go! St. Louis Marathon Mature Mile. Join hundreds of older adults for a scenic one mile walk through Forest Park. Register by calling the STL Village office at (314) 240-5020 or by email at info@stlvillage.org.

Wednesday, April 10, 11:15 am - STL Village Nosey Neighbor

Tour of Bissinger Chocolatier, 1600 North Broadway, St. Louis. Tour highlights of this 350-year-old facility include artisan techniques, chocolate making process and chocolate sampling. Space is limited. Registration is required. Register by calling the STL Village office at (314) 240-5020 or by email at info@stlvillage.org.

Saturday, April 13 - Tour of Warm Springs Ranch, Boonville,

MO. Join STL Village for a tour of Warm Springs Ranch where we will view the facility and the magnificent Clydesdale horses. Bus transportation will be provided. Please contact the STL Village Office at (314) 240-5020 or by email at info@stlvillage.org if you are interested in joining us or have questions.

To sign up for our calendar of activities and to learn more about STL Village, visit stlvillage.org or contact Madeline Franklin at (314) 240-5020.



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: May 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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Readers are welcome to send us e-mail or letters commenting on any of our content. Send to jvatcha@gmail.com or maxlana@sbcglobal.net.

News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

It seems it's been a long cold winter and we are all holding our breath for spring's actual arrival rather than another teaser. Hopefully as you read this, we are enjoying spring! That being said, it's been a busy winter so my article will be more brief than usual. Please be sure to send me your news for future issues though!



St. Roch class with Lacy Clay

Our last issue of the Times included information about a trip to Washington DC that the 8th grade class at St. Roch was preparing to take from March 9th to 11th. I had the pleasure of attending the trip as a chaperone and can report that it was an absolutely wonderful experience. Hopefully our next issue will include an article from the students reporting about all of their adventures. I'm including a photo of the kids meeting with Congressman Lacy Clay in his office. They were able to have this meeting on their final day of the trip and learned about what is involved in his job, what a typical day might involve, and about his life in general. The students really enjoyed it and appreciated Congressman Clay taking time out of his busy schedule to meet with them.



Jack Flynn

We also send our thoughts and sympathy to the family of another old neighbor, John D. Flynn, Sr. who passed away on Monday, February 25. He was better known as Jack and lived for decades on the 6100 block of McPherson with his wife Gerry. Jack lived a good life, passing away at 93. He was well known for his big smile and eagerness to help out with nearly any task, advising and assisting neighbors, and generations of neighbors, with maintenance tips for these beautiful old houses we call

home. Jack was retired from the former St. John's Mercy Hospital (now Mercy) and also worked at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy, as a building superintendent. He was an active member of St. Roch and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II on Guam and at other South Pacific locations. Jack is survived by his wife Gerry, and nine of his eleven children. His life was celebrated on Saturday, March 2 at St. Roch.

January saw the passing of one of our neighbors, Dr. Ronald C. Smith who passed on January 26th and was celebrated at Reliable Funeral Home on February 22nd. Dr. Smith was a former administrator of St. Louis Community College and involved in our neighborhood. He was 83. Our condolences go out to the Smith family.



Dr. Ronald Smith



Cecelia Nadal

Congratulations to our neighbor and frequent TIMES contributor Cecelia Nadal, shown here with Sharon Beshore, Missouri Arts Council Chair and Barth L. Fraker, Vice-Chair, at the Missouri Arts Award for Leadership in the Arts, one of the most prestigious honors given in the Arts by the State of Missouri at the Capitol Rotunda in Jefferson City. Just a few weeks later, Nadal's Gitana Productions participated in an event with the Missouri Germans Consortium at the German Cultural Society's Jefferson Hall on S. Jefferson in St. Louis. Special Guests included: John Hayden, Police Commissioner of St. Louis and Herbert Quelle, German Consul General. There were presentations by historians and artists, speakers Dr. Sydney Norton, Saint Louis University, Dr. John W. Wright, Author, Dorris Keeven-Franke, Director, Missouri Germans Consortium, and Rev. Starsky Wilson, Deaconess Foundation. Both German and African American entertainment followed.

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

Global Expansion in the Delmar Loop

By Rachelle L'Ecuyer, Executive Director, The Delmar Loop



That title sure got your attention didn't it? The international flavor of the Delmar Loop has just gotten a bit more seasoning with the opening of Masala Restaurant, 6170 Delmar (the downstairs neighbor Yoga Source that opened in the fall). Restauranteurs, Zahid and Shaheena Khan, have opened their third dining venture and are offering Indian and Pakistan style cuisine for lunch and dinner everyday but Monday. Check out their website for more information stlmasala.com.

The warm weather brings some fun events to the Delmar Loop. The 11th Annual Mannequins On The Loop returns Saturday, April 20th with the theme, "If Not Now When? Recycling Matters". The mannequins will be on display May 18th - June 9th. Visit their website for more information mannequinsontheloop.com.

Also, on April 20th, look for Sunshine Daydream's anniversary celebration on Limit Avenue. More information at sunshinedaydream.com.

There's more to look forward to so please mark your calendar for Delmar Loop Week! This is the perfect time to rediscover all that is at your doorstep. Saturday, June 15 to Saturday, June 22, celebrate the Kick-off to Summer in St. Louis and enjoy a week of events and happenings!

Proud to be a Skinker DeBaliviere Resident!

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Getting Even

By Dan Rater

“Too many forty year-old adolescents, felons, power drinkers, and trustees of modern chemistry.”- John Dalton

I always learn something after watching Patrick Swayze’s turn as Dalton, the philosophical cooler (bar bouncer) in Road House, a movie of simple truths, masquerading in cliché’s of cartoon violence. (co-starring Sam Elliot as his mentor, Wade Garrett)

Fat Tuesday? Fat chance.

I’ve never been to Mardi Gras in New Orleans, because St. Louis boasts the second largest Fat Tuesday celebration outside of the Crescent City. It’s been quite a while, though, since I’ve traded beads for debauchery. In my recollections, I recall a more docile party than today’s aggressive Zombie Apocalypse. When our carnival succumbed to excess, we threw up rainbows and starbursts, instead of blood and guts.

This past Saturday night, I returned for the first time in twenty four years, this time as a sentinel for Good, and a bulwark

against Evil.

It was another typical Saturday night at this stage of our lives. The wife and I headed out to the parish church for trivia, hummus, sweet/salty snacks, and reasonable consumption. Just as our table was set to use a super mulligan on the Patron Saints category, an unknown number rang my phone.

It may have been unknown, but it was expected. Our precious daughter, sweet Mary Purebread was in town, and mine eyes witnessed her getting her party on pretty damn early that day. A cork screw sensation went up my spine when I answered, correctly sensing I was going to miss a shot at the 50/50 raffle. (everyone always donates the winnings back to the parish?)

“Dad, I’ve lost my friends, my phone is dead, I’m using some random, and I’m cold. Could you get me an Uber?” “Saint Jude” crackled over the loudspeaker as I shouted above the din, “Are you crazy! There’s no way you’re going to get an Uber in there! Maybe a Lyft, but forget about an Uber!”

I turned to my wife and said, “Honey, this is a job for Mom and Dad.” “Stay put

sweetheart, we’re on our way.”

Wiping our hands of hummus and sun dried basil wheat thins, we dashed to the Red Dragon, our 2016 Toyota RAV4, shifted into sport mode and raced to the scene.

We arrived to chaos. Crowds of people, barricaded streets, sirens, and lack of convenient bathroom facilities. Everything Mom and Dad hate. My wife looked at me and said, “You can’t go in there with your knee and ankle. I guess it’s up to me.” I told her, “I got your back.”

I watched her disappear into the darkness, like a Navy Seal on a mission, to extricate our delicate from the war zone. I waited at the Dragon listening to my 80’s playlist, when her voice came over the Bluetooth, “I’ve got her! Meet me at the gas station, and let’s get out of here.”

As we drove toward home, Mary, secured in the back seat, her head against the headrest, she said, “Mom and Dad, you guys are superheroes.” We looked at each other and smiled, “We know dear. Honey, do you think we can still make trivia?”

Sleep well America. Mom and Dad are on the job.

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND: Start Your Own Seedlings!

By Mark Banaszak

People start their own seedlings for many reasons. Some gardeners choose to start seeds in order to get the right plant. Nurseries have many types of plants, but only a few varieties. Starting your own seedlings means that you can choose colors, flavors, and even species not carried by nurseries. Selecting good varieties and good seeds is a skill. Read the back of the packet to learn more about each plant’s requirements. For example, plants grow best in the correct Plant Hardiness Zones. St. Louis is in Zone 6b.

Choosing the date for harvesting your vegetables or flowers is a very common reason for starting seedlings at home. To decide a date for harvest, check the seed pack for the number of days it takes the plant to harvest or blossom, look at a calendar, and count backwards. This gives you a tentative planting date. If the planting date falls before April 15th, start your plants indoors, to prevent exposure to frost. Frost kills young plants.

To germinate seeds, you need pots, something clear to cover them (plastic wrap or clear covers), soil, water and light. You can recycle old plastic pots, make them out of recycled materials or buy them. With recycled pots, wash and sanitize them with a weak bleach/water solution and let them dry, before adding soil.

For soil, a common recommendation is to use seed starting soil or mix your own, because it is sterilized. Potting soil works, but seeds often do not require the fertilizers commonly added. A simple mixture of peat moss or coconut fiber, perlite and vermiculite works well. Seed starting soil is very light, drains quickly, but keeps some moisture, the best conditions for seeds to sprout.

The process for planting is simple. Moisten the soil before filling the pots. Seeds have specific recommendations for planting depth, but the usual rule is to plant them at a depth three times their width. Bigger seeds are generally planted deeper, although it is better to plant a seed shallower rather than deeper.

Seed germination is triggered by light, temperature, and moisture. South facing windows with radiators are ideal for starting seeds, but any warm spot with bright light works. If using electric lights, put the fixtures about six inches from the soil. When the seedlings germinate, always keep the lights close to the top of the seedlings. Light them for 14-16 hours a day. As they grow, keep the lights just above the leaves. This prevents tall, weak, “leggy” plants. The

temperature should be kept between 60 and 70 degrees. Heating from the bottom (like on a radiator) is good, because bottom heat promotes root growth. Use a fan or lightly brush your hand over the top of the seedlings to strengthen the stems.

Keep the plants in a tray and water the tray; seed starting soil is so light, watering can wash the plant out of the pot. Keep them moist, but don’t leave seedlings sitting in water. That can lead to damping off, a fungal disease which weakens the stems.

The first leaves are called “seed leaves.” They are not true leaves, but really part of the seed. When the second set of leaves appear, they should look like the mature leaves of the plant. When regular leaves appear, it is time to start fertilizing or repot the seedlings into fertile soil, like potting soil.

The process of getting plants accustomed to outdoor conditions is called, “hardening off.” Start about two weeks before transplanting outdoors. Put them outside in a shady location for short periods of time to start. Gradually increase the time and the amount of direct sunlight to which they are exposed. After two weeks of gradual hardening off, replant them in the ground, making sure to water them in.

Starting seedlings is as rewarding as caring for a garden. The gardener gets to determine planning, planting and caring for the garden. The sense of stewardship brings you closer to nature, but like parenting, there is a sense that you are responsible for lives from the very beginning to the stage when they are part of a productive whole.



brightside
ST. LOUIS

Learn how your neighborhood group can apply for a Neighbors Naturescaping project to beautify public spaces in your community.

Neighbors Naturescaping is a program offered by Brightside to help neighborhood groups enhance their community by planting native gardens in public spaces. Eligible groups include neighborhood associations, community groups, block units, non-profits and school groups located in St. Louis city.

Find out how your group can apply for up to \$1,500 for native perennials, grasses, shrubs, trees and bulbs, as well as hardscape materials and gardening tools to care for and maintain your garden.

At the meeting, Brightside staff will go through the application packet in detail and explain the judging criteria considered by the Selection Committee. Application packets will be distributed and staff will be available to answer your questions.

Kick-off Meeting

When: Wednesday, May 15th at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Brightside St. Louis, 4646 Shenandoah Avenue, 63110

R.S.V.P.: by email info@brightsidestl.org or phone (314)772-4646 or through our online RSVP form.

Learn more about Neighbors Naturescaping and the 2018 application timeline.

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KIDS CORNER

By Susanne Knese

As we welcome Spring and shake off the Winter blues, let's focus on Mother Earth and celebrate her April 22nd on Earth Day! Fun activities inspired by Earth Day can be found at www.b-inspiredmama.com/25-earth-day-activities-for-kids/

4 SIMPLE WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

1. Recycle clean plastic, metal, paper and glass. Check the guidelines from recycling company to see what types of plastic they recycle.

2. Invest in "Reusables"

- Invest in reusable shopping bags rather than relying on the paper or plastic bags from stores.
- Use a reusable lunch box for school
- Use reusable water bottles that are metal or rugged plastic (BPA free)

3. Reduce your energy consumption

- Turning off lights when you leave a room and turning off electronics when not in use (though be sure to ask your parents first as some electronics must stay on for various reasons)
- Keep the temperature moderate in your home. Bundle up with extra clothes or blankets in the winter.
- Use less water. Take shorter showers and turn faucets off when not in use (like when brushing your teeth).

4. Be Earth's Caretaker!

- Pick up trash as you walk the neighborhood
- Plant trees, plants and flowers which provide food, rest and shelter for animals . . . not to mention trees help reduce pollution and provide us oxygen!



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

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



Wilson School Visits Civil Rights Sites

By Lana Stein

The graduating sixth grade class of the Wilson School in DeMun, which includes Olive Meara of the 5900 of Pershing (on the right in photo), went on a special field trip that explored experiences from the civil rights movement. Reading about our history in articles and books acquaints us with our past. It has been even more meaningful to visit significant sites and meet those who lived through the tumultuous times of the 1950s and 60s. It became a school trip no one would forget.

The Wilson troupe first stopped at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. They saw where Dr. King had been shot and where his assassin had stood. The next day they were in Little Rock. They went to Central High School where 9 brave black students integrated the facility under federal court order. Demonstrations and threats greeted these students and President Eisenhower had to send federal troops to enforce the order and protect the nine. There is a museum there now. The Wilson students saw a film about one of the Little Rock nine who still works at the school. Olive and her group were able to talk directly with people who had been in the film. On the bus, they listened to freedom songs.

On the way back home they stopped for lunch at an Elvis restaurant in Memphis. Then it was back to the Lorraine Motel to see 36 exhibits. They also saw Ray's room and learned about his conspiracy theories. It was a fascinating adventure.

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From Your 28th Ward Alderwoman Heather Navarro

This is an exciting time to serve on the Board of Aldermen in the City of St. Louis. Whether people are talking about the pros and the cons of the Better Together plan or what the city will look like with 14 wards instead of 28, we are on the cusp of change. Some of the things I look forward to working with my colleagues on are the ward reduction advisory committee, energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives, and short-term rental legislation. In the last election for president of the Board of Aldermen, voter turnout was just 17%. We need to look at reforms that make voting more accessible and generate higher participation in elections. The Better Together plan will be up for a vote in November 2020 but this is not the time to sit on our hands and wait for change to come to us. We know where we need to do better and if we prepare now we can leverage any reform for the benefit of our entire community. No one measure or initiative is going to address the disparity in our city or solve all our problems. It's important that we are proactive and looking everywhere for opportunities. One of the areas for progress I see is advancing energy efficiency and renewable energy options that will decrease our dependence on coal, save energy, improve the air, and make us a more sustainable city. We are already making great gains in benchmarking our energy usage and we have the tools to be a leader in addressing climate change. The Board goes back in session in mid-April and you can follow the legislative agenda at stlouis-mo.gov.



Before and After shots of 5859 DeGiverville, rehabbed by Eric Trudo after a devastating fire left the building empty and abandoned.

Rehab Hero

By Sheryl Davenport and Mickey Clarke

While the streets of North St. Louis may be filled with vacant lots and empty buildings, one neighbor and son of Skinker DeBaliviere is working to assure that our neighborhood is filled with homes that are well maintained and occupied.

Eric Trudo grew up in the neighborhood. His great-grandfather and grandfather worked in wood, one a cabinet maker and one a master carpenter. Eric took up their tools and learned to use them in the business of rehabilitation of older dwellings.

The first project was 5918 DeGiverville, which was a shell, on the list to be demolished, when Eric began work. Completing the renovation, he moved into this house on March 5, 2010, and continues to live there.

All the while working as a firefighter for the City of St. Louis, Eric has rehabbed 14 homes in the neighborhood, saving them from varying states of decay. He has touched nearly every house on the 5900 block of DeGiverville, either doing major projects or fixes and upgrades for his neighbors.

The house pictured above was purchased by Eric, and rehabbed with funds loaned by the Skinker Debaliviere Housing Corporation. With the sale of the home to new owners and the tax credits received, that loan has been repaid in full.

Next big project – 5835 DeGiverville, devastated by fire last year, will become another neighborhood asset.



When asked why pursuing this passion, Eric says that he 'looks past the ugly, enjoys the challenge, and takes pride in the neighborhood where he has chosen to spend his life.'

28th Ward Democrats 2019:
 28th Ward meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month
 April 18 and May 16, 7:30 p.m.
Dressels Pub on Euclid
 June 20, 7:30 p.m.
Eclipse at the Moonrise
 More info at
<http://ward28.citywestend.org/index.html>


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50 Years

By Jo Ann Vatcha

Page 2 of the very first issue of our neighborhood newspaper featured both a fire at the SDCC office then on DeBaliviere, as well as Hamilton School news, an upcoming election, and exposition of the goals of the new publication: "We think The Paper is unique. We know of no other non-commercial paper in St. Louis which is written and produced by the volunteer efforts of a community. How successful we are depends on your support." How about 50 years of support and continuous publication? Join us on May 17 to commemorate our golden anniversary at the Cross Art Studio. More information on our website <http://sdtimes.org> or call or email one of our all-volunteer staff.

Page 2

Introducing ... THE PAPER

This is the first issue of The Paper. Through the efforts of many, many neighbors and friends in the west end community, it is yours to read and enjoy.

The idea for such a paper is an old one. But it wasn't until a few weeks ago that interests coalesced and plans materialized. The Paper is a pioneer effort for our neighborhood.

All the work for this first issue has been voluntary. Some staff members have been able to work two or three days a week, while others just two or three hours.

The Paper is printed on machines at Washington University. The University has let the staff use the machines and provided \$30 to pay part of the costs of an operator. The Rosedale-Skinker Neighborhood Improvement Association donated \$80 to the newspaper. The rest of the cost was met by advertising bought by our local merchants. We greatly appreciate this help.

The Paper has the sole objective of representing the entire community by expressing the views and concerns of all who live here - young and old, and those in every economic class. The Paper wishes to be a voice of communication within the community so that neighbors may learn more about those who live around them. We hope to provide a means of freely discussing pertinent problems. We intend to cover every news event that happens in or affects our community.

To succeed as a viable community newspaper, The Paper must have an active response from the people. The Paper needs the volunteer efforts of all who are interested, to assure that every section of our community is represented.

Production of such a paper entails more than just literary skills. Art work, soliciting ads, typing and circulation are all vital parts of the job. Anyone interested in helping in some way may contact a member of the staff.

In acting as an organ of communication, The Paper will carry a Letters to the Editor column. We invite you to use this column to voice opinions on previous articles, current issues - anything you feel is important.

Also in keeping with the spirit of a community newspaper, classified ads will be free to residents of the entire area. They will be printed on a first come, first served basis in the space allowed.

We think The Paper is unique. We know of no other non-commercial paper in St. Louis which is written and produced by the volunteer efforts of a community. How successful we are depends on your support.

HAMILTON SCHOOL Versus Bond Issue

The St. Louis Board of Education is asking voter approval of a \$4 million school bond issue April 7.

The bond issue, according to the Board, will necessitate no tax increase over the present school tax. The \$4 million will be financed with revenue brought in by an increase in the assessed valuation of the real and personal property.

In other words, the Board is telling voters that they can build additions to six overcrowded elementary schools, and multipurpose rooms at seven schools FOR FREE.

This is all well and good except that the Board is basing its plea for approval on the overcrowding of schools in North St. Louis, where, they say, there has been a sudden population increase caused by people moving from the housing projects and the inner city. The Board cites the increased bussing of pupils from these schools - the worst of which is bussing out 250 pupils a day - as sufficient reason for the building of additions at these schools.

However, our Hamilton School parents are asking how is it possible that any of these schools can have a worse bussing situation than exists at Hamilton today. *Hamilton must bus out 395 pupils per day.* Not one school in the bond issue is bussing out that many children, according to figures in the Board's own report.

Just how does the Board of Education determine what is an emergency situation? In a report of the Board's building committee, they mention the plight of Hamilton School but seem to throw up their hands at being able to do anything about it. The school already has three branches, they say (failing to mention that two of these "branches" are eight-classroom buildings called Rooms of 20 built with federal funds and that the classrooms are limited to 20 pupils per classroom). Taking a defunct argument further, the Board says that building an addition at Hamilton would only "encourage a continuing abnormal massing of residence" and that until something is done about the housing code violations that is nothing that the Board can do. What kind of ostrich reasoning is this?

How is what is happening to the Northside schools any different than what is happening to Hamilton? The new people moving in are even from the same areas. The Board, by its own admission, admits that the Hamilton situation is bad - but not bad enough to do anything about it evidently. According to the report, the situation at

THE PAPER

April, 1970



JIM L'ECUYER standing in the midst of his very messy office at 433 DeBaliviere.

the school may become even more critical next year when a new apartment complex near Mitchell School is opened. The 105 Hamilton students now transported to Mitchell will have to be bused elsewhere - undoubtedly much further away.

Hamilton parents argue: if room to build could not be found in the Hamilton area, then the Board should build an addition at a neighboring school and redistrict the unusually large Hamilton school area.

It is true that in the other school bond issues which were rejected by voters, a new school at Dozier School would have solved Hamilton's problem and the Board does say it intends to include Hamilton in a larger bond issue which, of course, would include a tax increase. So some parents may vote yes on the bond issue in the hope that Hamilton's needs will be met in a bond issue yet to come and one that will be undoubtedly harder to pass - taking into consideration St. Louisian's allergy to bond issues.

No doubt our schools, both public and private need more - more money and more concern from the citizenry. We would not rob them of a single penny - especially when it would cost us nothing. In fact, voters in the 28th ward gave the issue a two-thirds majority in the last bond issue election. However, in the case of this particular bond issue, residents in the West End should consider both sides of the steps to see that Hamilton is not by-passed next time around.

Vote For Senate Bill 1

Property owners and apartment dwellers with incomes below \$7,000 should beat a path to the polls April 7 to vote for the State referendum on Senate Bill No. 1.

The bill, which would revise the Missouri corporation and individual incomes taxes, would provide the funds the state needs to substantially increase state support of public schools as well as providing aid to mental health hospitals, higher education and other vital services.

The bill is a tax reform that will reduce the burden on lower income groups and increase it for those who are better able to pay more, such as higher income groups and corporations.

Approximately 90 per cent of all retired people in Missouri would be removed from the tax rolls. Some in the low income groups who are now paying taxes will actually pay none (see chart for where you stand).

The bill will equalize Missouri tax laws, plug many loopholes and bring Missouri standard deductions in line with federal deductions. To those with dependents (a large percentage of our residents) the new law will enable them to claim a much larger deduction than under the old rates.

Presently Missourians can claim a standard deduction of five per cent of \$500 whichever is smaller. Under the new bill, Missourians could claim 10 per cent of \$1000 whichever is smaller. Furthermore, the bill automatically ties these deductions to the federal rates. This means that when the new federal rates take full effect in 1973, the state standard deduction for everyone will jump to 15 per cent or \$2000.

The 70 million dollars which the state claims it needs would be financed by the increased taxes corporations and individuals in the higher brackets would be paying.

To the St. Louis public schools and public schools around the state, the bill means that the state will at last be able to make good its promise to provide 50 per cent of the current operating costs on a statewide basis. To the St. Louis public schools the money will mean the equivalent of a 30 cent tax increase over a four-year period.

Therefore, all property owners, whether or not they will be paying an increase, should consider the bill a cheap and much more equitable way of financing public schools than the unfair burden on the property tax. It's about time the state took some of the load off the local property owner in the financing of the schools.

Aftermath of the Fire

By Dempster Holland

DeBaliviere area businessmen are hopeful that a new building will be constructed in place of a neighborhood landmark at 433 DeBaliviere destroyed by fire early Sunday morning, March 1.

The general alarm fire spread from two fires apparently set in the basement and quickly covered the entire building.

Many businesses and community organizations, including the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, were located in the building.

Byron Tompras, owner of the DeBaliviere Area Association, the street's businessmen's organization, said that he "would like to see a new structure go up on the premises."

Other persons indicated that at least part of the land would probably be set aside for parking, to serve the street's businesses, in particular the large number of students attending the Technical Education Corporation.

Joseph Meyer, executive secretary of the DeBaliviere Area Association, said that he hoped that an office building housing 8 to 10 businesses would be constructed on the site.

Meyer said that many of the twenty-two businesses and associations located in the building would stay on the street. Three had moved in the day before the fire broke out.

"This is an unfortunate incident, which was not in any way involved with racial tensions," Meyer said, "but was probably caused for other reasons."

The building's owner, Francis Doll, stated that the fire "probably an accident" stated that as soon as a final insurance adjustment is made, the building will probably be demolished.

Doll said that hopes for putting a new building on the site would probably hinge on finding a satisfactory long-range tenant James L'Ecuyer, executive secretary of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, stated that virtually all of the files of the Council were saved from the fire. New furniture for the new office across the street was donated by Washington University and Grace Methodist Church.

Serving on Engine Company #30 - The 70's

By Frank C. Schaper

The St. Louis Fire Department has always been a great fire department. From its inception in 1857 to the current department, the men and women protecting St. Louis from fires have always been dedicated and loyal city employees. What makes the department even better today are the medics who staff thirteen ambulances throughout the city. These extremely busy units have saved many lives, delivered their share of babies, and in general provide excellent care to the citizens of St. Louis. I can honestly say I am proud to have been a member of this department for thirty-years. And of course, I have many fond memories of my time working there. The 1970's were exceptionally memorable

because of the large incidents of fires the department attended to on a daily basis. As a new firefighter, it was a great time to really learn the job.

There are at least two ways to learn how to fight a fire in a burning building. One way is to fight fires in burning buildings every day. The second way is to work with firefighters who really know how to do it. During my tenure at the St. Louis Fire Department, I had both - plenty of fires and plenty of seasoned veteran firefighters to show a young firefighter the ropes. My experience serving on Engine Company #30 was proof. I transferred to the company in the fall of 1975 and stayed until I was promoted to captain

in October of 1980. I will always remember my time in the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood. I worked with some super firefighters while assigned there.

Running the risk of forgetting someone, here is a list of firefighters who at one time or another worked on Engine Company #30 and then moved on to bigger and better things.

Neil Svetanics was my captain when I first arrived at the firehouse. Promoted through the ranks, he was appointed Chief of the Department in 1986 and later to Commissioner.

Ralph Jones was my battalion chief when I transferred to the company in 1975. Ralph was captain there prior to his promotion to BC. Of note, Ralph posed for the firefighter

statue that stands downtown in Poelker Park across from city hall - Tucker and Market.

Ed Vineyard served at the 30's and was later promoted to captain. Upon his retirement, he was appointed Missouri State Fire Marshal, as was John Coburn. Other notables were Bill Bogue, Ken Beekman, Ron Fiala, Mark Bradshaw, Jack Thomas, Tim May, Dave Crawford, and Charlie Moser--all firefighters at Engine #30 prior to being promoted to captain.

Now that is a pretty impressive list for your neighborhood firehouse. I sure hope I did not forget anyone - sorry if I did. After all, I have been retired for twenty years now and the old rolodex turns a bit slower these days.

IN YOUR EAR

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

Do those state postal codes drive you crazy? I mean, who can keep track of MS versus MN versus MO? And AR, AK, AS, AB, and AL??? Well, dear reader, fear no more! Hawkeye has solved your problem. At least this one.

I convened a focus group of non-focused friends, and we've created new codes. Each state's code now reflects its history or personality. Here it is! If you're bored, a parlor game could be to anticipate what the new letters signify. Happy mailing.

Current Code	State	Logical Code	Significance
AL	Alabama	SH	Sweet Home
AK	Alaska	PB	Polar Bears
AZ	Arizona	OZ	Only Z
AR	Arkansas	BH	Bill & Hillary
CA	California	GE	Granola & Earthquakes
CO	Colorado	SP	Skiing and Pot
CT	Connecticut	HI	Highest Incomes
DE	Delaware	SS	Second Smallest
DC	District of Columbia	PI	Polarized Inaction
FL	Florida	HA	Hardened Arteries
GA	Georgia	RB	Rhett Butler
HI	Hawaii	SS	Skiing and Sun
ID	Idaho	SM	Somewhere in Midwest
IL	Illinois	IG	Incarcerated Governors
IN	Indiana	CC	Circling Cars
IA	Iowa	CB	Cold and Boring
KS	Kansas	FB	Flat and Boring
KY	Kentucky	CH	Circling Horses
LA	Louisiana	JH	Jazz Home
ME	Maine	RT	Remember The
MD	Maryland	GS	Great Seafood
MA	Massachusetts	LL	Lotsa Liberals
MI	Michigan	AP	Autos Past-tense
MN	Minnesota	PB	Paul Bunyan
MS	Mississippi	PS	Poorest State
MO	Missouri	TD	Ted Drewes
MT	Montana	FA	Fresh Air
NE	Nebraska	MC	Many Cows
NV	Nevada	GC	Gambling Capital
NH	New Hampshire	MB	Moose & Bear
NJ	New Jersey	FS	Frank Sinatra
NM	New Mexico	SM	Stolen from Mexico
NY	New York	SL	Statue of Liberty
NC	North Carolina	BZ	Basketball Zone
ND	North Dakota	AR	Above Rushmore
OH	Ohio	TV	Three Verbs
OK	Oklahoma	RH	Rogers & Hammerstein
OR	Oregon	WL	Western Liberals
PA	Pennsylvania	BF	Ben Franklin
RI	Rhode Island	IB	Itty Bitty
SC	South Carolina	CL	Confederate State
SD	South Dakota	MR	Mount Rushmore
TN	Tennessee	EP	Elvis Presley
TX	Texas	FC	Former Country
UT	Utah	WP	Wife Plural
VT	Vermont	EG	Everything's Green
VA	Virginia	EP	Eight Presidents
WA	Washington	BF	Big Forests
WV	West Virginia	CC	Coal & Coughing
WI	Wisconsin	SC	Snow & Cheese
WY	Wyoming	LC	Located Somewhere



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