

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 49, No. 4

November - December 2019

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

FREE

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

Skinker DeBaliviere社区庆祝多名族化！

我们鼓励每个人都与邻居互动。

分享您的文化，年轻人的热情，

成熟的智慧和经历。路过时请抬起头说'你好'；

我们彼此学习·大家一起成长丰富。

Skinker DeBaliviere ist eine Nachbarschaft, die Vielfaltigkeit feiert!

Wir wollen Nachbarn ermutigen, sich miteinander einzulassen.

Diskutieren Sie Verschiedenheiten, Weisheiten, Erfahrungen.

Schauen Sie hinauf, und begrüßen Sie einander beim Vorbeigehen.

Wir werden alle reicher, wenn wir von einander lernen.



¡El Barrio Skinker DeBaliviere celebra la diversidad!

Alentamos a todos a comprometerse con sus vecinos.

Comparta sus diferencias culturales, entusiasmo juvenil y sabiduría madura y experiencias. Mira hacia arriba y di "Hola" al pasar. Todos somos más ricos cuando aprendemos unos de otros.

The Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood celebrates diversity!

We encourage everyone to engage with your neighbors.

Share your cultural differences, youthful enthusiasm, and mature wisdom and experiences.

Look up and say 'Hello' when passing by; we are all richer when learning from one another.

LOOP NEWS

By Rachelle L'Ecuyer

Holidays in the Delmar Loop

The holidays in the Delmar Loop are part of a Skinker-DeBaliviere tradition. Get ready for some fabulous events starting with Small Business Saturday on November 30. Find specials and fun activities all day at your favorite shops. This is a great time to check out the 20+ businesses that have opened in the Delmar Loop this year.

HERE'S THE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DAY:

December 7 includes: Visit with Santa, The Great Gift Hunt, Tito's Vodka Pictures with Pups @ The Moonrise & the Christmas Tree Lighting.

Kwanzaa Celebration: December 14 at STL Artworks.

Menorah Lighting: December 21

The iconic Loop Ice Carnival kicks off with the Snow Ball at the Moonrise on Friday, January 17 and the Ice Carnival activities on Saturday, January 18 and Sunday, January 19.

Also, Get Looped – First Fridays in the Delmar Loop are Friday, November 1 and Friday, December 6. There are over 40 businesses offering specials and promotions

and another great opportunity to check items off your shopping list!

There's more than just shopping for the holidays. The Pageant hosts El Monstero, a Pink Floyd tribute band, from December 18 to December 28. It sounds like a long run but tickets sell out and it's a must-see show.

Small Business Saturday on The Delmar Loop **NOVEMBER 30TH**

DECEMBER 7TH Visit with Santa
The Great Gift Hunt
Tito's Vodka Pictures with Pups @ The Moonrise
Christmas Tree Lighting

Holiday Market & Bazaar at U.City Farmers Market **DECEMBER 14TH**
Kwanzaa Celebration at St. Louis Artworks

DECEMBER 21ST Menorah Lighting

Snow Ball at the Moonrise (Friday) **JANUARY 17TH - 19TH**
& Loop Ice Carnival (Saturday & Sunday)

#LoopHolidays
Enjoy our window decorations, Santa sightings, and free special events throughout the season.
For more details, visit
VisitTheLoop.com/holidays2019

More information and tickets at ThePageant.com. The 560 Music Center hosts several classical concerts and a Holiday Concert on December 21, more information at 560.wustl.edu. Stop in at Game Night at Blueberry hosted by The Wizard's Wagon on Mondays starting at 7 PM every Monday through December 24. Visit The Wizard's Wagon on Facebook @TheWizardsWagon.

Get a Delmar Loop directory at the Moonrise Hotel, 6177 Delmar and at Componere Gallery, 6509 Delmar and enjoy!

New Business Alert

The long-awaited opening of the region's second Nudo House has finally happened. Nudo House, located at 6105 Delmar, is described as "a Noodle specialist supplying hot bowls, cold appetizers & house made soft serve in a modern space."

Another long-anticipated food establishment, Kung Fu Tea at 6600 Delmar, opened to much fanfare and long lines, reports from local news source stated that between 700 to 800 drinks per day were being served. Kung Fu Tea is a bubble tea chain that opened its first shop in St Louis in the Delmar Loop. They feature more than 30 different flavors of Taiwanese-style milk tea, punch, slushes, yogurt drinks and more. Choose from more than 10 different toppings and custom your drink.

The Envelope, Please!

With this issue, many of you will see a little envelope for contributions to the *TIMES*. Please consider



making a charitable donation to your neighborhood newspaper, which operates on the good will and time contributions of many, many volunteers. We especially appreciate those who faithfully deliver the paper on their block! If you don't see an envelope, you can donate by sending a check to *TIMES OF SKINKER DEBALIVIERE*, 6060 McPherson, 63112. Thank you for continuing this long tradition in our neighborhood.

Welcome Prime 55 to the Neighborhood



Prime 55 owners Tony Davis and Orlando Watson and their staff people plus alderwoman Heather Navarro, board of Alderman President Lewis Reed, chief of staff Tom Shepard, Joe Edwards, Rachelle L'Ecuyer and Joanna Schooler

Editor's Notebook

By Lana Stein and Linda Cross

In our last issue, we discussed a decline in the number of owner-occupied single family homes. Investors have acquired such homes to rent, often to students, and for Airbnb's. This phenomenon lessens civic involvement and block unit cohesion. In this issue, we are able to show you where non-owner occupied homes are located. These statistics do not include two families and multi families that are by nature often rental properties and are home to many students.

Currently, single family homes in the 5900 block of Pershing are 37% non owner occupied, the 5800 block of Pershing is 34% non owner occupied, the 5900 block of Waterman has 10 non owner occupied single family homes, and the 6100 blocks of Westminster and Washington have 10 non owner occupied homes. One investor alone has purchased six single family homes in our neighborhood to rent out, and 25 single family homes are owned by corporations or persons out of state.

Smaller and less costly homes are most likely to attract investors. A number of units were foreclosed in the Great Recession and the investors began to move in. This is particularly true on 5800-5900 Pershing. One third of those houses have absentee landlords and student tenants. No neighborhood entity stepped in to try to preserve owner occupancy.

These are issues that will not go away. The data speak for themselves.

Security Update

Crime has occurred more frequently in many parts of St. Louis. Skinker-DeBaliviere has not been touched by homicide but it has suffered from armed car jackings that have proliferated in the city. Occurrences in our neighborhood have decreased from last year but still demand an alert citizenry. After four such hijackings in 2 days in September, the commander of the 5th District increased neighborhood patrols. The Washington University's police also increased their patrol area.

Certain practices could minimize your becoming a victim. First, do not use your phone screen while on foot. Second, be aware of your surroundings. When coming home after dark, look for strangers before you park. It is helpful if someone knows you will be arriving and can look out for you.

Several burglaries have also occurred in the neighborhood. Always check to make sure your home is secured.

The SDCC has a security committee co-chaired by Ken Burton and Mark Gorman. The committee meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 5:30 in the SDCC office at 6008 Kingsbury. Residents are encouraged to attend. St. Louis City Police, Metro security, and Washington University Security are present to report on crime statistics and answer questions.

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: January 15, 2019.

Please send copy by e-mail to Linda Cross, lcross@sdtimes.org, by disc to 6060 McPherson Ave, 63112.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Managing Editor: Linda Cross Business Manager: Mark Jacobs
Editorial Team: Linda Cross Jo Ann Vatcha Lana Stein
Contributors: Rachel Boxdorfer Susanne Knese Brandon Sterling
Cristina McGroarty Cecelia Nadal Tom Hoerr
Richard Bose Art Santen Alderwoman Heather Navarro
Andy Cross Derek Knight Marj Weir
King Schoenfeld Lana Stein Jo Ann Vatcha
Marvin Nodiff Mark Banaszak Dan Rater
Rachelle L'Ecuyer Frank Schaper

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Readers are welcome to send us e-mail or letters commenting on any of our content. Send to lcross@sdtimes.org.

Neighborhood Pioneers

By Linda Cross



Rosie and Israel Ball

Mrs. Rosie Ball and her husband Israel moved into the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood in 1968 from a different part of the city near Lexington and Fair. Mr. Ball worked at Sligo Steel, and Mrs. Ball worked at Miss Sheri's Cafeteria as a head cook. They decided to move into the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood because they found that the neighbors here are very friendly and they felt like they were a family with those surrounding them. Mr. and Mrs. Ball eventually raised 10 children in the house that went to school at Hamilton Elementary and then followed to Soldan High School. The Ball's now have over 20 grandchildren, and many great grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Ball have been the model of family in the neighborhood and have always opened their large family celebrations to neighbors to participate as was the case this year when Mrs. Ball celebrated her 92nd birthday surrounded by loved ones, related and related by proximity. Unfortunately, Mrs. Ball passed away just before this article would go to press, and her presence and that of her large extended family will surely be missed.



Joan and Rick Bender and their five children

Mrs. Joan Bender and her husband Rick and their five children also moved into Skinker DeBaliviere in 1968 from Pittsburgh, PA. They moved so that Mr. Bender could accept a position teaching at St. Louis University. Mr. and Mrs. Bender chose our neighborhood because of it's proximity to Forest Park, but also because the neighborhood was diverse. After being steered away from the Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood by local realtors because of the racial profile being ascribed to this neighborhood, Mrs. Bender joined forces with other neighbors to openly market and promote the neighborhood. These neighbors created a long running Mother's Day Art Fair and House Tour to bring people into the neighborhood, they volunteered to show apartments and homes for rent, they created a housing development corporation, cranked out a mimeographed newsletter, and some of the women even got real estate licenses so that they could sell homes in the neighborhood. Mrs. Bender wrote in an article for the Times in 1994 "I spoke with Suzanne Hart recently. We reflected on those five years of showing homes. She commented that unless residents are tuned into neighborhood events, a similar housing situation could happen again." Mrs. Bender still lives in the home that she bought with her late husband in 1968 with her daughter Rachel and her husband Matt and their three children, Gretchen, Christian, and Maddy.



Joan Bender and her grand daughter Maddy

As neighbors we are grateful for long term residents like the Ball and Bender families who have been anchors in the community and act as models to others for community and activism.

News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Fall has finally settled in to St. Louis and was enjoyed by many neighbors at the Skinker DeBaliviere Taste on Friday evening, October 11th at the Moonrise Hotel. It was a lovely evening with food donated from many local restaurants including; Prime 55, Krab Kingz, Mission Taco Joint, Seoul Taco, Zza Pizza & Salad, Snarf's, Salt N Smoke, Insomnia Cookies, Sugar Momma's, Just Chicken, Fork & Stix, Three Kings Public House, and Guerrilla Street Food. It was a gorgeous evening with a rooftop view of our beautiful neighborhood and the perfect opportunity to catch up with neighbors, new and old.



Michael Noble

Moving on in our news we want to offer a very special congratulations to St. Louis Circuit Judge Michael Noble who was recently honored with the 2019 Judicial Excellence Award - Circuit at a special ceremony for his dedication to the effective administration of justice in Missouri.

"It is a privilege to recognize individuals who serve diligently and with integrity, lead by example and provide the citizens of Missouri with the quality of justice they demand and deserve," Missouri Chief Justice George W. Draper III said before presenting his 2019 chief justice awards, including judicial excellence awards.

Noble's entire judicial career has been in the 22nd Judicial Circuit (St. Louis city). He was appointed a drug court commissioner in October 2007; was appointed an associate circuit judge in March 2013; and has served as a circuit judge since November 2015. Voters retained him in that office during the November 2018 general election. Well done Judge Noble!

We lost a few long time neighbors recently. Miles Haliburton who lived in the 5800 block of DeGiverville since 1967 passed away on August 21, 2019. He was almost 91 years old. He was a faithful member of Block Unit 1035 and was helpful in taking care of the car circle at Laurel and Waterman and the community garden across from Lucier Park. Our sympathies to his family and neighbors.



Miles Haliburton



Ellen Leathers and Jon Dahl

Following a year long battle with Glioblastoma, Jon Dahl, of the 6100 block of McPherson passed away on Wednesday, September 25th. He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Ellen Leathers and his sons Michael (Megan) and Matt, and step children James and Anne Leathers. Always one to greet you with a smile a hug, and an offer to help you with whatever project you may be working on or contemplating, Jon will be missed. His life was celebrated at St. Roch Church on October 5th and at a reception at his home.

Mrs. Rosie Ball of the 6000 block of McPherson passed away on Wednesday, October 9th at the age of 92. Mrs. Ball lived for decades in her home on McPherson raising her children and hosting family events for her extended family. She could often be seen enjoying the view from her front porch and keeping an eye on happenings in the neighborhood. Our condolences go out to her large family. Mrs. Ball's home going service and celebration was at Olivet Missionary Baptist Church on October 18th. She will be missed.



Mrs. Ball

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!

SDCC Party at Moonrise

What a success! The Taste of SDCC was held on the Moonrise rooftop on October 11. Both rooms, both inside and outside in the occasionally frosty air, were filled almost to capacity. Long-timers and newcomers alike enjoyed the atmosphere of this beautiful venue, donated by Joe Edwards, as well as the great variety of appetisers donated by area restaurants. The food line was amazing! SDCC staff Brandon Sterling and Karen Kelsey and Board President Molly Rater, along with other members of the Board, are to be congratulated for a wonderful event, which grossed over \$ 13,000.



photo by Derek Knight



photo by Derek Knight

Building Renovation Projects Now Under Way in Neighborhood

Contractors working for BOBB, LLC, an affiliate of Washington University, recently have begun renovation work on several properties in the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood which include buildings on Skinker, Pershing, and Waterman. The vacant lot at 5960 McPherson is a logistical staging area for some of the renovation work. Target completion of the renovation projects is July 2020. If you have questions about these renovations, please contact Phil Krull, Project Manager (314-220-5185; pkrull@emharris.com) or Kevin Scronce, Project Superintendent (314-565-5117; kscronce@emharris.com) with EM Harris or Barry Ash, Project Manager (618-623-2256; bash@hbdgc.com) or Jason Forguson, Project Superintendent (314-267-3740; jforguson@hbdgc.com) with HBD Construction.

- The renovation projects by contractor: EM Harris:
• 6031 Waterman Boulevard
• 6146 Waterman Boulevard
• 6142-44 Waterman Boulevard
• 6020 Waterman Boulevard
• 6021 Pershing Avenue
• 6015 Pershing Avenue
• 6030 Pershing Avenue

SAVE THE DATE for
St. Louis' Original Outdoor Wintermarkt
Saturday, December 7th, 2019
11:00 am to 4:00 pm
Greg Freeman Park at Kingsbury and Des Peres
Hand made gifts, toys, and decorations
Baked goods, hot cider, and roasted chestnuts
Live music, a cappella groups, and glühwein

Getting Even

By Dan Rater

Here's a cupcake story: I was assigned the task to make cupcakes for one of the girls birthdays. I suppose my wife thought, "nobody can screw up cupcakes".

Well, I went to the store and combed the aisles looking for cupcake mix. Couldn't find it in the baking aisle, no luck in the snack aisle, shut out in the cookie aisle. Now I'm getting angry at the store for not having cupcake mix. I go back to the baking aisle, because that's the logical place, see a woman and ask, "Do you know where I can find cupcake mix"? To this day I can still see her face. It was a mixture of disbelief, pity and sorrow. I could almost see the thought coursing through her brain. "Is this guy that dumb"? She stammered, "It's just cake mix. There's a recipe for cupcakes on the box".

Cupcake mix is cake mix! Buoyed by this revelation I went home to bake them, thinking "nobody can screw up cupcakes".

When I make something from a recipe, I follow it to a T. I don't estimate, eyeball or ballpark. If the thing wants a teaspoon, it gets a teaspoon. So I followed the recipe and got twelve cupcakes. I was a little puzzled because the recipe claimed the cupcake yield was twenty-four. But I followed the recipe to a T, figured it might be a typo, so in the oven they went.

Still, the twelve/twenty-four thing nagged at me. I called my wife and explained what I had done. Her reaction startled me. "Are you that dumb! How can you screw up cupcakes!?!?!?"

I checked the oven and saw that I didn't have cupcakes, I had hubcaps. The twelve/twenty-four thing became an epiphany. You only fill the cup halfway! I suppose I'm the one who can screw up cupcakes. Although they didn't taste bad, baking must be more about presentation, rather than execution. Happy birthday Anne!

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND: Keeping Backyard Chickens!

By Mark Banaszak

Backyard chickens have become very popular. The US Department of Agriculture estimates that there are about 4 million households with chicken flocks. OK Hatchery, a feed store in Kirkwood, sells hundreds of baby chicks every Spring and the St. Louis Backyard Chicken Facebook group has thousands of members.

There are lots of reasons to love chickens. First, chickens provide eggs, which are a complete protein (containing all nine amino acids necessary for humans). Chicken feed is inexpensive. And chickens make interesting and friendly pets.

However, there are some important things to consider before getting a flock, like chickens' lifespan. Hens typically start laying eggs at 18 weeks and good layer may produce one egg a day for several years. Egg laying begins to slow at six or seven years. After that, they continue to lay, but at gradually slower rate until old age. Average lifespan is 8-10 years. Hens do not need a rooster to produce eggs and eggs will not hatch without a rooster.

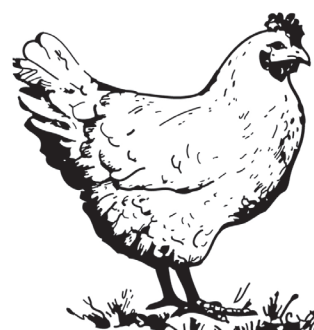
Another consideration is a coop. Coops, generally the largest setup cost, protect chickens from weather and predators. Chickens do not like wet or snowy weather, and chickens may attract raccoons, possums or hawks. Some people heat their coops, but it is not necessary as long as there is plenty of straw or other bedding. Chickens do need access to water, so a heated dog bowl may be necessary in the winter. Coops are often built with nesting boxes, which are small areas where hens prefer to lay. Nesting boxes make looking for eggs easy. Chicken coops must also be cleaned regularly. This is for human as well as bird health.

In addition to chicken feed, chickens are very happy to eat kitchen scraps, although it is best to avoid giving them meat or dairy, which attracts other animals. They also like eating bugs, grit and egg shells.

Grit or egg shells are high in calcium and important for their digestive system to be able to process what they eat. When hens do not get enough calcium, their egg shells can get thin. Hens typically lay more eggs when they are happy, so keeping their coop nice and providing foods they like can help egg production.

Chicks who grow up being handled by people are often very friendly. It is not uncommon to raise chicks who come to you and who like being petted. Hens also may molt when their body chemistry is affected by lack of daylight and colder temperatures. At times, hens may also become broody, which is an urge to sit on a clutch of eggs.

Chickens, like many birds, feel more comfortable in a flock, which has established hierarchy (a pecking order). Introducing new chickens to an established flock can cause pecking. Best of all, hens often have an "egg song." They cackle or crow when they or one of their sisters lays an egg. There is debate about why hens do this, but most likely, they are telling you it is time for a healthy breakfast, because eggs are a perfect protein!



KIDS CORNER

By Susanne Knese

"But Thanksgiving is more than eating . . . and we should be thankful too. We should just be thankful for being together. I think that's what they mean by 'Thanksgiving,' Charlie Brown."

- Marcie, A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving by Charles M. Schultz

Fun activities during these coming months:

- Delmar Loop's "Light up Delmar" weekend of November 29th - grab some hot chocolate along the Loop and enjoy the lights and early Christmas shopping
- Sled riding down Art Hill followed up with Hot Chocolate by the fire at the Boat House!
- Skating at Steinberg outdoor rink in Forest Park through March 1st
- Wild Lights at the St. Louis Zoo

Question for February edition:

What is your favorite Dr. Seuss story or quote?

And / or Submit a valentine picture. Include your name and age. Please submit drawings to kidscorner@sdtimes.org by January 10th!

If you have other kid friendly events you would like included in this section, please email kidscorner@sdtimes.org

Cryptogram: When I was a kid I LOVED creating coded messages with my friends, so wanted to pass along this fun to you. Decipher the winter message below using the code provided.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
13	6	1	25	4	18	23	17	3	19	20	16	22	26	24	11	5	7	15	10	12	14	21	9	2	8

2	24	12	7	22	3	15	15	3	24	26	3	18	2	24	12				
1	17	24	24	15	4	10	24	13	1	1	4	11	10	3	10	3	15	10	24
22	13	20	4	13	15	26	24	21	13	26	23	4	16	6	13	20	4		
1	24	24	20	3	4	15	25	7	3	26	20	17	24	10	1	24	1	24	
15	16	4	25	24	26	13	7	10	17	3	16	16	3	1	4				
15	20	13	10	4	13	26	25	4	26	19	24	2	21	3	26	10	4	7	



Sharing a Tale of a Successful Block Unit

By Lana Stein

6100 and 6000 Westminster Place have a strong block unit that parties together and has a strong communication system. They stay in touch regarding crime, utility construction, development and neighbor milestones. The list was developed by and is maintained by Dan McGuire, a longtime resident.

Skinker DeBaliviere's centennial occurred in 2008. Some blocks held their own centennial parties to complement the neighborhood festivity. The Westminster block unit chose that course and they have continued to have one on the first Saturday in October ever since. The street is closed off. Tables and chairs appear and all kinds of food is arrayed for the guests. Each party is designed to be different. Activities for kids or music can vary. Sometimes there is a theme, sometimes not.

Everyone living on these blocks is invited to attend and pitch in a side dish or beverages. The response is always heartening. A committee plans the yearly party. The first chairs were Mary Powell and Gale Fitzpatrick. More recently, Jaina and Paul Stus have overseen the event. Their neighbors—Mary and Hitch Powell, Gale Fitzpatrick, Kim Gladstone, Lisa Horner, Marj Weir, Chris Rappleye and Anne Posaga, and Sharon Neumeister—work with them to plan and organize.

The committee has old timers and newbies. That was reflected in the diversity of the attendees as well. In some families, children returned with their children to party where they grew up. It was a mixture generationally, racially with a shared belonging. It was refreshing to see the familiar faces and the new ones. The food was outstanding, particularly Hitch's pork entrees. Residents were able to get to know each other and the cohesion tightens.

Through communication and socializing, block strength arises and is maintained. Other blocks also carry off this feat; ideally they all should.

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The Corner Pull Box - Part Two

By Frank "The Fireman" Schaper

The last article I wrote was about fire alarm boxes. These red boxes were mounted on yellow post and stood guard on street corners throughout the city. As I mentioned last time, these pull boxes were a unique way for people to get help. Just pull the hook and within three minutes the fire department would be there answering your emergency. Emergencies ran the gamut of; a person with a flat tire, a stabbing victim, someone who just got robbed, of course fires, but quite often a false alarm. Now I promised you a couple of stories about these boxes last time - Soooooo here we go.

Box 5175 - Cates and Goodfellow

This corner box was near the low rise housing projects just east of Goodfellow. The crew of Engine #30 would respond to this box several times a shift. Not once did we ever pull up to this box having someone pointing to a building on fire. No. It was always kids hiding in the bushes across the street. I would get off the back of the pumper and walk over to the box and close the door. Captain Svetanics would call the dispatcher and report a false alarm. We would go back to the firehouse only to be back again in an hour or so. One afternoon we responded to yet another false alarm but this time we tried something different. As the kids were watching from the bushes, Firefighter Jack Thomas got off the engine and walked to the box. He was carrying a container of cosmetic powder puff and a paint brush. He closed the door of the pull box and then started dusting the powder on the door as if he was dusting for finger prints. Well the kids could see Jack dusting the box and knew exactly what he was doing. They watch enough television to know that in short order a police officer would be at their door come to arrest them. That box was quiet for several days until there was a rain storm. Then, once again it was business as usual.



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From Your 28th Ward Alderwoman: Heather Navarro

The Board of Aldermen returned from break in September. We immediately took up the question of whether to lift the residency requirement for city employees. The current city charter requires all city employees, including police officers, airport employees, and everyone in between to live in the city. It's been a couple of decades since that decision was affirmed at the ballot box. A measure to put it back on the ballot was defeated by the Board in September. I voted in favor of putting it to a public vote after seeing how the number of vacancies at City Hall affects everything from trimming trees to patrolling city streets. There are many things we can do to incentivize residency if the requirement were lifted, such as prioritizing applicants in the city. In the meantime, the city needs to work on improving its recruitment and training efforts so we can provide job opportunities for our residents and improve the level of city services.

One initiative that passed the Board this fall was a measure to fund "Cure Violence," a crime prevention program that uses local community members to interrupt violence before it happens. The program establishes neighborhood centers in communities experiencing the worst gun violence and utilizes existing relationships by training local community members to intervene in conflicts that are likely to lead to shootings. This program has had success in other cities and was brought to the attention of many lawmakers by citizens looking for alternatives to increased policing and incarceration. While I am hopeful that Cure Violence will stop more people from being killed, we need to do more to prevent people, especially our young people, from getting to the point where they want to pick up a gun. A recent presentation from the St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission to the Public Safety Committee stressed that health care is violence prevention; education is violence prevention; and workforce development is violence prevention. Over half of gunshot injuries in St. Louis affected people under the age of 24. Cure Violence will help us intervene now and stop those shootings from occurring but we will need more to cure the despair and trauma that are at the root of violence. You can follow Board of Aldermen meetings and committee meetings online at STLTV or watch on YouTube. I look forward to sharing more updates as the Board tackles these and other issues.

S N A R F ' S

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Celebrating 50 years of Art and Artists in the TIMES of Skinker DeBaliviere

By Jo Ann Vatcha



Art Fair 1974



Art Fair 2009

Since 1970, when the TIMES (then The Paper) first began, there has been extensive coverage of a big part of the neighborhood's revival and continued success: residents who are artists.

Starting even before the TIMES, and occurring every Mothers' Day for over a dozen years (1969-1981), the Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood was home to a remarkable Art Fair and House Tour. Long before other historic St. Louis neighborhoods started their house tours, ours was a stunning success.

The Art Fair started with a new resident, an energetic and effervescent young stay-at-home mother named Susie (Roach) Feinberg, who convinced Father Peet to let her use the St. Roch parking lot for an Art Fair. Designed to bring attention to the neighborhood and bring people in the neighborhood together, Susie modeled the fair after a similar event in Chicago's Hyde Park, from where her family had moved to St. Louis. In 1968, she organized other neighbors and started the event with 32 artists on the St. Roch parking lot. Judges were recruited by Susie, giving real credibility and competition to the art fair. As time went by, local artists, many associated with Washington University, were participants in the fair. Bill Kohn, Peter Marcus, Gene Hoefel are a few of the professors and professional artists who helped make the

March, 1971 THE PAPER Page 5

Olive Chaffee 'Resting' after Exhibit

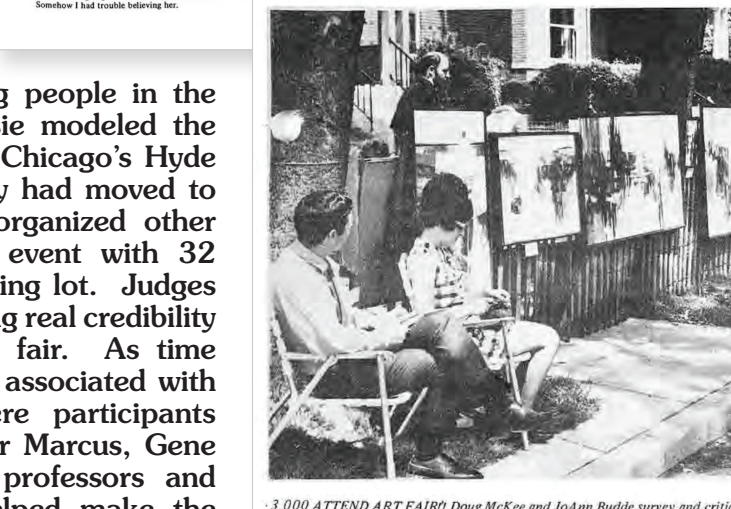


Ms. Chaffee talks with her neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Perkins.



A LATE-1970S PHOTO OF neighbors and artists came to view a one-woman showing by well-known local artist, Mrs. Olive Chaffee.

By Mary Parker
In February the first in a series of art exhibits was held at Grace Methodist Church on Westmore, Mrs. Olive Chaffee's exhibit of paintings opened Feb. 6, 1971, and ran throughout the month. The program was a great deal of fun and gave its artist a great deal of pleasure. Mrs. Chaffee has been a St. Louis resident for 20 years. For her and some other artists who had moved here from St. Louis, they decided to have an exhibit on Westmore. Mrs. Chaffee has been the art judge for the Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood Art Fair since its inception in 1969. "There were two chairs, an apple and a glass," Mrs. Chaffee said. "The artist who exhibited the first time at the Skinker DeBaliviere Art Fair, and there was a lot of talk in the town and... that artist is I think still here and my husband that I'd read a book or two." Mrs. Chaffee's exhibit was held in the St. Louis area. She has received a number of awards for her art work, including one from the Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood Art Fair. Mrs. Chaffee's work has been exhibited in major cities throughout the country. Mrs. Chaffee's work has been exhibited in major cities throughout the country. Mrs. Chaffee's work has been exhibited in major cities throughout the country.



3,000 ATTEND ART FAIR? Doug McKee and JoAnn Budge survey and critique the works of artist Robie Scucchi. See story and pictures on Page 8.

event a success. There were over 100 booths at most of the fairs, including many crafts, and many people who were children in that era remember the special event as the place they went to buy Mother's Day presents. Photographers, painters, metalworkers, leatherworking, sculpture, and many more skills were represented.

By 1974, there were 132 artists at booths all along the 6100 block of Kingsbury, requiring precise organization and a large number of people to help. It became a highly organized fair which had chairmen and committees working nearly year-round to insure success. The memory one chairman (Sam Green) shared was the time spent with other neighbors on such essential but unglamorous tasks, such as erecting the Art Fair fencing. Led by Brad Weir, they erected the snow fencing the day before the fair, then took it down again before the new work week began. As Sam said, "everyone working together was the best thing about it."

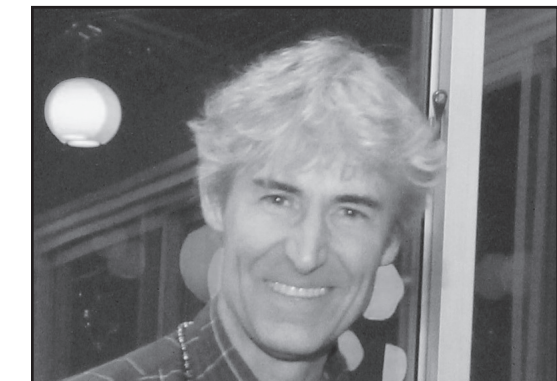
In succeeding years, there have been many other events and activities featuring the arts and artists our neighborhood is known for. An organization formed to promote special events was called the West End Arts Council. Individual artists have thrived, and their studios have proved to anchor the neighborhood around what we all call the "Four Corners". Andy Cross bought his studio building on the northeast corner from Pat Kohn, whose husband Bill Kohn was one of the pioneer artists in the area. On the northwest corner, there was Kate and Ken Anderson's home and studio. On the southwest side, Bill Christman's longtime studio now includes the unusual and highly regarded Joe's Cafe and sculpture garden.

the paper

June, 1970
Serving residents of the area bounded by Lindell to Delmar & DeBaliviere to the city limits



Governor Bob Holden presented an award to Bill Kohn



Andy Cross



Bill Christman

IN YOUR EAR

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

Watching the throngs standing behind podiums and trading put-downs and syllables at the recent Democratic presidential debates gave me pause. It wasn't that candidate A was terrific or that I would be pleased to vote for candidate A, B, C, or, even G. Rather, as the program ended and I began to watch "Belching With the Stars," I thought: Is this really the best way to choose a presidential candidate?

Being the president of the USA is an important role. That person has an incredible impact on the economy, determines if we go to war, and pardons a turkey each Thanksgiving. This is not a shabby job. He or she will be written about in textbooks and portrayed by an animated figure in the Hall of Presidents at Disney World. What's not to like? So naturally, lots of people aspire to be the leader of the free world.

Presidential candidates used to be determined in smoke-filled rooms at political conventions. Sometimes delegates had to vote, vote, and vote again. In 1924, it took 103 ballots for the Dems to select John W. Davis as their candidate. All those ballots didn't lead to success because Davis was trounced by the garrulous Calvin Coolidge. At other times, a consensus was easily reached at a convention, but the candidate was a lemon. Who can forget Richard Nixon or Michael Dukakis?

Now, of course, we have televised debate upon debate to determine who should lead the ticket. The debates feel endless, like the long line of cars on Skinker Boulevard when you are in a hurry to get somewhere. I vacillate between thinking "It's cool that the selection process is so transparent" and "Who are these people, anyway???" A few of the folks behind a podium are people of stature who just might be on the national ticket, but most are wanna-be folks, politicians who are debating to further their careers or raise money.

The presence of so many candidates hand-fighting on the stage is not without a cost. Some people think that our current president, Donald J. Voldemort, gained political credibility because it was easy for him to stand out among the throng of candidates. That possibility, alone, should cause us to narrow the size of the crowd.

But once narrowed to four or six legitimate candidates on the stage, the process can still be cumbersome and soporific. But it need not be that way! Yes, dear reader, Hawkeye offers some quick changes that can turn the political debates into high drama television and ensure that the candidates from which we choose are wise, honorable, and disdain Twitter.

First, let's scrap the current posse of folks asking questions. Just because someone reads the news doesn't mean that they will be a good interrogator. I would like to see Jeopardy's Alex Trebek be the sole panelist. Instead of asking a question, he'd announce an answer, such as, "Moscow, chicanery, and Donald Trump," and then the candidates would pose their questions. Imagine the questions the candidates would offer in response to "Income taxes, fat cats, and poverty" or "Carbon emissions and submarines." Their responses would be compelling viewing and would share their thinking.

If Alex Trebek wasn't available, how about the questioner being Oprah Winfrey or Violet Crawley from Downton Abbey? Neither of these formidable women would allow candidates to give fuzzy answers or be downright nasty. I never thought that I would worry about public nastiness in a presidential campaign, but that was before President Voldemort's new and very low bar for public discourse.

Part of being an effective leader is to surround yourself with folks who have skills and knowledge that you lack, so we could borrow from the show "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" and allow candidates who are stumped to make a public phone call to an expert before responding to questions. I can envision President Voldemort calling someone and asking, "How many states are there in the union?" For that matter, it would be interesting to see who candidates chose to be their resources. I'd never vote for anyone, for example, who identified Dick Cheney or Rudy Giuliani as a person to whom they would turn for advice. Give me someone who turns to the Post's Bill McClellan.

Finally, a big piece of leadership is how you respond to a situation for which you are unprepared. So let's radically alter the debate format. We could take the candidates from behind the podium, put them in separate rooms, and see how they respond to a real problem. What do they do when confronted by a homeless person asking for money? How do they respond when they overhear someone yelling a racist statement? How do they react if they learn that a foreign government has tried to influence the election in their favor? Canned speeches and talking points are one thing, but it would be illustrative to see what a candidate does in a real situation (as real as it can be when televised, anyway). And Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez would be great at moderating this!

All of my debate suggestions would increase voter turnout and that's a good thing. I would like to have to wait in line to cast my ballot.



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