

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

FREE

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

Election season again already?

By Linda Cross

It is hard to believe that we are well into the presidential race of 2020 with the general election being months away, but with our election cycles getting longer and longer, the primary season has been underway for months. Who will be the president is clearly critical in our governance, but state and local candidates have an immediate impact on the successes and failures of our region. Choosing the candidates that you most align with in an atmosphere of disinformation is a daunting task.

To prepare for the upcoming elections, be aware of the dates in which you must be registered, note the actual election dates, confirm your registration, confirm your polling place, and research the candidates and initiatives.

The important dates for the 2020 election cycle are:

Feb 12 – Last day to register to vote for the primary

Feb 26 – Last day to request an absentee ballot for the primary

Mar 9 – Last day to do in person voting for the primary

Mar 10 – Presidential Primary

Aug 4 – Primary for non-presidential candidates

Nov 3 – General Election

To check your current voter registration, go to sos.mo.gov/elections/goVote **Missouri/register**, enter your first and last name, your address, birthday, and county. If you are currently registered, your ward and precinct will be displayed. You can click on the link to see what initiatives are on the ballot and the address of your current polling place. (There is currently discussion underway to move some of our polling places, so be sure to check before election day). If you have problems with your registration, you can contact the St. Louis City Board of Elections (for St. Louis

City Residents) at 300 N. Tucker, St. Louis, MO 63101 or call them at (314) 622-4336. If you are not currently registered to vote, you can submit an online voter registration at that site.

Now comes the hard part, researching the candidates and initiatives.

Information is shared differently today with the majority of consumers now getting their news digitally via online articles and social media. It is not easy to spot a fake news story but here are a few tips.

Be aware of “confirmation bias,” where consumers are fed stories through their social media profile that validate their existing beliefs without a balanced approach. Look for triggering language in your news consumption – does one site say ‘the scandal’ when another site says ‘the hoax’ but a fair and unbiased site would discuss ‘the issue’. Verify the author and the date that an article was actually written. Many articles get passed around again years after an issue has been corroborated or debunked. Ad Fontes Media is an organization that researches factual reporting on the web to determine media bias, and has produced a chart that has been used as a resource by educators to give a visual map of the news landscape. To check the validity of statements yourself, you can research in several different places on fact checking sites:

Mediabiasfactcheck.com – is an independent online media outlet

Factcheck.org – a non-partisan non-profit part of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania

Politifact.com – Pulitzer Prize winning site owned by the not for profit Poynter Institute for Media Studies

Snopes.com – site with a search engine to dispel circulated rumors

Washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker – part of traditional media (if you are skeptical of traditional media) but nothing is reported without three sources.

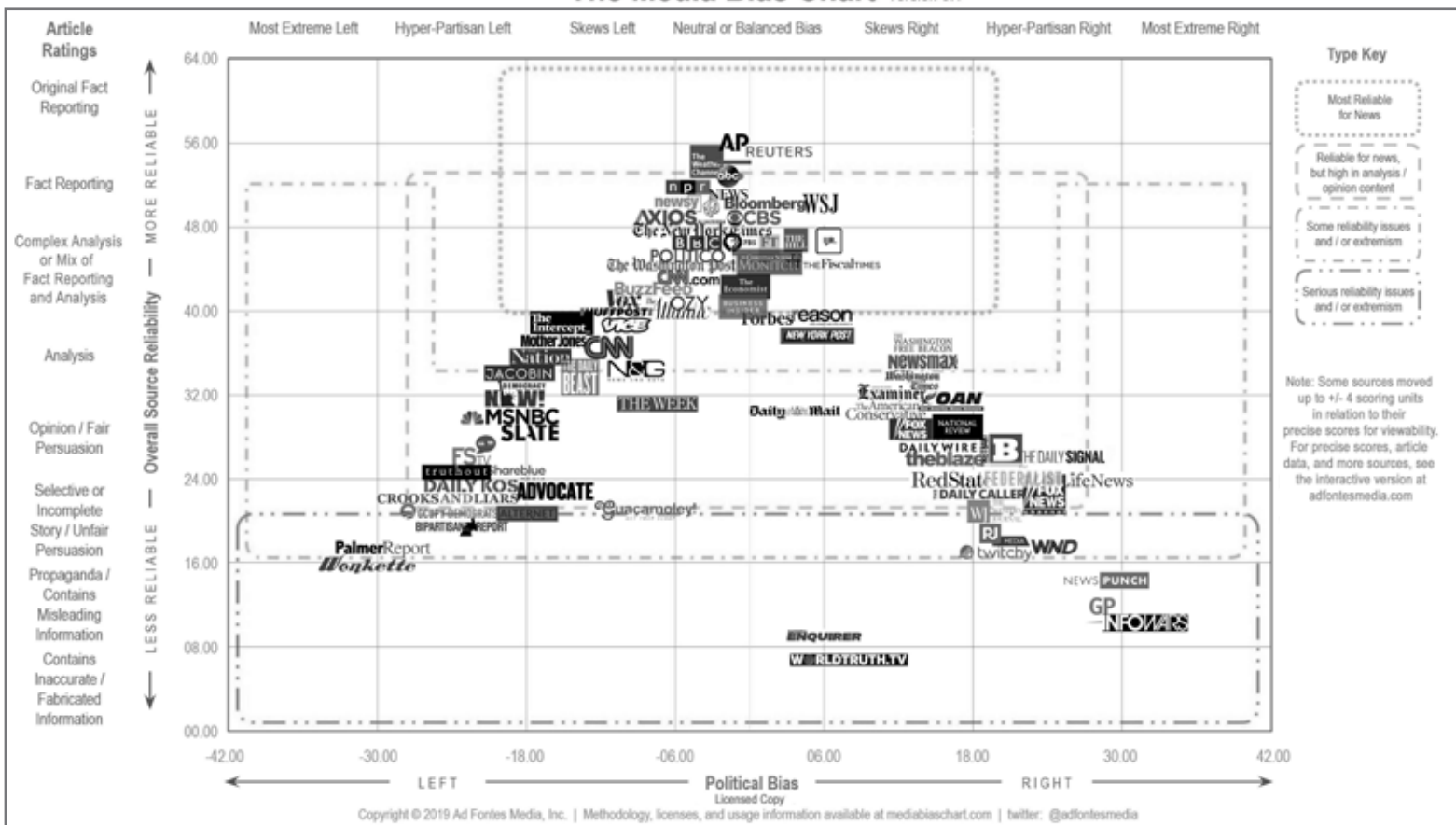
There are several good rules to follow

when fact checking. Always read past the headline. The actual article may have nothing to back up the ‘click bait’ grabber. Leave the site you are reading in order to validate information that they are providing (In other words, don’t just trust their ‘About’ page). Search the organization with quote marks around their name to get results on who funds that organization and on their credibility. Search to see if other reputable news outlets are reporting the same story. Ask for evidence that backs up the claim. And importantly, if you haven’t validated a story, do not share it.

Now that we know how to read about the candidates and initiatives, there are a couple of ways to narrow down which candidates and issues are most aligned with your value system. For national candidates there are a couple of websites that you can use to narrow to a candidate that campaigns on the issues that are most important to you (what they do when they are elected is not guaranteed). **Isidewith.com** and **washingtonpost.com** both have quizzes where you can answer questions on many positions, and the quiz will match you to a candidate running on those issues. You can also go to independent websites such as the League of Women Voters to get a comprehensive listing of each candidate, their previous experience, and their platform. On current initiatives on the ballot, regional and local newspapers often have an outline of the issues so that you can interpret the complicated and often times tricky language that is on the ballot. You can ask a person that you respect and admire that would have particular knowledge about an issue what their opinion is. For example, if there is a school board election, ask a friend who is a teacher or administrator who they might support.

This all amounts to some work, but choosing who runs our country, state, and city determines what priorities are focused on, what resources are available to our citizens, and what rights we will have going forward. Put in the work.

The Media Bias Chart Version 5.1



This is a chart created by Ad Fontes Media that has been widely used to demonstrate media bias in today's information landscape. Keep in mind that media bias is very complicated and nuanced. This chart should only be used as a visual representation based on the methodology of Ad Fontes Media. You can visit www.adfontesmedia.com for an interactive chart and more information on their methodology.

Editor's Notes

By Linda Cross

I have always been by nature a glass half-empty girl. I totally understand how fortunate I am, how others have worked just as hard as I have and do not have nearly what I have. But how are others more 'happy' than me? I have done a lot of research into why some people are naturally gregarious and jolly and I am just – not. Most of the research that I have conducted ironically led to one conclusion, the main indicator of happiness is... gratitude. For the people that know me personally, this is an old story that they may have heard more than they care to, but a couple of years ago I began a journey to note and record my gratefulness. To my surprise it made a big difference in my life. The best article that I found on gratefulness suggested that before you go to bed each night, write down three things that you were grateful for that day. I added my own rules – it cannot be a negative (such as I am grateful it didn't

rain today), it must be positive (I am grateful that it was sunny today), and you can't just repeat the same things over and over (I am grateful for my husband and daughters). My thoughtful and artistically talented husband made me a chalkboard for our bathroom that I write my 'three things' on every night before I go to bed. By doing this process, you train your brain to note good things that you want to include during the day to write on your 'board' at night. This process helped me so much that I gifted gratefulness boards to my friends (who probably still think I am crazy). Don't get me wrong, there have been days that I have seriously just put a poop emoji on my gratefulness board, but most days, not only do I note the things that I am grateful for but when we are eating dinner at night, our whole family will list their 'three things' as well. This is not rocket science and will not cure any of the ills that we are facing, but sometimes just an adjustment in attitude will make things a little brighter. Try it with your family and let me know.

Black History Month at Hermann, MO

By Cecelia Nadal

In February 2020 something in Hermann, Missouri is happening that has never happened before! The City of Hermann will for the first time celebrate Black History month!

It is little known that Germans not only fought against slavery but were the front guard in helping returning African American Union soldiers fulfill their commitment to starting Lincoln Institute (to become Lincoln University) and often sent their own children to that institution after its inception. German immigrant and abolitionist Judge Arnold Krekel orchestrated the convention in Jefferson City that led to the Emancipation decree that freed slaves in Missouri. Frederick Douglas joined Krekel and James Milton Turner in raising money for Lincoln University and a significant number of Germans were part of the founding Board of Directors. In addition German newspapers in Missouri started as early as 1845 to voice their objection to slavery in Missouri. Hermann was the home of the *Hermanner Wochenblatt* newspaper that influenced Germans throughout Missouri and other Midwest States.

There are several free activities during the month but some require registration. Also I would suggest having lunch at the Wursthaus which has the most delicious bratwurst I have ever tasted. Hermann is a delightful quaint city loaded with German culture and wonderful wineries AND the history is amazing! For more information go to www.visithermann.com

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, 2020

for our April-May Times 50th Anniversary Issue
Please send copy by e-mail to Linda Cross, lcross@sdtimes.org, by disc to 6060 McPherson Ave, 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 lcross@sdtimes.org.

Skinker DeBaliviere Updates

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council

Brandon Sterling has resigned his position as Executive Director of the SDCC effective February 29th. Brandon served as the Executive Director for four years and will be pursuing other career opportunities. We thank Brandon for his four years of service. If you know of anyone interested in the filling the position, please contact the SDCC at 314.862.5122

DeBaliviere Developments

Pearl companies has proposed a redevelopment project on DeBaliviere Avenue to include apartments and retail space where the current strip mall exists between Waterman and Forest Park. Pearl has offered a verbal commitment to signing a community benefits agreement. This project is in the boundaries of the Delmar-DeBaliviere Transit Oriented Plan and the proposed Form-Based District (as well as the CWE Historic District) so it has been undergoing the process of a neighborhood-based development review.

For those unfamiliar, neighborhood development reviews allow residents, businesses and property owners to familiarize themselves and offer input into proposed physical development projects to gauge their impact on quality of life, the local economy and compliance with adopted neighborhood planning documents. We typically engage neighboring communities like West End and DeBaliviere Place when a project is on a shared neighborhood border. These reviews are led by the Community Development, Historic District Review, and Commercial Districts committees. After review, committees typically issue a shared statement to the developer and the City of St. Louis indicating support or opposition to the project, citing specific details.

Revival STL is proposing a mixed-used apartment building, tentatively called the "Hudson" on the site of the former St. Louis Italian Restaurant at Pershing and DeBaliviere. This project will also go through a neighborhood-based development review. This project is evidence that the Pearl project is already serving as a catalyst to revitalize underutilized sites along the commercial corridor.

Delmar Developments

Local developer GreenStreet has expressed interest in the site of the former Church's Chicken Lot. Conversations are preliminary, but they proposed a mixed-used, multi-story building. This project will also go through a neighborhood-based development review.

Committee Chairs

Rachelle L'Ecuyer was recently appointed as the chair of the Commercial Districts Committee by SDCC Board President, Molly Rater.

Dear Resident,

Thank you for recycling! Please remember these tips to Recycle Responsibly:

- Stick with the Six: Always recycle your 1) paper, 2) flattened cardboard, 3) plastic bottles & containers, 4) glass bottles & jars, 5) food & beverage cartons and 6) metal food & beverage cans in your Blue Bin/Dumpster.
- Always flatten cardboard boxes before recycling them. It leaves more room in the Blue Bins for everyone's recyclables.
- To find your bulk pickup week visit: StLouis-MO.gov/my-pickup If you live in 63112, your bulk pickup is the 1st Monday of the month.
- Have an item you are unsure where to recycle? Visit STLCityRecycles.com/database to search if there is a place that will reuse or recycle your item!
- Do not bag recyclables or place any plastic bags in Blue Bin. Recycle plastic bags or other stretchy, film plastic at your grocery or retail store.
- Keep items loose, clean and dry! Always flatten your cardboard! Thanks for doing your part to recycle. Small steps make a BIG IMPACT!

Sincerely,
Your Saint Louis City Recycles Team
STLCityRecycles.com • 314-772-4646
Follow us on social media @STLCityRecycles

Update on The Delmar Loop

By Rachelle L'Ecuyer

It's time to check-in on what you know about the Delmar Loop.

Recently, I attended a neighborhood meeting where someone began naming all the businesses they would like to see in the Delmar Loop. They were naming businesses that are already here. It made me wonder how often do neighbors visit the Delmar Loop? When was the last time you took a walk over to the Delmar Loop? Was it to shop? Have a meal? See a show?

There are 140 businesses at your doorstep. Last year close to 25 new businesses opened. Have you visited them?

The cuisine of close to 20 countries can be found in the Delmar Loop. You can take a trip around the world just by walking

down the street. You could start at Krab Kingz and over the next few months dine your way west at Gokul, Prime 55, Fork & Stix, Tavolo, Guerrilla Street Food, Shiquan Wonton, Nudo House, Eclipse, Gyro House, Masala and Pin-Up Bowl and you would only make it to Skinker! The Delmar Loop directory is available for free at the Moonrise Hotel, 6177 and at the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council office. I encourage you to pick one up and be a tourist in your own town. Leave your car at home and check out the new shops and restaurants that are within walking distance of your home. No other city neighborhood has this treasure trove of dining, shopping and entertainment opportunities in such close proximity! Look for some new businesses in 2020. CVS will open in the late spring and we will see several new businesses opening beyond that. It's an exciting time to be in the Delmar Loop but



you have to see it to enjoy it!

To make your walking experience more enjoyable, The Delmar Loop is in the planning stages of implementing street enhancements in the 5800 to 6000 block of Delmar. Several open houses were held in the late fall so neighbors, business owners and building owners could view conceptual design ideas and weigh-in on what they liked and didn't like. Over 75 people attended the open houses and over 60 people submitted comments. The street enhancements will include identifying the placement of pedestrian crosswalks,

Update on The Loop continued on page 6

News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

My first News of Neighbors is not what I had hoped for to begin the year 2020 and so I am going to begin with a plea for your help in the future. When you hear of good news about your neighbors, or you have good news about yourself or your family, do me a favor and share it with me. We all appreciate good news and we enjoy sharing in each other's accomplishments and joyous life moments. So keep me in mind when you know of a promotion, a birth, a wedding, an anniversary, a graduation...you get the idea, so that I can share it here.

That being said, part of this column has also been to notify you of the passing of neighbors, both currently and those who lived here in the past, all of whom we still treasure as friends and neighbors. My hope is that when we share the sad news here it will also bring back some good memories of those people too, the life they lived, and of this wonderful community that we call home. We are truly blessed to live in a neighborhood where people know one another, help and care for one another, socialize with each other, visit and support each other. Skinker DeBaliviere has a long history filled with colorful, extraordinary people, so let's remember some of them today as we say good-bye to them.

Our first memorial is Jane Teresa Hart, born on October 27, 1926. Jane Hart passed away on December 17, 2019 at the age of 93. Jane was the wife of the late Honorable Michael Hart and the mother of eight children and a proud and



Jane Hart

loving grandmother of 20 grand-children and 12 great-grand children. Jane was a member of the St. Roch parish for over 60 years and a former resident of Parkview. Her family was a big part of St. Roch and longtime residents will remember many years of Hart basketball at St. Roch and in St. Louis as well. Jane was recognized with a Century Award from Rosati Kain in 2014 for her service to others. And certainly many will remember that she always seemed to have a big beautiful smile on her face. Our condolences go out to the entire Hart family, including her son Norb who is still a resident of Skinker DeBaliviere.

Longtime neighbors and residents who grew up in my generation certainly remember the Nerviani family from the 6100 block of Kingsbury. Unfortunately I have shared sad news of the passing of several of the



Marybeth Nerviani Flynn

the all too young age of 55. Marybeth/Babe is survived by her three children, her sisters Teresa Roberson, and Bobbie Lodes, as well as her former husband, Dan Flynn who also grew up in the neighborhood on the 6100 block of McPherson. Friends and family celebrated her life at Seamus McDaniel's in Dogtown on December 29th.

Following what sounded like a typically wonderful weekend with friends and family, Parkview resident Albert Webster passed away suddenly and very unexpectedly on Sunday, January 5, 2020 from a pulmonary embolism. Albert was 56 and is survived by his wife Kristina "Riz", and their children Karl, Lily, and Eric. Albert was described in his obituary and by so many people as a big guy with a big heart. Truer words could not be spoken. His life was celebrated at Bethel Lutheran Church on January 9th.

Albert was a friend of mine and I am going to take a moment to share some thoughts here because well, he was a fantastic neighbor and I believe, even if you did not know him, your world, or at least a small part of it in our community, also just suffered a loss.

I first met Albert at a new neighbors party in 2007. The meeting came after my son Christian met Albert's son Eric at the party. The two boys were only eight years old at the time and in their meeting the topic of Cub Scouts came up. Eric shared with me the fact that his dad, who I had not yet met, had been a Cub Scout leader. At my encouragement the boys quickly arranged an introduction at the party and by the time we left that gathering I not only had a new friend, I had a co-den leader for the St. Roch Cub Scouts. That was Albert. If there was a need and he could help, he did it. And he did it well!

Albert didn't only volunteer for things, he did so with a passion. He did it in a nurturing, caring, patient, respectful, and loving manner. He did it with enthusiasm. Albert dove in to life as a St. Roch parent

Nerviani "kids" in the past few years (yes, I realize we are no longer kids but for those of us who grew up in the 60's, 70's, and 80's we still connect with that idea). Marybeth (Nerviani) Flynn, aka "Babe" or "Babe O" passed away on December 19th at



Albert Webster

and it was not limited to his time as a den leader. He volunteered for lots of things, including running the St. Roch gym during basketball season, a job that needs patience, organization, and understanding. Albert took it further, submitting updates to the school newsletter recapping weekend games with great descriptions; it was a joy to read and brought the excitement of grade school basketball with the same narrative and excitement that might normally be used in high school or college sports. Those write ups were enjoyed by parents and students alike.

Albert was handy around the house and in helping friends with projects as well. He worked for years as a stage manager and traveled a lot. But that didn't stop him from being involved with his friends, family, church, school, and more. So I guess my take-away from this heartbreaking loss which I am still trying to process as we do with all loss, is maybe we can all try to be a little more like Albert. Don't reject the opportunity to help or volunteer because you are busy, because you work and you have family obligations, try to find a way to do it instead. And do it with care and joy. My guess is that your life will be richer for it, and so will the organization, person(s), and community you help. Any maybe you can think of Albert. I think that might be a nice way to remember him.

To all of his friends and family, we are sorry for your loss. And I feel certain we owe you a thank you for sharing Albert's time and talents with all of us.

And unfortunately, as I complete this article, I am tasked with one more sad announcement. Frank Watson, of the 6100 block of Kingsbury died in the wee hours of the morning on January 15th at Barnes Hospital of a massive heart attack. He is survived by his wife Deborah Aldrich Watson and two sons, Jonathan and Matthew.

I apologize for the sad news shared today, but hopefully it encourages us all to enjoy each day, do our part, and live a better life. Each day is certainly a gift and none of us have a guarantee on how long we get to be here. In the meantime, consider sending me some good news as well. On that note, Happy New Year, enjoy your day, and be safe.

Do you have news to share? Please send your submissions via email with the subject line News of Neighbors to rachelb@sdtimes.org or drop off a note to the attention of Rachel Boxdorfer at the Skinker DeBaliviere office. Be sure to mark it "News of Neighbors". We love to hear about neighbors accomplishments, awards, travels, weddings, anniversaries, births, and more!

Getting Even

By Dan Rater

My quest to graduate college nearly became folklore. The journey took long enough, the Greeks and Romans both have names for it. An epic odyssey, Odysseus, and his Latin counterpart, Ulysses, would need to walk another five years to match my matriculation.

Someone once remarked to a roommate of mine, "I've never seen him awake." That perfectly encapsulated those somnolent, Rip Van Winkle years. It wasn't until I met my wife that I became woke.

We met in a bar in St. Louis. She was with her friend, and they came in after work. Both were dressed in white; old school nurse's uniforms, with Nurse Ratchet caps and clunky shoes. I ambled over, slicked back my hair and said, "Are you guys nurse's or something?" I'd like to tell you the fairy tale ending, but she just said, "No shit Sherlock."

I saw her again and struck up a conversation. She mentioned she was a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Instinctively, I lied to her. It was a little white lie, barely a fib, without a malicious bone in its body.

I told her I had also gone to the University of Wisconsin in Madison, which was practically the only university in the state I hadn't dropped out of, or actually attended. But I had partied there plenty, and knew enough street names, bars and buildings, to make her think I was on the Dean's List.

On our first date, she brought a newspaper with her. It never came up, but later I asked her, "Why did you bring a newspaper on our first date?" She said, "I thought if it didn't work out, at least I'd have something to read." Sometimes I rue my charm, my wit, and sparkling soliloquies, to have missed the chance of watching her noodle the crossword puzzle between appetizers.

During this period, I was at Saint Louis University, my fourth university and second state. I had to write a philosophy paper to finally earn the coveted Bachelor of Science in Communication. My response, like most of my college career, was to get really stoned, say, "F#&@ it", and fall asleep. But this time she wouldn't let me off the hook. She poured black coffee down my throat, hid my stash and typed the pages that eked from my pen. We pulled an all nighter and, after fifteen years, it was cap and gown time.

It dawned on me, that she might be the one, so I had to come clean. I said, "Molly, I have to tell you something. When we first met I lied to you." She said, "I knew it. You're gay." If I was I'd be the luckiest guy in the world, but I was a little puzzled why she would think I was. It had to be the tight Ocean Pacific shorts I wore on our first date. "No", I said. "I never went to the University of Wisconsin in Madison." She replied, "Well, no shit Sherlock."

After all those years wandering the wilderness, I came to realize that home was somewhere over the rainbow, just ignore the pot at the end of it. And sometimes you need a woman to kick you in the butt to help you get over.

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND: The Joy of Seed Packets

By Mark Banaszak and Katrina Stierholz

Wisconsin porn. That's how a friend describes seed catalogs. In January and February, the catalogs arrive in the mail. In the dead of winter, gardeners leaf through them dreaming of the garden to come. When the seed packets arrive, they contain great promise in a tiny envelope.

Understanding the information on seed packets is a necessary skill for any gardener, but there is a lot of information to interpret. Pictures are important because there is such a large number of types of each plant. For instance, over 10,000 varieties of tomatoes are sold. These vary not only by color and size, but many other factors too. Seeing a picture of the mature plant helps us choose one type over another. And, they're beautiful.

Typically, seed packets highlight what type of seed is being sold. Common types include heirloom, hybrid, organic, and genetically modified. Heirloom seeds are varieties that have been grown and maintained for generations by gardeners and farmers. Heirloom seed can often be collected and regrown the next year. Hybrid varieties will often not remain true to type. Genetically modified types have characteristics that wouldn't exist without genetic intervention. They are often proprietary to a company.

Most packets have a text description of the plant requirements that includes sun and water requirements, information about optimal soil types, and the growing zones that are appropriate for the plant. St. Louis is on the border between zones 6a and 6b. Carefully consider these requirements to give your seeds a chance to thrive.

Packets also have planting information that can help to successfully start plants. This includes such things as when to sow

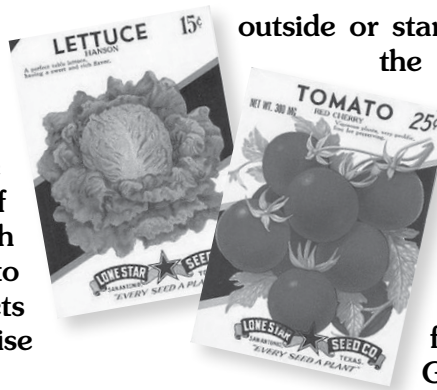
outside or start inside, how deep to plant the seed, how many days they take to emerge, how to properly space them and the number of growing days until the plant is ready for harvest or blooms. It is important to remember that the average last frost date for St. Louis is April 15th. Gardening calendars increase the chances of great results.

Some seeds may have special germination requirements, like cold or damp weather.

Also, seed packets include packaging and sell by dates in order to comply with federal and state regulations. Expired seed is still viable but sprouts at reduced rates. Many experienced gardeners use expired seeds and just plant more seeds to guarantee enough seedlings.

Local seed companies are the best choice for several reasons. Seed companies often contract with local farmers to produce the seeds best suited to an area. This means seeds grown in Missouri are suited to Missouri. Locally produced seeds also support the local agricultural industry. Two Missouri seed companies stand out, although there are many in the Midwest. SeedGeeks (seedgeeks.com) is a St. Louis seed company that has been increasing their collection. They carry many varieties that are well-suited to St. Louis' climate. Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds (rareseeds.com) in Mansfield, Missouri, has many types of each vegetable and any rare vegetables as well.

The best start to a great garden happens when you carefully select seeds for your crops. You know best whether Cherokee Purple or Beefsteak are your family's favorite tomato. And, if you start more seeds than you can plant, the annual plant swap during the Brightside cleanup is a great way to share your bounty. Happy seed shopping!



Garden Pyramid Donation



Garden pyramid donation - left to right Garden Leader Andy Cross, 26th Ward Alderwoman Shameem Hubbard, Neighbor Eric Trudo, and Neighbor Gwen Lazard stand in front of the newly installed centerpiece planter at the McPherson Community Garden during the 2019 Breakfast Garden Tour. Eric originally constructed this planter for his firehouse near the IKEA on Vandeventer but then decided to donate it to the McPherson Garden where it would be put to better use. Gardener Joe Salerno filled the planter with eight different types of pepper plants and harvested nearly 1,000 peppers this year alone!

KIDS CORNER

By Susanne Knese

March 2nd is Dr. Seuss' Birthday!

Here are some little known facts you may find interesting:

- Dr Seuss's real name was Theodor Seuss Geisel but his friends and family called him 'Ted'.
- **The Cat in the Hat** was written as a result of a 1954 report published in *Life* magazine about illiteracy among school children. A text-book editor at a publishing company was concerned about the report and commissioned Ted to write a book which would appeal to children learning to read, using only 250 words given to him by the editor.
- Ted's parents were called Theodor Robert Geisel and Henrietta (Seuss) Geisel. His father managed a brewery in Springfield and was the son of German immigrants. Ted had one sister called Marnie.
- The first book that was both written and illustrated by **Theodor Seuss Geisel** was **And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street**. The book was rejected 27 times before being published in 1937.
- Writing as Dr Seuss, **Theodor Seuss Geisel** wrote and illustrated 44 children's books. These books have been translated into more than 15 languages and have sold over 200 million copies around the world.

Kid Friendly Events around our Neighborhood:

Who doesn't love to ice skate or at least sit by the blazing fire, drinking hot chocolate and watching people ice skate? **Steinberg Skating Rink** is open and ready for people of all ages. Sunday - Thursday 10am - 9pm, Friday & Saturday 10am - midnight; \$7 per person, \$5 skate rental (sizes toddler 6 - adult 15) Note: They only accept CASH, but have an ATM onsite

Did you know back in December 1855, St. Louisans actually walked across the



Mississippi River without bridges or use of boats? Learn how they did it at the **Missouri History Museum**. While you are there visit *The 1904 World's Fair: Looking Back at Looking Forward* exhibit. Recommended for families with children ages three and up, the bags provide activities that encourage discussion, movement, drawing, writing, and most important, imagination! Bags can be checked out from the Visitor Services desks on the ground floor.

Question for April Kids Corner:

Who has visited the new Aquarium downtown? Have you ridden the huge Ferris Wheel at Union Station? Please email to tell us all about your adventure, if you would recommend it to other kids and if you have any tips on making the experience better. Please include photos if possible.

Cryptogram November solution: Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to make a snow angel, bake cookies, drink hot coco, sled on art hill, ice skate and enjoy winter!

Please submit to kidscorner@sdtimes.org by March 10th! Kids share with us activities of your school, club, play, scouts and sports teams. This is YOUR corner, so make it what you want!

Since 1972 *Blueberry Hill*

Yum

Homemade French Onion soup with salad

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Five Star Real Estate Agent
2006-2019

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From Your 28th Ward Alderwoman: Heather Navarro

Decisions of the Decade

The year 2020 marks the end of a decade. There is a lot riding on the decisions we make over the next twelve months. The election of the president is one of the most important. The last day to register to vote in the March primary is February 12. Please get registered and stay tuned for updates in polling locations in the neighborhood. The Board of Election Commissioners is making sure that all voters have access to the voting booth and we are working on improvements to current locations and finding alternatives very close-by.

Another big question we face is about cooperation and consolidation of the city and the county. The Board of Electors (formerly known as the Board of Freeholders) has been convened and the City must nominate its nine members in order to participate meaningfully in a conversation about city/county cooperation and consolidation. As of this writing, the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee of the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor have yet to agree on a slate of candidates. In the meantime, the county has appointed its nine members and the governor has appointed his one. If this group comes up with a plan for cooperation, a form of consolidation, or consolidated services, it must go to the voters. The last successful Board came up with the proposal to create the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District in the 1950's so there are many possibilities for cooperation. The process of convening the Board of Electors was initiated upon the submission of 15,000 signatures of registered voters in the county and 5,000 in the city. By law, the city must appoint its 9 members. Until we do, this failure is a dereliction of our duties. This board has a limited time to come up with a plan and we owe it to the voters to give it our best shot.

Questions before the Board of Aldermen this legislative session (which ends in April) regard the possible restructuring of our police districts, funding and possible closure of the workhouse (the city's medium security institution), and the regulation of short-term rentals. Feel free to contact me about these issues or any others that interest you. This year promises to be an exciting one. Whether it's a neighborhood issue, a citywide policy, or a development project that you are following, please stay engaged with your neighbors, the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, and your elected officials.



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Update on the Loop

continued from page 3


planters, banners and trash cans. The City of St. Louis selected The Delmar Loop to be a grant application partner for the street enhancements and we will learn if the grant will be awarded at the end of January. More updates will be available in the next few months.



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50 Years of TIMES Advertising

By Jo Ann Vatcha

Do you know which neighborhood business has advertised in the TIMES throughout its 50 year history? Did you guess Feinberg Real Estate? The Times has survived for 50 years, thanks to our generous donors and advertisers. In the early days, the Paper, as it was then known, was supported by a small group of advertisers, many of whom no longer exist. We remember such small businesses as Lantern House Restaurant, Bearden Violin Shop and Mrs. Turner's Flowers on Delmar, the Parkview Food Basket on Skinker, Colonial Rug on Kingsbury (the building now housing Andy Cross' Art Studio), owned by neighborhood resident Bill Schiller, who later moved the business to Delmar (where Pin Up Bowl now thrives).

Dan and Susie Feinberg have been a mainstay of our neighborhood, working against redlining and blockbusting, and supporting our newspaper since the earliest editions in 1970. Blueberry Hill has advertised since Joe Edwards opened his iconic restaurant a few years later. Another neighborhood resident whose name appears in the first issue: Schoemehl Painting, owned by Vince Schoemehl, Sr. We have also featured political ads from Roach to Vossmeier, from Schoemehl to McGuire, Krewson and Navarro. Real Estate Agent Katie Kurtz advertised for many years, as did the Central West End Savings and Loan, an important success in the neighborhood.

A big 50th Anniversary Thank You to all those who have chosen our neighborhood and supported our newspaper through the years, with special shout-out to our current advertisers:

- Joe Edwards for Blueberry Hill, Pin-Up Bowl, Eclipse Restaurant, and Peacock Diner
- Karleen Hoerr for Daniel B. Feinberg Real Estate Co.
- Rachel Boxdorfer for Berkshire Hathaway
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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?

Forget IQ, Rubik's cube, achievement scores, g.p.a., Myers-Briggs, and educational degrees. Sure, that stuff matters, but not nearly as much as you think. The real value of such numbers and qualifications is to serve as a gate keeper: Not having a score of X or a degree in Y becomes a barrier, an easy way to determine who gets to ride the roller-coaster versus who can only stand and watch. Unlike the Sorting Hat in Harry Potter, these purported cerebral yardsticks don't begin to tell us about someone's smarts or values.

Don't be perplexed or confused. Hawkeye will share how you can know if this person is smart enough to give her control over your health and medications, if he is wise enough to manage your investment portfolio, or if they are caring enough to become a potential significant other. They may have an IQ of 139, be wearing a snappy tie or a sparkling pair of shoes, or have a 4.12, but that's not sufficient.

Rather, you can tell what someone values and how smart they are by the questions they ask. Imagine that, someone's questions are more important than their answers! We are such an answer-based society that the thought of wanting and waiting to hear what someone wants to know is pretty revolutionary. Of course, their questions are really a statement about what they value and already know. I mean, who wants to learn something that they don't care about? And if a person asks, it probably means that they will listen, and that's a good sign.

Think about it. Wise people are inquisitive. Those folks who are, in fact, knowledgeable and skilled don't need to tell you that. Indeed, they want to learn so they solicit your opinions. They are good questioners. And good listeners!

In a previous chapter in my life, I often interviewed teacher candidates. Our interviews were inclusive, a candidate sitting around a table with four or five current employees. I would start with a softball background question to reduce any anxieties, and then we asked about their educational philosophy. A scenario would be offered - "You are teaching a

lesson when a student says, 'Why do I need to know this stuff?' - and the candidate would respond with an explanation of what s/he would do. The killer response, no way does this person get hired, was "That could never happen in my class!"

After several other questions, including asking candidates to share a failure and how they responded to it, I would conclude the interview by asking, "Do you have any questions of us?" All of us doing the interview knew that we would learn what the candidates valued and saw as important by the questions they asked so we waited with anticipation. Well, dear reader, let me tell you, the candidates' responses were quite illuminating.

Occasionally a candidate would dumbfound us all by saying, "No, no questions, thanks for meeting with me, and I look forward to hearing from you." Huh? How could this candidate not want to know more?!? Needless to say - although I am saying it - that candidate was sent the perfunctory "Thank you for your interest, but we are not considering you for a position" letter.

Often there would be questions asked which affirmed our appraisal of the candidate. They might be posed about class size, the aptitudes of our students, or the curriculum they would be teaching. Strong candidates embedded their knowledge in the questions they posed.

Sometimes a candidate asked a question that reflected savviness. "How do you support teacher growth?" was one such question, as was, "Are multiple intelligences reflected in your faculty meetings?" Every once in a while, a candidate would ask a really fun question: "What qualities are you seeking in teachers that are different than those you sought a decade ago?" And, of course, some candidates would evince zero smarts by leading with questions about employee benefits or vacation days.

You may not be formally interviewing folks for employment, but you are assessing "candidates" quite often. Is this someone with whom I trust my insurance needs? Do I want her to paint my walls? Is she a person I want cleaning my molars? Can I trust my child with her? Do I want to spend an hour or more over coffee getting to know him? Would I like to work for her or with him? Is she someone with whom I might want to develop a relationship?

To be fair, possessing a scholastic degree doesn't end scrutiny but seeing a diploma in my dentist's office is necessary for me to open wide. Likewise,

boarding a plane in which the pilot wears a company uniform with some gold stuff on his shoulders is comforting. But regardless of whether someone is applying for a formal position or you are considering a new relationship, you can get a lot more information and insights by determining what they want to know. Understanding what's

on their mind will help reduce uncertainties in your mind.

A further Hawkeye tip: Rather than "What questions do you have?" try asking, "What surprised you?" It's a great way to open their inner doors; it doesn't steer or confine a response in any way. Give it a try, and happy questioning and listening to you!

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