

# The *TIMES* of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 50, No. 2

Summer 2020

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

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## Food for the Summer

By June Vaughn

First Friday food donations for our local food pantries at least doubled during the months of April and May in response to appeals to increase support for food pantries during the pandemic. Kudos to you, Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighbors, which is the identity attached to these donations. On the weekend of the First Friday in each month, food donations may be left on the front porch of 6163 Westminster Place from Friday morning until Sunday evening. These will be delivered to food pantries at New Cote Brillante Church of God and Grace United Methodist Church, alternating monthly. The e-mail list for the 6000 and 6100 block of Westminster receives a reminder earlier in the week. People from other streets and blocks who are aware of this practice are welcome and encouraged to donate.

Beginning with First Friday in June, donations may also be left on the front porch of 6174 McPherson for the convenience of residents in that area. These donations will be delivered each month to Grace Methodist Church. If neither location is convenient for you, please consider volunteering to offer your services to collect food donations in your area to deliver to the nearest food pantry. If you have questions about the process, please call Grady and June

*Food for the Summer continued on page 5*

## Skinker DeBaliviere Teachers Rise to Distance Learning Challenges

By Cristina McGroarty

By Cristina McGroarty  
In the last days of February, COVID-19

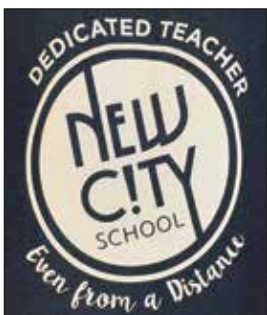
became a topic of conversation in teacher workrooms not only in St. Louis but around the world. As many schools prepared for spring break, conversations about the virus became ubiquitous.

I teach in the Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing at Saint Louis University. I gave my midterm exam for my Child Health Nursing course to seventy-seven Junior level students on Wednesday, March 4th. One student who had not performed as she had hoped on the exam came to my office to talk about her results. I never imagined that she would be that last student I saw in person for the rest of the semester.

SLU broke for spring break that Friday. I spent the next week in continual meetings as we played out the scenarios and kept an eye on the news. One week later, on Friday, March 13, we were all learning to navigate our New Zoom accounts.

None of us returned to the classroom for the rest of the semester.

The same scenario played out across the world. We all know how the 2019-2020 school year ended. Some parents worked from home; others continued at the workplace as essential workers. Thousands of students learned from home,



## Development Roundup

By Richard Bose

### Link in the Loop

Pace Properties is wrapping up the Link in the Loop building at the northwest corner of Delmar and Skinker replacing a gas station that occupied the corner for 50 years. The reopening of the sidewalks on Delmar and Skinker is most welcome. The CVS Pharmacy is finally open! The development received a \$4.4M TIF. The project fulfills the long held desire reflected in numerous plans to replace the gas station with a traditional building and to add a pharmacy to the area.

### 6190 Delmar

Green Street, developer of several buildings around St. Louis including Chroma in Forest Park Southeast, is considering a hotel for the southeast corner of Delmar and Skinker.

### 5799 Delmar at Hamilton

Design Alliance is rehabilitating the long vacant building, once occupied by Pete's Shur Sav, and moving their offices there. Principal David Mastin says he hopes to move in by the end of the summer. Washington University now owns their current building and parking lot at 6010 and 6006 Delmar.

### 310 DeBaliviere

Lux Living, the developer of the completed Tribeca and under construction Chelsea



Link in the Loop



Vacant lot at Delmar and Skinker



5799 Delmar



310 DeBaliviere Demo

*Development continued on page 3*

simultaneously finding any way they could to at least virtually connect with their teachers.

The entire world changed, seemingly overnight. As a teacher it was jarring, stressful, time consuming, rewarding, beautiful, humbling and just about every other adjective you use to describe something unexpected, awe-inspiring and awful all at once.

I had to move my nursing course content online and still make sure my students stayed engaged. I had to teach students to be nurses without patients. The challenges popped up overnight, and they just kept coming. Some of them we could predict and plan for, others left us blindsided.

As with most everyone these last ten weeks, we have been trying to adjust and readjust and readjust again to life at home. I find myself wishing these days away and trying to savor every family dinner and the time spent together. There have been struggles and blessings and beauty that have emerged.

My own children participated in distance learning and after day three of week one I realized what an enormous amount of work distance learning was going to be and had been from their own teachers' perspectives. I told them every day, before you get off that Zoom call, or when you sign off an email to thank their teachers.

If you live in Skinker Debaliviere, then I am sure you know a teacher or two who moved their entire classroom online in a matter of days. I spoke to just a few of the many teachers in our neighborhood to find out about their experiences. If you have a minute to ask your friendly neighborhood teacher how they adjusted, what they missed and what went well, I suggest you do it. You will see the heroism of our teachers

firsthand.

What are the main challenges you have had teaching from home?

Each teacher I spoke to mentioned how they missed the personal contact. Lecturing to a computer is just not the same as a lecture hall full of half awake college students, sassy middle schoolers or wriggly kindergarteners. Teacher Lisa Horner spoke to what each of the teachers mentioned when she said, "We certainly don't choose to become teachers so that we can sit in front of a computer all day. The hallmark of good teachers is the relationship they create and nurture with their students. Relationships are really fundamental to teaching."

Julie Schoemehl is a teacher in the Rockwood School District and talked about a variety of challenges including technology, parents' schedules, trying to keep learning interesting and engaging for her 2nd graders and the most important aspect of teaching: human connections. "Everything I love about teaching is gone. No hugs, smiles, jokes, stories, pictures, creative ideas... No seeing the lightbulb when a concept is learned. Reading to a screen did not have the same feel. I looked forward to my class Zoom meetings so we could see each other, laugh, share happy thoughts and play a game," Schoemehl said.

Pattie Voss, a school counselor, talked about the loss of connection with her students, "As the school social worker, so much of my job depends on connecting with students and families in-person. At school, a child's behavior and body language are the main indicators that they are struggling in some way. Communicating through emails, phone calls or google-hangout chats was helpful, but even virtual face-to-face conversations are no replacement for being

*SD Teachers Respond continued on page 2*

## Editor's Notes

By Linda Cross

A significant portion of this issue is dedicated to the unprecedented pandemic of Covid-19, how it is affecting our lives, and our reactions to those effects. Families are missing significant milestones, our most vulnerable are losing their income, and we are all missing our community. For me, I have found that my personal weaknesses are just being exacerbated. My two biggies are stress and guilt. They have been my nemeses since birth. I have worked from home for nearly twelve years so in theory not much should have changed for me, however, I feel guilty that I still have a job but filled with anxiety over the unpredictable future and the state of divisiveness of our country. How can we conquer what is ahead if we are not united? How can people not listen to scientists and experts to determine our best course of action? These things are keeping me up at night and causing me to lose focus and motivation. To defeat my inner demons, I am making a concerted effort to see any good that is coming out of this situation. I love neighbors sitting on their lawns safely having happy hours. I am happy that now my main source for food is my neighborhood grocery that I can walk to with my daughters and the and fruit and vegetable stand that my husband has been supporting for years. I am grateful for the additional time that I get to spend with my family who were all furloughed from their jobs, walking every day, learning new board games, and binge-watching new TV shows. I am thankful that the slowdown in events has allowed for our family to work on some home projects that have been put off for years - even if I do miss seeing my friends at the events. I am so appreciative of all the food and supply drives that our neighbors have created to support the community. I cry happy tears every single time I see people cheering our first responders and those working on the front line. And comically, I really enjoy all the reunion performances from my favorite past television and Broadway shows because now the casts have nothing on their plates to interfere with coordinating calendars. This is hard, really hard, but we are stronger together. Some of the most difficult things to do involve self-care. We have an amazing community; if you need something there are so many people that want to help. Please know that you can reach out. Remembering that makes this a little bit easier.

## SD Teachers Respond *continued from page 1*

in the physical presence of kids.”

Shelley Parker teaches at SIUE and talked about the difficulty transitioning to working from home. “The biggest challenge in the beginning was making the switch. Establishing new routines and some order. As the expectations that we become better and better at this requires more time learning and updating existing courses. The CURRENT challenge is knowing how to draw some boundaries so that this job does not become even bigger and more time consuming. There have already been many days I realize only after a stretch that I have been putting in a 12-hour day. That is fine - for some days - but not for every single day of the week. We want to do well for our students, but to do that sustainably, we have to keep ourselves in good shape too.”

Sarah Solverud, who teaches middle school went above and beyond to keep her students engaged. After weekly video lessons, she reached out to each and every student individually through a variety of means. Sarah said, “Although I was giving personalized attention, it did not seem very personal since I was far away.” That is dedication. Her going above and beyond paid off as Solverud spoke to the strengthened connections within the classrooms she looks forward to next year.

Chanaya Jacobs teaches at New City School and shared her challenges, “One challenge for me was to redesign existing and create a new curriculum for my young students to navigate independently. Having a limited amount of face-to-face minutes with my students posed another challenge. I could meet with students one-on-one, but it was difficult to show what I was saying and see what they were writing. The camera and share-screen features helped, but it took more time than when in-person.”

What's the biggest surprise reaction from the students?

Pattie Voss was surprised at the number of students who seemed surprised by how much they missed being at school. “The middle schoolers, of all people, were the most vocal about it.” Pattie reported.

For Julie Schoemehl, the most surprising things related to distance learning involved her students' progression. “My students who were struggling actually showed more progress and improvement,” she said. “One reason may be that my struggling students now had added support from home, they could make their own schedule, work at their own pace and no judgement from peers. Whereas my high achievers struggled, not only with the change of schedule & workload but also with the lack of notoriety and status in the classroom”

When asked about the positive aspects of distance learning, Schoemehl talked about renewed family connections. “Overwhelmingly the fact that families have slowed down and connected again,” she said. “I am thrilled with the answers I received when I asked my students what they liked best-playing catch everyday with my dad, morning bike rides with my family, learning to cook dinner...etc.”

Sarah Solverud's measures to stay in contact with her students is something she sees as benefitting her classroom next school year. “Since I was constantly connecting with the students and parents, I feel like it strengthened our relationships. I was able to lean in on a few of my students who may have started to back off their work, and encourage them with love to stay connected. Since I will teach most of these students again next year, I hope that these connections with my students as well as their parents will create an even stronger community in our classrooms next year.”

Chanaya Jacobs explained that “the biggest positive is my appreciation of how hard my students are willing to work, and the parents' appreciation of how much I do for their children. I felt an even stronger partnership with families.”

This experience will make each and every teacher a better teacher. This experience has shown what heroes all of our teachers are. They are essential workers who put their heart and soul into their work, and form the future through our children.

Shelley Parker spoke beautifully to what I believe most of us hope to be true of our own experience with this time at home social distancing. May this positive slant ring true for all of us.

“The most positive thing that has come out of this situation so far, is the level of gratitude and appreciation I feel every day,” she said. “I find I have this for everyone and everything, especially the rather simple things. I am grateful to have tea in the morning, grateful to have a wonderful neighborhood that I enjoy getting to spend more time in, grateful for the garden and the life that continues in spite of everything.”

Thank you to all of our teachers.



## CELEBRATION UPDATE

Due to Covid-19 we are postponing our 50th Anniversary celebration until a later time. Please look for updates. Thank you so much for your support!

### 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: August 15, 2020**

for our September-October 2020 Issue

Please send copy by e-mail to Linda Cross, [lcross@sdtimes.org](mailto:lcross@sdtimes.org), by disc to 6060 McPherson Ave, 63112.

## The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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*The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere* is published by the West End Publishing Co., a not-for profit, independent, community organization.

Layout: Karen Hilmes Printing: Arcade Printing

Advertising Rates - Display Advertising:

Column width, 2.25". Minimum ad size 2" x 1 col: \$25/insertion.

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## Getting Even

By Dan Rater

After almost sixty years, I finally settled into a normal lifestyle. Then life springs a new normal on me. What's the expression? You can't teach an old dog a new normal? I guess I shouldn't complain. So far, the new normal hasn't affected my health or employment. For that, I'm grateful.

There's a heightened appreciation for food and beverage in the new normal. The family dinner has made a comeback. I remember the old family dinner. It was like a trip to Red Riding Hood's Grandmother's house; a lot of snarling, gnashing and devouring, without so much as an excuse me. Now there's an abundance of sharing, caring and Chardonnay, which is a happy ending. However, COVID-19 is turning into COVID-15 along the waistline. I've had to up my tee shirt game one XL. Couple the flowing gowns, with no haircuts and I'm beginning to look like a Maharishi.

My wife keeps trying to sell me on a picnic. 'Let's eat sandwiches in the grass.' But, I've resisted. I think what she really wants to do is fly a kite. Most people view the kite as an accessory to the picnic. You pack the sandwiches, the deviled eggs, and the poetry, and then throw in a kite for good measure. Yet she requires no sustenance or iambic pentameter, just plenty of string and a swift wind. It's almost like a bait and switch. She contends, 'You'll get some fresh air and exercise. And, it's fun. Remember the Mary Poppins song, 'Let's Go Fly a Kite'? Pretend you're Bert, the Chimney Sweep.' It's not that hard to pretend. I dance like Bert, played by Dick Van Dyke, and he's ninety four. Being supercalifragile is simply quite atrocious.

I have to give her credit though. As long as I've known her, she's been good at making fun. It occurred to me that I haven't been responsible for my own fun, since the summer of '68. I've relied on others to create my fun for me, in one way or the other. Be it the waiter, the ticket taker, the beer vendor, or the soda jerk, never has so much fun been owed to so many. Now there isn't any. How's that for the new normal?

But life is precarious, like the kite dependent on the change of wind. One moment it's soaring and majestic, the next; it's in the dumpster with the deviled eggs. The trick is to manage the wind, and keep it flying, no matter how low it gets.

## THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND: Don't throw out your grass clippings!



By Mark Banaszak and Katrina Stierholz

Spring and early Summer can be difficult times to find space in Yard Waste dumpsters. Lawns grow fast and may need to be mowed as much as twice a week, because of the mild temperatures and wet weather. Cool weather and plenty of rain are perfect growing conditions for the types of grasses many residents have in their lawns.

With such great weather and more mowing, homeowners have piles of grass clippings and want a way to manage them. Homeowners typically put their grass clippings in the waste stream, but there are better ways to handle them—better for your yard and for the environment. In communities with no yard waste stream, grass clippings go to the landfill, and can represent up to 50% of the total collected waste during the greener parts of the year. You could put your grass clippings in a yard waste dumpster. The City of St Louis is fortunate to have yard waste collection; however, keeping your grass clippings is a smarter idea.

One common concern about grass clippings left on the lawn is that they will contribute to thatch. Not true! Clippings left on the lawn do not contribute to thatch if lawns are mowed dry and regularly. Thatch is caused by decomposing roots and underground stems, not grass leaves. If you mow your lawn wet, however, the clippings can keep air and moisture from the growing grass and harm it. If you wait too long to mow, your mower may not be able to chop up grass sufficiently. Longer grass clippings can also mat on the surface, hurting growing grass.

In fact, not only do grass clippings decompose quickly, they are good fertilizer for lawns. Keeping grass clippings on lawns can supply as much as 1/4 of a lawn's nitrogen needs, and doing so over a longer period of time, supports slow, continued growth. Grass clippings are a valuable natural source of nitrogen for plants.

Some gardeners also use grass clippings as mulch. Although not as attractive as wood chip mulch, mulch made of grass clippings protects plants from excessive heat and keeps water from evaporating too quickly from soil, which helps plants survive the hotter part of St. Louis summers. It is important to note that grass clippings that have been recently treated with broadleaf herbicides are not safe for other plants.

Grass clippings make an excellent addition to home compost. They can be layered with kitchen waste in home compost piles. They compost quickly and carry many of the fungi, bacteria, and insects that accelerate the composting process. Clippings can even be used to make compost tea, a common organic gardening liquid fertilizer.

Mow your lawn regularly when the grass is dry, and keep the clippings on the grass. That's how you can work smarter, not harder, this summer and enjoy your beautiful yard.

## Development *continued from page 1*

further east on Pershing, is constructing a six-story building with 150 market-rate apartments, ground-level retail, and 163 parking spaces at 310 DeBaliviere. They will shift the alley currently between 310 DeBaliviere and long-vacant 5637 Pershing to the east and combine the parcels. Completion is expected in 2022. Lux Living is seeking an 80% property tax abatement for 10 years for the \$28.7M project. The building most recently housing St. Louis Italian has been razed.

### Expo at Forest Park

Pearl Companies, the developer of the Hibernia in Dogtown at 6300 Clayton, is constructing two buildings on DeBaliviere. One would replace the strip mall at 301 DeBaliviere since 1988 and the other the Metro parking lot at 5720 DeGiverville. Among the two buildings are nearly 300 market-rate apartments with ground level retail and underground and ground-level parking. Pearl is seeking a grocery store for the five-story 301 DeBaliviere. The southern building will have an amenities deck facing Forest Park with the seven-story building surrounding it in a U shape. Complementary Metro parking will be included in the new development. Pedestrian and bicycle access from DeGiverville to DeBaliviere will be maintained. The city approved a \$12.6M TIF and \$2.8M CID for the \$91M project. Pearl has committed to a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) with the neighborhood. The Metro parking lot closed May 25th for construction. Demolition of the strip mall is imminent.

### WUSTL's holdings on Delmar near the Metrolink Station Expand

Washington University's holdings on Delmar keep growing. The university now owns 5920, 5967, 5977, 6005, 6006, 6007, 6010, 6030, and 6045 Delmar.



310 DeBaliviere Rendering



301 DeBaliviere 1932



301 DeBaliviere Rendering



301 DeBaliviere Sept 1988



6030 Delmar

rendering by Trivers/HOK

photos by MOHNS

rendering by VE Design

photo by TIMES archive

photo by Richard Bose

# News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

## News of Neighbors - May 2020

Hello Skinker DeBaliviere neighbors. I hope this finds you doing well in what undoubtedly has become a very strange year. As we continue to all tip toe through the days of a pandemic, we still have a lot of news to report on our neighbors. Because even in the world of Covid19, life moves on. And while it does, I hope that you are finding some peace at home, getting to know your neighbors more (at a safe distance) and enjoying life at a distance. Whether it's birthday parades, diploma deliveries or just neighbors walking, I know I have found myself even more grateful to be part of this wonderful community we call home.

Before we begin, I want to acknowledge and thank all of our neighbors who are front line workers. We are so grateful to all of you. Whether you work in health care, public transportation, or some other essential business, thank you! We will all get through this by doing our part, caring, and checking in on our neighbors.

Now let's get started with the news of a new baby! Mike and Megan Dahl became the proud parents of a beautiful baby girl Nora Jolene on April 11th. Mike grew up on the 6100 block of McPherson. Proud grandma Ellen Leathers still resides on McPherson.

Warren Rosenblum, resident of the 6100 block of Kingsbury and professor of history at Webster University, was awarded a Fulbright grant to Belgium for research and teaching in Spring 2021. Warren's project, "Between Sympathy and Persecution: The 'Feeble-Minded' in Modern Europe," explores the history of developmental disability in Germany, France, and the Low Countries from the beginnings of mass confinement to the period of mass murder under the Nazis. While researching in Belgian archives and libraries, Warren will also be a guest professor at the Catholic University Leuven.



Warren Rosenblum



Lucy Solomon

And another Fulbright winner has ties to the 6100 block of Kingsbury this year. Interdisciplinary science and media artist Lucy HG Solomon, received the award for a project titled "A Pan-Microbiological Portrait of the Arctic, the Andes and the Amazon." Lucy grew up on the block and is the daughter of Margaret Hermes. Lucy works in the hybrid world of art, science, and technology, making art that examines the relationship between ecosystems and societal systems. She resides in Southern California with her husband and two daughters. They have planned to spend time in Norway, Peru, and Brazil for her Fulbright.

Congratulations to David Garin (6100 block of Westminster), Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, who was presented with UMStL's first ever Faculty Retiree of the Year Award. The award is given in recognition of contributions made to the community since retiring from the university.



David Garin



Dr. Priscilla A. Dowden-White

Dr. Priscilla A. Dowden-White and her daughter Dora Taylor were featured in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch Mother Daughter Look Alike contest. Dr. Dowden-White, an associate professor of history at UM St. Louis was also interviewed on St. Louis on the Air last October about her use

of a James Baldwin novel and how it resonates across campus and the broader St. Louis community, decades after it was written. The conversation also included the perspectives of several UMStL students and faculty members.

Long-time resident and photographer for the Times, King Schoenfeld, 6100 block Westminster, has published a monograph featuring the photography of his father, Irv Schoenfeld, of Milwaukee, WI. King touches on the history of photography, the Ansco Memo camera, his father's early years, the Depression years in Milwaukee and Greendale, as well as a sampling of artistic images made by the senior Schoenfeld.



King Schoenfeld

The book is titled One Man's Camera: The Original Ansco Memo & the Photography of Irv Schoenfeld, available from lulu.com.

King and Dee Schoenfeld, both retired, raised their two sons here. Jeremy is now an architect in Seattle and Jeff is a struggling actor in Madrid where he is an on-line ESL teacher. Their parents are thankful that both remain well in spite of living in corona virus hot spots.

After being furloughed and laid off during their lockdown in London, Anne Leathers (who grew up on the 6100 block of McPherson) and her friend, architect and designer Stefanie Sebald, decided to focus on the basics individuals need most: community, shelter, and most importantly food. They formed All Together International; working with Nike Design Director Anthony Coleman and Creative Director Balwant Ahira, they designed the All Together T-Shirt. The purchase of each t-shirt feeds 20 individuals most affected by Covid-19. 100% of profits for each shirt purchased go in equal parts to their three partners in the UK and the US. They have partnered with three nonprofits, The Felix Project, Meals on Wheels America, and Under One Sky. You can purchase a t-shirt through this link <https://www.alltogether.international/>. Anne is the daughter of Ellen Leathers (our new grandmother mentioned earlier).



Anne Leathers

With the onset of the pandemic, normal life as we knew it, no longer exists. For seniors in high school and college, that has meant that so many of the special events they would have been enjoying this spring were missed; none bigger probably, than their graduations. So now we want to be sure to honor some of our neighborhood graduates for all they have accomplished. We know they have great adventures in their future and being a part of the class

of 2020 will be a strange footnote in their incredible lives.

### Congratulations to all of our graduates!

We are so proud and excited for you and for your families and wish you the best!



Brandon Burton

Brandon Burton received a Masters of Fine Arts from The Yale School of Drama. Brandon is the son Kenneth and Patricia of the 6100 block of Kingsbury.

Jessica Ryan graduated from McGill University in Montreal and is pursuing opportunities in the environment, communications and social entrepreneurship fields. Jessica is the daughter of Jeff and Jamie Ryan of the 6000 block of McPherson.



Jessica Ryan



Danny Grady

Danny Grady, youngest son of Jim and Mary Alice Grady of the 6200 block of Parkview, graduated from Saint Louis University High School (SLUH) and is moving on to Marquette University in the fall.

Sam Mulcahy, son of Andy and Molly Mulcahy, of the 6100 block of McPherson, also graduated from SLUH. He will be studying engineering at the University of Missouri-Columbia.



Sam Mulcahy



Clara Barton

Clara Barton is graduating from Visitation Academy and will be attending Loyola University Chicago in the Fall. She was accepted into the Honors College and will be majoring in Environmental Science and Sustainability.

Clara's proud parents are Jon and Jennifer Barton of Parkview.

Jamie Hogan is heading to Loyola New Orleans where he received the presidential scholarship and the crescent city scholarship to study Urban and Electronic Music Production. Jamie graduated from CBC and is the son of Joe and Beth Hogan of the 6100 block of Kingsbury.



Jamie Hogan



Brendan McGroarty

Back on the 6100 block of Kingsbury, Brendan McGroarty graduated from SLUH and is headed to Denver to continue the family tradition of a Jesuit education at Regis University. Brendan is the second son of Sean and Cristina McGroarty.



Rachel Solverud

Rachel Solverud graduated from Nerinx Hall High School and is going to be entering the Honors College at Mizzou studying biomedical engineering. Her big brother Alec graduated from Mizzou with an Industrial Engineering Degree and will be working at Grimco as a supply chain engineer. Erik and Sarah Solverud of Parkview are incredibly proud parents!



Alec Solverud



Alex Kenyon

Jamie and Theresa Kenyon of the 5900 block of DeGiverville proudly announced their son Alex Kenyon graduated from St. Mary's High School and will be attending Indiana State in the fall.

Aminell K. Gill graduated from Nerinx and will be traveling to study at American University in Paris in the fall.

Aminell is the oldest daughter of Amy and Amrit Gill of the 6200 block of Waterman.



Aminell K. Gill



Meta Stephens

Ann and Mike Stephens, also of the 6200 block of Waterman had two graduates in their family this year too. Meta Stephens graduated from Nerinx Hall and is headed to Fordham University to study political science. Meta's big brother Truman just graduated from Fordham with a degree in international political economy and is headed to the London School of Economics.



Truman Stephens



Maris Ebeling

Maris Ebeling graduated from the University of Dayton and will be starting grad school at Mizzou this summer in physical therapy. Maris is the daughter of Rachel and Sean Ebeling of the 6300 block of Waterman.

Madison Fuller graduated from Crossroads and is off to Mizzou in the fall to study political science/pre-law.

Madison is the daughter of Gerri Fuller and Andrea Watts of the 6100 block of Waterman.



Madison Fuller



Bronte Segura

Bronte Chenaille Segura received a BA in Japanese Language and Literature as well as Gender Queer Studies from The University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington. Bronte is the daughter of Michael and Jacqui Segura of the 6100 block of McPherson.



St. Roch Class of 2020



And many of our neighbors have children attending St. Roch grade school so we are going to give a big shout out to the St. Roch Class of 2020. Their year did not end as planned and unfortunately Corona ale meant the end of their plans to take a Civil Rights trip to Memphis. The students are off to many high schools in the St. Louis area and we look forward to hearing about their accomplishments.

Have I missed your graduate? Please send me the information as we want to celebrate all of our graduates, especially this year.

**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!

# KIDS CORNER

By Susanne and Isabella Knese

Typically I like to include a scavenger hunt or a way to get you outdoor during the summer, but these are not typical times so we wanted to bring you something different. A favorite activity is to visit our wonderful St. Louis Zoo to see all the animals and learn more about them. The Zoo will be opening up again soon, but with safety guidelines for all visitors to keep them and, of course, the animals safe and healthy. If that is outside your comfort zone, many zoos host virtual visits for free where you can enjoy their animals from your computer. Here are just a few sites to check out . . . also plenty of museums offer the same tours so enjoy "getting out there" without leaving your comfort zone. (compliments of Goodhousekeeping.com)

- St. Louis Zoo
- National Aquarium
- Monterey Bay Aquarium
- San Diego Zoo
- The Shedd Aquarium
- Houston Zoo
- Georgia Aquarium
- Atlanta Zoo

Also, don't forget to check out your local library for their summer reading programs!

**Question for September Kids Corner:** What new animals peaked your curiosity at these zoos? If you could be any animal, what would it be and why? What have you been doing to keep busy during quarantine? Read any good books? Please share with us and include your name and submit to kidscorner@sdtimes.org by August 10th! This is YOUR corner, so make it what you want!

## Food for the Summer continued from page 1

Vaughan at 314-863-5477.

Please avoid glass containers when donating to prevent dangerous accidents. Always in heavy demand are canned products, including meats, soups with protein, vegetables, and fruit, as well as canned and powdered milk. Macaroni and cheese packs along with smooth peanut butter and jelly are popular, and also baking mixes and dry foods such as rice, pasta, and beans. Since the homeless are among those served, individual serving containers of all foods are useful. Needed personal care products include toilet paper, toothpaste and brushes, baby wipes, soap, and shampoo. Diapers for babies and large or extra-large for adults are needed.

A spokeswoman for New Cote Brilliante noted that, while presently the number of clients creeps upward monthly, there is a permanent, ongoing need for these services in our community. Hunger is always with us. While previously clients were able to choose from various categories of supplies, now they are given prepacked bags for health safety reasons.

New Cote Brilliante opens its pantry to clients on Tuesdays from 12:00-1:00 PM. The pantry at Grace Methodist is open Tuesdays from 9:45-11:45 AM. All are welcomed at both sites.

In addition, the St. Louis Public Schools have partnered with the City of St. Louis and area charter schools to distribute free meals to students M-F, 8am to noon. Hamilton School is our neighborhood school. For more information, call 345-6900.

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## From Your 28th Ward Alderwoman: Heather Navarro

Over the next few months, we will see how well our efforts at social distancing have slowed the spread of COVID-19, the virus that has taken hundreds of lives in the St. Louis region. The City acted early in reducing crowding and encouraging people to stay home so that first responders could handle the influx of cases from the coronavirus that has made its way across the globe. With a vaccine a ways off and a lack of state and federal leadership, the City has worked to increase the number of testing kits available, especially in the hardest hit areas. While the first cases were being detected in people who traveled internationally, they quickly spread to communities that already faced their unfair share of health and medical burdens. St. Louis was one of the first cities to record the race of people testing positive and dying from the virus. This awareness helped increase resources to communities at greatest risk for contracting the virus.

The work ahead of us is robust contact tracing to monitor people who have come in contact with the virus, to prevent it from spreading, and to provide resources to those affected. I have been inspired by the efforts of health care workers, teachers, parents, musicians, neighbors, grocery store workers, delivery drivers, and so many more who are giving all that they can to help our community get through this together.

Please continue to follow guidelines from the CDC and the City's Health Department regarding social distancing. The City's website, [www.stlouis-mo.gov/covid](http://www.stlouis-mo.gov/covid) and [prearestl.com](http://prearestl.com) are good resources for the most up to date information on testing centers, resources for small businesses, and details on phasing in the reopening of our city. And please contact me with any questions or concerns, [navarroh@stlouis-mo.gov](mailto:navarroh@stlouis-mo.gov).

### 28th Ward Democrats 2018:

Important Primary Election August 4. See our Endorsements at [Ward28STLDems.org](http://Ward28STLDems.org) and sign up for Zoom Meetings. More info at <http://ward28.citywestend.org/index.html>

## STL Village Brings Activities Online

by Liz Backus

During this safer-at-home time, STL Village continues to connect, neighbor to neighbor. Currently, we are getting together virtually for coffee and conversation, happy hours, our listening circle, and to hear guest speakers on a variety of topics. Our terrific volunteers continue to safely provide services to our members, including grocery delivery, friendly calls and technology assistance.

If you'd like to join us for any of our online activities, contact our office at 314-240-5020 or visit [stlvillage.org](http://stlvillage.org) to sign up for our email calendar and learn more about our membership opportunities. As we continue to follow recommended guidelines on social distancing, we look forward to getting together again in person when it is safe to do so.



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## News from The Delmar Loop

By Rachelle L'Ecuyer

There is something unprecedented happening in these unprecedented times, a new restaurant is opening in The Delmar Loop! The team that brought you Sugarfire Smokehouse and the Hi-Pointe Drive-In will debut their new concept, Chicken Out, at 6197 Delmar (northeast corner of Delmar and Skinker) in mid-June. The menu boasts a menu of "faster casual fried chicken" that features chicken sandwiches, fries, mac & cheese and more. The location will have a walk-up window for pick-up that is ideal for a restaurant business right now. Their website is [ChickenOut.com](http://ChickenOut.com) and there you will find links to their social media pages that include updates on menu items.

Mission Taco Joint will be debuting a new restaurant concept at its location in The Delmar Loop, Mission Taco Joint Lite. They will be offering patrons the experience of Mission Taco Joint but in a setting that complies with new health guidelines. Some of the components of the new concept include having guests order from a menu on disposable paper at the bar and pay for meals prior to sitting down. There will be limited indoor seating with barriers separating tables and plexiglass screens at the ordering area and other safety precautions in place. The restaurant will offer a limited food and drink menu, and all offerings will be served in disposable containers. Food going from the kitchen to the table will have a lid, all Mission Taco Joint staff will wear face masks, and there will be sanitizer stations at the front doors, bathrooms and dining rooms. There is a great deal of thought and effort going into making the new restaurant experience safe and enjoyable.

Many of The Delmar Loop restaurants are choosing to stay with curbside pick-up and delivery through the end of May and then they will assess options for returning to full service. As we get into summertime the opportunity to dine Al Fresco will serve as a welcome option. Please connect with The Delmar Loop on social media at @DelmarLoop or check out our website for updates at [VisitTheLoop.com](http://VisitTheLoop.com). Please remember to support our local restaurants, your support means the world to our hardworking businesses!

Other good news, the Link in the Loop building at 6201 Delmar is nearing completion. We are looking forward to CVS Pharmacy opening over the summer. We'll have more updates on the other new tenants soon. Take a stroll over to Delmar to see the new building and while you are there keep strolling to catch the St. Louis Walk of Fame stars and say "hi" to the shop owners and restaurant owners who are reopening. Again, thank you for supporting your neighborhood businesses! Stay well and healthy!

## Recycling—Do's and Don'ts

By Lana Stein

This may be a strange time to address recycling but only 1/2 the energy is used to recycle than to produce material anew.

### DON'Ts

- Never put plastic bags in recycling bin. It damages machinery and items in bag are not recycled.
- Breakdown all boxes from Amazon to cereal. This takes up less space in bin and more neighbors can recycle.

- Put all recycling in bin loose.
- Do not put plastic chairs or other large objects in bins.

### DO's

- Plastic containers can have their tops.
- Rinse all food containers but they do not have to be totally clean. You can recycle peanut butter jars.
- If your glass bottles have metal caps, put them in bin separately.
- Recycle all metal cans.



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### Westminster Wildlife

By Jo Ann Vatcha

Flamingos and a full-size giraffe in Skinker DeBaliviere in the midst of a pandemic? Where else but on Westminster! 7-year old Evelyn stuck the first two in the front yard of grandparents Lois and Vince, and that was followed quickly by neighbor Gale, who put some in her yard and shared others with neighbors. The number grew quickly from there, and now, if you look very carefully you'll find 78 (according to the most recent inventory taken by Evelyn). There's even a stuffed flamingo in one yard! What does it all mean? That's the question several dog-walkers, kid-walkers, and sidewalk strollers have been asking as they amble down Westminster. The neighbors who gather at 4:00 p.m. every day to sit on the lawn and get to know each other better have no answer. Just for fun?

We have also been able to enjoy the artistic work of Gene Gladstone, who first painted a wonderful flamingo on the front glass door. Gene then followed that with a project that has kept us all enthralled, the painting of a giraffe, which fills the two-story window in their home, unique to the neighborhood. Photographer King Schoenfeld, finally home from Tacoma, WA, was persuaded to take these wonderful photos. We look forward to seeing King's photo exhibit, when our TIMES celebration is rescheduled. In the meantime, take your own stroll down Westminster and enjoy the wildlife!



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"We cleaned so much. Come see!"  
"Good times OTW"  
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Photos by King Schoenfeld

Gene Gladstone

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# IN YOUR EAR

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

We humans are a pretty resilient species. We have shown grit throughout our evolution, even before it was a popular term. We've survived natural disasters, famines, economic tsunamis, disreputable and foolish leaders, and now COVID-19. Or am I premature? Thus far we are surviving COVID-19.

Our grit isn't genetic. Despite Hawkeye's contention that personality traits are largely heritable - I have my dad's sense of humor and my mom's positive outlook on life - there's no grit gene. Rather, it's a learned behavior. Thousands of years ago we learned that a bonfire kept wild animals away at night. So fire is a good thing unless there's too much of it. We learned that staying put and farming enabled us to develop some immunities and create hierarchies. (Thanks to Jared Diamond for setting this out in my all-time favorite book, *Guns, Germs & Steel*.) We also learned to protect ourselves against bad leaders by revolts, voting, and keeping tuned to CNN. And now we are facing the biggest threat in our lifetime, not counting Donald Trump.

Beyond its physical and economic tolls (4M cases world-wide and a U.S. jobless rate of 14.7% today), COVID-19 has changed how we work and play. Sheltered In Place isn't a rock group. We are required to wear masks when entering a bank! What's next, beer for breakfast? The roads are empty and our human interactions are six feet away from someone in a mask or they're virtual. What a nightmare.

I wondered if everyone else is having this dream so I emailed friends and neighbors, asking their biggest surprise about shelter-in-place. Their responses are somewhat reassuring. But before you read further, note that this is not a representative group. No respondent has lost their job or contracted the virus yet.

Eric was surprised that most people took sequestering seriously and thought the unrest and protests would start much sooner. Several people were surprised that the time at home has been positive. Sandy notes, "I thought I would be going stir-crazy by now, but I am at peace with sheltering in place. I have stayed busy with work and various projects, and this really helps." Similarly, Chris enjoys "spending time with my two teenage daughters who now need me to play sports, games and generally not go completely bored." Ann also shares the upside, noting "How much fun I have had with my family - the many small projects together, baking, doing jigsaw puzzles, taking walks." Family

pets are the real winners because they're never left alone, but other animals benefit too. Desiree, for example, is surprised how relaxing it is to interact with chickens, and I am sure they enjoy it too.

Alas, having additional time doesn't lead to efficiency. Mary says, "I've had a hard time realizing that I don't have a schedule." Diane is surprised by "How many projects I have listed to accomplish and how many have been so enjoyable to work on, even though I have not completed one." Marty agrees: "Thinking I would get a whole lot of stuff done, but not really getting a whole lot of stuff done." Linda reflects: "On one hand I have worked at home for over 11 years so nothing should have changed, however I am having a difficult time motivating and focusing. On the other hand, I have loved not having as many scheduled commitments outside of the home, fewer meetings, fewer events, and guilt free time to be at home with the family."

Technology, a.k.a. Grace Savings (get it?), is invaluable in our functioning quasi-normally despite our shackles. "Zoom!" says Candace, "I had never even heard of it before, but now I use for social engagements, visits with grandchildren, interviews, and meetings with a volunteer group." That's true for Hawkeye too. I was in 17 Zoom chats last week, I send out Zvites daily, and I completed teaching my UMSL class through Zoom. It's far better than I imagined, but I miss being in the same room with my real students, not their Lilliputian versions.

In some ways, staying apart has brought neighbors together. Some gracious souls on my block asked restaurants to deliver dinners each week, and many folks bring lawn chairs when they pick up the food and eat "together" (note those quotes). "I'm impressed with how friendly and outgoing neighbors have become," says John, and Bob observes "how much more pleasant our surroundings roads and streets are with a vastly diminished amount of vehicular traffic." Rachele concurs, "Despite our distance, we are all staying connected. The support for the community is tremendous! We are going to get through this." Jane captures the contradiction in which we now live: "How I can I enjoy how beautiful, peaceful, and neighborly this year's spring is while at the same time as being so stressed it keeps me awake at night?"

I also asked, "When do you think things will return to normal?" and there was a strong consensus that we don't know, but it will take longer than we imagine and things will never be the way they were. Jim says, "My biggest surprise is

that most people quickly adapt to new situations and don't lose their minds. We are way more flexible than I thought possible." Bob sees the glass as half-full: "I am not anxious at all to return to 'normal,' meaning a world exactly as it

was pre-pandemic. I hope and dream for better than the old normal, a world better than the one we lived in a couple months ago. I want a new normal!" Hawkeye agrees. In the meantime, he'll see you on Zoom.




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