

The *TIMES* of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 50, No. 3

September - October 2020

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

FREE

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

5G Service and New Light Poles

By Jo Ann Vatcha

An email exchange among neighbors prompted some research into what is happening with Verizon's new "small cell poles" to provide 5G service and Wi-Fi access. These new fixtures are planned to be replacing the current "cobra" light poles in our neighborhood, as well as all across the city. One of the first in SD is at 6063 Westminster. This pole is located adjacent to the Rosedale "barricade" between 6100 and 6000 blocks of Westminster. A workman identifying sites recently alarmed residents by suggesting that there would be trenching and tree removal. This led to an email exchange among neighbors of both blocks.

According to Ald. Heather Navarro, the cell service providers (Verizon, ATT) went to Jefferson City and got a new law passed that allows them to do this. The city attempted to stop them with a Board of Public Service resolution to stall permits. BPS is doing all it can during the moratorium (which expires in November) to give the city a say in regulating these poles, but right now it's our state legislators that have tied our hands. "If the city doesn't issue the permits, the providers argue that they are violating state law. We're looking at this from every angle in the meantime," said Ald. Navarro. The new state statute explicitly excludes utility poles from even Historic District regulations, which former Alderman Dan McGuire argues should take precedence.

The city's Technology Officer Roberet Gaskill-Clemmons, who is based in the Mayor's Office, is working to manage this new development, which basically privatizes our light poles. A private company, XG, has been hired to manage the new poles, which will be owned by the city but maintained by the cell companies. There are already over 100 of them in various places in the city. One is at 4400 Maryland (pictured here). Gaskill-Clemmons also wants to make sure that the poles expanding the cell service will be placed in the neighborhoods which now have poor Wi-Fi service, especially important now that so many children are being schooled at home.

Trees will not be removed during the placement of new light/cell poles. The poles also have the capability to have security cameras installed and pedestrian lights, both of which are not automatically done and which will be done with neighborhood input.

Health issues related to radiation have also been raised, and this is an ongoing concern for many, as the proliferation of cell phones has already caused concern. As of now, the city and state cannot negate something which the EPA and FCC have deemed safe.

Although it may be a moot point, due to the utilities' having achieved state legislation, one question is whether any protection is provided by our historic district ordinances. Dan McGuire, who previously served as alderman for the 28th ward, reminded us that "After all, streets and rights-of-way ARE included in historic districts. Section 24.04.030 of the Revised Code of the City of St. Louis pertaining to Cultural



New 5G light pole at 4400 Maryland

photo by Ald. Heather Navarro

Development Update

By Richard Bose

Construction fences are up and demolition of the strip mall on DeBaliviere has commenced for Expo at Forest Park by Pearl Companies. The development consists of two buildings, one replacing the strip mall at 301 DeBaliviere and the other replacing 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. Sidewalks around the perimeter of the site are closed. Left turn lanes on DeBaliviere are replaced by the southbound traffic lane.

Across DeBaliviere excavation and utility work is underway for Hudson by Lux Living, a six-story building with 150 market-rate apartments, ground-level retail, and 163 parking spaces, at 310 DeBaliviere. The sidewalk along the site on Pershing is closed.

Rehabilitation of the new home for Design Alliance at 5899 Delmar (northeast corner with Hamilton) continues.

The long vacant home at 5727 DeGiverville that had its roof removed by the city two years ago is now under rehabilitation.

Washington University plans to finish its latest round of apartment rehabilitations by the end of the year with some ready for occupancy this summer.



5727 DeGiverville



301 DeBaliviere



310 DeBaliviere



5899 Delmar



61XX Pershing

5G Service and New Light Poles
continued on page 2

Editor's Notes

By Linda Cross

Unprecedented. That word can be used to describe nearly every aspect of this year. It can be overwhelming and makes me want to go into a dark place, and I know I am not alone. There are several things that have helped me during this time. One is to utilize my support system. When I want to hide in a cave of my own making, I force myself (or more likely my husband 'nicely encourages' me) to go for a walk. I almost always run into a neighbor and a short five-minute conversation can change my entire outlook. I have also taken a break from social media. I am an impatient person and cannot stand when people share posts that are totally inaccurate and can easily be fact checked. (You have probably figured that out about me after reading an entire front-page article about how to do your non-biased fact checking.) Another thing that has helped me is just venting to like-minded people, usually while drinking a margarita, but conversely I have made a concerted effort to see the viewpoint of those that have an opinion other than my own (as long as it is fact checked.) Finally, I have reached out to professionals where I would not have before. I praise our children for that. A friend of mine who has a daughter who is a psychologist posted a meme about the generational gap when it comes to mental health. First are two fifty-somethings whispering over a fence, "Did you hear that Marge is seeing a...therapist!?" and then two twenty-somethings at a restaurant saying, "You won't believe what my therapist told me!". In this difficult time you can speak to a qualified professional that can help you cope and succeed. You can even do Zoom therapy which is convenient and confidential. If you feel that you are in crisis, you can contact the Missouri Department of Health Crisis hotline at Behavioral Health Response 800-811-4760.

I hope that everyone will utilize all the support that is open to you. Reach out, get out, interact. And if you see that someone else is struggling, reach out to them. I think you will find that your friends and neighbors will be happy to have a reason for a lawn happy hour.

What's Your Plan to Vote?

By Jo Ann Vatcha



You definitely need a plan. If you want to Vote "Absentee" (there are several acceptable reasons to do so) request a ballot today and return it as soon as you can. Info can be found at League of Women Voters and the St. Louis City Board of Elections. You can download an absentee ballot at stlouis-mo.gov. Fill out and mail back as soon as possible. The Board of Election will mail you your ballot starting September 22.

Download and complete the REQUEST FOR MISSOURI MAIL IN BALLOT or REQUEST FOR MISSOURI ABSENTEE BALLOT to vote in the City of St. Louis, State of Missouri.

Determine if your signature needs to be notarized.

If you are voting absentee for any reason other than being disabled, part of the active military, are currently in a foreign country, or have contracted or are in an at-risk category for the coronavirus, you will need to sign your ballot return envelope in the presence of a notary public.

If you are over 65, it makes sense to use the Absentee Ballot option. If it doesn't arrive in sufficient time to mail back, you can then take it to your polling place in person. They will then destroy your absentee ballot and let you vote in person. We tested this option at the primary election when we received the ballot only three days before the election. The poll worker handled it efficiently, and we were able to vote as normal.

Remember, there is a difference between absentee and so-called "mail-in" ballot, which in 2020 needs no reason, but which you MUST have notarized and which can ONLY count if you mail it in or deliver it in person to the election board.

If you choose to go to your own polling place to vote in person, and if you have physical limitations, there is also an option of "curbside" voting. Look for the parking space and call button at the entrance to your polling place.

Here are some helpful dates and information:


- Sept. 22 - Absentee Voting begins @ St. Louis City Board of Elections, 300 North Tucker Blvd.
- Oct. 7 - Last Day to Register Voters
- Oct. 21 - Last Day to Request Absentee Ballot
- Nov. 2 - Last Day for In-Person Absentee Voting (City of St. Louis Election Board, 300 No. Tucker)
- Nov. 3 - ELECTION DAY!

STL Village Celebrates Six Years with Virtual Event

During the pandemic, STL Village has continued to care for older adults in our community who would otherwise be isolated. Whether shopping for groceries, providing safe rides to doctor appointments or connecting members through our online events and friendly phone calls, our volunteers and staff have kept the light shining for the most vulnerable in our community.

We invite you to support our community of caring by attending our online event, Village Aglow: A Celebration of Light, Monday, September 21, 7 p.m. Enjoy music, poetry, ballroom dancing and a special performance by the St. Louis Story Stitchers. Event donations benefit our critical mission of ensuring older adults have a voice and a choice in how they live and engage in their own community. We do this through programs that bridge generations to strengthen the emotional, physical, and mental well-being of residents of all ages.

Contact STL Village at 314-240-5020 or visit stlvillage.org for information on viewing this event.



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: October 15, 2020

for our November-December 2020 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.

News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

September 2020

How are we holding up neighbors? I truly hope that you are all doing okay; physically, mentally, and emotionally. My May column was a long one as we celebrated so many of our neighborhood graduates. This column, is a little shorter, as it seems so many of us are more focused on being at home. Life is definitely different in 2020. But, I also know that being home has inspired some people to take on new projects or hobbies, so maybe for the next issue, you can share with us some of what you have done. What big (or little) projects have you taken on? Any new hobbies; baking, biking, sewing, or others? I would love to hear from you and share it with our neighbors.



Michael Holohan

Michael Holohan, of the 6000 block of Westminster, has retired from 20 years of teaching in the atelier at St. Michael School and more than 25 years working in an approach to learning which originated in Reggio Emilia, Italy. He's converted the family room of his home into a studio, complete with a printing press and a number of projects already underway. Michael has also recruited Rhea, his studio assistant (pictured with him), to join him in retirement. Both Rhea and Michael miss the students very much, but the time was right. Michael looks forward to volunteer teaching opportunities, some delayed home improvement projects, making art, and has renewed his fishing license.



Claire Rater

Some of you may remember reading about the adventures of Claire Rater while serving in the Peace Corps in Africa. Claire's visit was cut short due to Covid19 and she has now moved to Juneau, Alaska as an AmeriCorps volunteer. Claire will be doing something in public health, helping with access to health care. Her roommates

are also evacuated peace corps volunteers but from other countries in Africa. She will be there for one year and then plans on going to graduate school in public health. Claire is the oldest daughter of Dan and Molly Rater of Kingsbury Square.



Another St. Roch and Rosati Kain alum is also serving in Americorps this year.

Sarah Cross is headquartered in Vicksburg, MS, where she just completed eight weeks of leadership training and has started her first assignment with her team in Norton, VA. Sarah will lead a team of nine that are cleaning waterways and trail building in a 1,000-acre recreational facility. This will be the first of four remote assignments for Sarah's team. Sarah is the daughter of Andy and Linda Cross of the 6000 block of McPherson.



Sarah Cross



Terry Vanicelli

tried to comfort the prep nurse who had trouble finding a blood vessel for the drip by telling her he would stick with her and singing his version of Carly Simon's song, "You're No Vein". Terry is doing well with his recovery.

On a sad note, Darryl Richardson of the 6100 block of McPherson passed away on July 24. His son Darius shared that there was a virtual Memorial Service for Darryl on Friday, August 7. Our condolences go out to his son and entire family.



Darryl Richardson

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!

BeLeaf Dispensary Coming

The SDCC Commercial Districts Committee, chaired by Rachelle L'Ecuyer, Executive Director of the Delmar Loop Business District, recently met to finalize support for the conditional use permit for a new plan for 6166 Delmar, vacant for over 15 years. The new venture will include a major renovation of the property completed with private dollars, to be completed by February 2021. Formerly Olivet Baptist Church, the building was previously proposed to be an African American Cultural Center. But after 15 years of vacancy and vandalism, including a fire, that plan was folded into a larger effort by the Missouri History Museum. Now Joe Edwards, who is currently finalizing plans for the adjacent vacant lot as a Mini-Golf site, has purchased the old church building and is working with BeLeaf on plans to rehabilitate it. Swade is a medical marijuana dispensary operated by BeLeaf. BeLeaf was ranked number 2 in the State of Missouri in the application process for dispensaries of medical marijuana. This will be one of 5 facilities in the St. Louis area. A secure facility, the new shop will be accessible only from Delmar and will have security to ensure entrance only by patients with approved prescriptions. It is a Medical facility and a State issued card will be needed to purchase items from it. For more information, contact SDCC at 862-5122 or www.swadecannabis.com.

Welcome New SDCC Director Mike Reid

By Lana Stein

The SDCC board of directors has selected Mike Reid as its executive director. He will be working part time during the pandemic. Mike is a native St. Louisan who grew up in Laclede town and the West End. In earlier days, he lived here on DeGiverville. His home now is a short walk away on Cabanne in a residence designed by the architect of Union Station.



Mike Reid

Mike is a strong fan of the arts in St. Louis. His mother sang at the MUNY. He mentioned the artists in our neighborhood and in the Delmar Loop which make us an attractive area.

Mike has worked for a number of community organizations, including Volunteers for Peace, the Mark Twain Community Alliance, and the Union Community anchored by three churches.

A principal goal of Mike's is to reunite our community in the post-Covid environment. Because of the pandemic, many neighborhood events have been canceled. Gatherings have served to bring neighbors together. Mike notes that we have to work really hard to maintain our stability. Hopefully, as the virus decreases, we can gather again and meet Mike.

Getting Even

By Dan Rater

I think it's safe to call 2020. There's no need for recounts, heartfelt eulogies, or top ten lists. Let's pull the plug, plunge the dagger, and listen to the bariatric lady clear her pipes. In the words of an ancient British statesman, 'Depart I say; and let us have done with you. In the name of God, go! And don't let the door hit your ass on the way out!'

The year has unfolded like a Charles Dickens novel. I ate my Christmas dinner, went to bed, and woke up Scrooged. Now my dreams are haunted by the Ghosts of COVID Past, Present and Future.

When the clock strikes 1:00am, the friendly Ghost of COVID Past, transports me back to the cafeteria at work. I giggle with excitement when I see the Build Your Own Salad Bar. 'Look, over there!' I cry in amazement. 'There's the guy who sticks his nose in the soup tin to give it a whiff.' The ghost reminds me, the clock is ticking, so I bare hand a lemon wedge for my tea. The checkout person weighs my salad, and sees no need to put their thumb on the scale. I watch people dance gaily, amongst the condiments, before I'm jolted back to reality.

The clock strikes 2:00am, and I hear the nagging voice of the Ghost of COVID Present. 'Come on, get up! Wash your hands, take your temperature, grab a mask, and keep your distance.' We go back to the cafeteria, but this time, I'm standing in the salad line holding a cardboard tray. The line keeps moving

forward, with signs reminding you, 'Four Toppings Only.' I arrive at the Plexiglas window, and the person in the hazmat suit asks for my toppings. Communication is garbled between, mask, plastic, and face shield; therefore, my toppings come out all wrong. I start to complain, but the Salad Reaper points a long, slender tong at the sign; 'Four Toppings Only.'

I toss and turn in bed, waiting for 3:00am. It's not the beets from the salad that keep me awake; I fear the Ghost of COVID Future the most. I get up before the alarm, and go out to meet the apparition. It takes me to a desolate place, I barely recognize. It's the cafeteria, but the grill is closed, the pizza station is boarded up, and all that's left are prepackaged items with questionable expiration dates. The Spirit points to an egg salad sandwich, indicating my time is up. I swipe my card through the card reader, and implore, 'Spirit, are these shadows of things that will be, or could be?' It shrugs, as if to say, 'That's up to you.'

I always wake up in a cold sweat. I run to the window, and throw it open wide, to make sure the sun has come up. In the street a man is hustling by. 'Excuse me, my fine fellow.' I shout out. 'What day is today?' He looks up and replies, 'Why, it's a brand new day sir.' I chuckle to myself, and say, 'What an intelligent man.' What's your name?' I inquire. He answers back, 'It's Dr. Tiny Tony Fauci. God bless us, every one.'

DOORS OF HOPE

Skinker DeBaliviere neighbor Andy Cross recently contributed to the National Cancer Society's 42 Doors of Hope Campaign that raises awareness and funds for the Hope Lodge, a place where families can stay free of charge in the Central West End while their loved ones are undergoing cancer treatment in St. Louis.

Per the cancer society's website, 'As part of the Hope is Home initiative, the society has partnered with local artists to create 42 doorways, symbolizing the 42 guest suites available at the new facility.'

Andy painted his door in honor of his friend and St. Roch choir director Keith Ballentine who has been undergoing extensive cancer treatment while still composing music and directing the musical faith journey.

Andy's door can be viewed at CareSTL, 5471 Dr. Martin Luther King Dr. St. Louis, MO 63112 and is entitled A Gift of Hope and Peace. You can visit the American Cancer Society at <https://www.hopeishome.org/42-doors-of-hope> for more information.



Doors of Hope painted by Andy Cross

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND: Plan for Winter Wildlife!



By Mark Banaszak

Gardeners often begin by gardening for their own use, and with time realize that certain gardening practices and plant choices provide food and protection for wildlife, especially birds, over the fall and winter. Fall is a key season for this. A few simple steps taken now can make your yard and garden a haven for wildlife.

Many people clean out their gardens in the fall, but may do too much, making it barren for birds and wildlife. Raking leaves and deadheading flowering plants may things look tidy, but also destroys habitat for the insects that feed birds over the winter.

Using leaf litter to mulch planting beds is a great way to attract wildlife. Leaf litter often contains seeds and insects that birds welcome as food sources once the weather grows cold.

Rather than removing dry plant stems before winter, keep them, as many of these contain seed heads that birds look for as fall turns to winter. Standing seed heads can not only look dramatic in the winter, but also attract birds.

Leaving hedges and shrubs unpruned until the end of winter is another common wildlife gardening strategy. This provides birds shelter and gives them time to get all the berries. Providing water with a bird bath and food in the coldest months in bird feeders helps bird by ensuring that they are healthy in the spring when nesting season arrives. Try to use squirrel resistant bird feeders (note the use of the word resistant; almost nothing is squirrel-proof).

Missouri natives are preferred plants to attract wildlife. Choosing Missouri native plants makes sense because these plants are common food sources for Missouri wildlife. There are many Missouri native plants to choose from. Lists of wildlife friendly are available from Grow Native!, Missouri Botanical Gardens, and the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Some common native shrubs are Winterberry, Beautyberry, Nannyberry, Witchhazel and Pagoda Dogwood. Included in many lists of Missouri native grasses that support wildlife are Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Switchgrass, Indian Grass and Prairie Dropseed. Missouri native flowering plants that can be left standing over the winter include Purple Coneflower, Blazing Star, Rudbeckia, Wild Bergamot and many types of Sunflowers.

By using leaf litter, leaving plant stems standing, pruning at the end of winter and choosing Missouri native plants, you can make sure your garden or yard has visual interest for you and food sources and shelter for birds and insects through the cold winter months. Your garden planning helps our winter wildlife.

COVID Testing

Preparestl.com is a great resource for information. If you need or want to get a COVID 19 test, here's some of what is available. In addition to the nearby sites listed below, Walgreen's and some CVS pharmacies, as well as some Urgent Care facilities, have this capability. One of those might be a good resource if you just wish to get a test even without symptoms.

If you do have symptoms of the virus and want to get tested, call your healthcare provider first. Then call one of the many test sites before visiting, and make sure to bring personal identification. The sites listed below are close to our neighborhood. There are others listed on "PrepareSTL.com".

- Affinia Health Care (6 locations) – 314-833-2777
- Betty Jean Kerr People's Health Center (11642 W. Florissant Ave.) – 314-627-5405
- BJC Healthcare – 314-747-3000
- Family Care Health Centers (4352 Manchester Ave.) – 314-531-5444

If you have general questions about testing locations in the City of St. Louis, call 314-657-2777 or go to PrepareSTL.com.

KIDS CORNER

By Susanne Knese

After writing this column for 7 years, I am saying farewell to my journalism "career". I have really enjoyed writing for you and exploring our neighborhood through the eyes of a kid. If you are interested in taking over Kids Corner, please reach out to Linda Cross at lcross@sdtimes.org.



OF COURSE we can't forget that Halloween is coming . . . and things maybe a little different BUT still wanted to keep you all safe with these reminders!

- Trick or Treat during the designated hours of 6:30 – 8.
- Only go to homes that have a front porch light on!
- A long standing tradition in St. Louis is asking kids for a trick, joke or song then are rewarded with goodies . . . so get ready to charm!
- Children should be accompanied by an adult; older children should be in pairs or groups.
- Look BOTH WAYS when crossing streets . . . drivers are speeding through our streets looking at houses, not the road.
- Hold a flashlight or even a glow stick when trick-or-treating so you can see others and they can see you.
- Wear well-fitting masks, costumes and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips and falls.
- Very tempting but do NOT eat opened candy, especially if you found it on the ground! Yuck!
- Please be careful out there and have FUN!

Question for September Kids Corner: Send them to kidscorner@sdtimes.org by October 10th

THANK YOU

The Volunteer Staff at the Times would like to sincerely thank Suzanne for her dedication to the enrichment of the children in our neighborhood by making this paper interesting and accessible to more than just adults. Her puzzles, scavenger hunts, and stories have encouraged kids to read the paper and have pride in our wonderful neighborhood. Thank you Suzanne from the bottom of our hearts!



5G Service and New Light Poles

continued from page 1

Resources and Historic Districts states, "Improvement' means any building, structure, parking facility, street, highway, walk, fence, landscaped area, gate, wall, work of art or other object, the use of which requires a location on a parcel of land and which constitutes a physical betterment of, attachment to, or alteration of real property, or any part of such betterment, attachment or alteration." Further, pursuant to Section 17.02.510 of the Revised Code, " 'Street' means the entire width between the adjacent property lines of every way, including a controlled access highway, but not an alley. The right-of way is part of the street! While City, State & Federal governments and, in some cases, certain other public entities, are exempt from complying with Zoning and Historic District ordinances (that's one reason why we no longer have "brick streets and gas lanterns for street lights") - private, for-profit companies (like "wireless providers") are NOT!"

Permits: Section 24.20.010 - Permit required in historic district or landmark/landmark site: no owner or other person shall construct, demolish or alter any designated feature or exterior architectural feature with respect to any improvement situated within an historic district, ...unless a permit obtained therefore from the Building Commissioner. The Building Commissioner shall immediately upon receipt of any such application for permit forward a copy of such application to the Cultural Resources Office for review."

McGuire has suggested that our alderperson(s) request that "BPS revoke the modified utility pole permit for 6063 Westminster since it was not issued consistent with state law & city ordinances pursuant to Article XIII, Section 5 (b) of the City Charter." These new cell poles are, in the opinion of many, subject to any applicable zoning requirements that are consistent with sections 67.5090 to 67.5103.

We've posted ordinances and state law on our website, <http://www.sdtimes>. For up to date information, contact SDCC, Alderperson Navarro (28th ward) or Alderperson Hubbard (26th ward).



PROUD TO BE A
**SKINKER
DEBALIVIERE**
RESIDENT!

**RACHEL
BOXDORFER**

Congratulations to the Times for 50 Years of Community!

Excited to introduce Will Springer to the...



c: 314-691-0538 | o: 314-872-6641 | rboxdorfer@bhhsall.com

www.BoxdorferSpringerTeam.com

From Your 28th Ward Alderwoman: Heather Navarro

The Board of Aldermen went on summer recess in July and many of the issues I know Skinker-DeBaliviere residents are following will be taken up again on September 18 when the Board resumes. We managed to pass a bill (BB 92) that I co-sponsored that plans for the closure of the Medium Security Institute, or the Workhouse. We appropriated approximately \$64,000,000 in funds to respond to COVID (BB 49), including funding for testing, contact tracing, rental and utility assistance, emergency shelter, small business support, and more. We also passed a bill that limits the delivery fees that third-party services can charge (BB 27) and finalized the redevelopment plan for the new Major League Soccer stadium (BB 74). I was a "yes" vote on all of those bills.

We left off in July debating whether to put an airport privatization bill on the November ballot (BB 71), whether to place a vote to overturn ward reduction on the April ballot (BB 77), and what sort of process the city should have for regulating government surveillance systems (BB 95). I voted "no" on preliminary votes of the first two and will be working with the sponsor of the surveillance bill to consider the implications for neighborhood camera systems administered by special taxing districts. I also look forward to advancing short-term rental legislation, which has been in the works for years and to pushing our city's goals on reducing our carbon footprint and adopting energy saving measures that benefit our health and our pocketbooks.

As many of you have heard, I have decided to step down from my role as Executive Director of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment. I have led the 50-year, statewide environmental advocacy organization for almost the last eight years and it will always be one of the highlights of my life. I look forward to applying what I have learned there to better serve the 28th Ward and the City of St. Louis as we dismantle systemic racism, increase government effectiveness, and build a more resilient city. I am always eager to collaborate and the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood has no shortage of advocates, activists, and partners. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you!

Don't forget to vote on November 3! You can vote by mail this year - check the deadlines and make a plan to get your ballot in or get to the polls. Contact me with any questions, 314.622.3287 or navarroh@stlouis-mo.gov.

News from The Delmar Loop

By Rachelle L'Ecuyer


Do you have a pandemic? What course are you taking to navigate our new normal? The Delmar Loop businesses are working hard to serve you and your family and manage restrictions that have now changed several times. We are all doing our best to make sure that your visit to Delmar is safe. Curbside pick-up is still available at almost all of the restaurants and many offer "touchless takeout". Treat yourself and your family and order a meal (or two) from one of our great restaurants!

In the last issue, we mentioned that Chicken Out had opened at 6197 Delmar and CVS is now open at 6211 Delmar. We have more to look forward to! The Commercial Districts Committee recently reviewed and approved two more new businesses. Swade, 6166 Delmar, is a medical marijuana dispensary operated by BeLeaf. BeLeaf was ranked number 2 in the State of Missouri in the application process for dispensaries. 6166 Delmar where the business will open in February, has been vacant for over 15 years, the new venture will include a major renovation of the property completed with private dollars and will be completed by February 2021. Also coming in February 2021 is iTap. They will be opening at 6219 Delmar and offer beers from around the world. Their unique set-up also allows customers to order food from neighboring restaurants while sampling the array of brews.

Keep your eyes open, we are anticipating several new retail operations to open soon, too! One is Backing Blacks at 5901 Delmar. Owned by LaBrecia and Kevin Straub of Elevated Learning Academy, Backing Blacks will feature products by Black-owned businesses. The business joins the critical mass of Black-owned businesses in the Delmar Loop, there are close to 30! August is Black Business Month and we have been celebrating! Check out the webpage at VisitTheLoop.com/Black-Business-Month.

Finally, more good news for the Delmar Loop, Washington University plans to house students at the Moonrise Hotel and the Everly during the school year. This will bring some foot traffic to the area and help support our businesses. The students will arrive in late August and also in mid-September.

Stay calm and carry out!



28th Ward Democrats 2020:
 Know your safe voting options and what's on the ballot
 Zoom mtgs: Sept. 17 & Oct. 15
 More info on FB & <http://ward28.citywestend.org/index.html>



We now have Online Ordering!

- Place your pick-up order on our website
- Come grab 'n go!

6504 Delmar in The Loop ★ 314-727-4444 ★ BlueberryHill.com

Mike Faille - the Talayna

By Jo Ann Vatcha

The developments now underway on DeBaliviere have made me think of the 60's on the illustrious, often infamous "DeBaliviere Strip". We've previously written about the grand Garavelli's Restaurant and the Stardust Lounge on the west side, as well as the Parkmoor on the east side. We also had a wonderful interview with Rita L'Ecuyer Cohen, who lived among the excitement and roller skated around DeBaliviere, soaking it all in. Rita knew the Kollias family, Greek immigrants who had a "watermelon garden restaurant" in the 20's and 30's at the southeast corner of Pershing and DeBaliviere. There were other small restaurants at that site all the way to the 60's. That's when an industrious young man started his pizza empire there.



Photo from Faille Obituary



Photo from TIMES archives

That young man was Mike Faille of Talayna's. What a unique individual he was, and what memorable restaurants he created, most of them right here in our neighborhood. He told writer Jeanette Cooperman (St. Louis Magazine, November 2011) that he was born at 1028 Hamilton, worked at Sorrento's (corner of DeBaliviere and Waterman), and opened his own pizza place at 304 DeBaliviere in 1964. Then he moved across the street to 315 DeBaliviere (as Pepe's Pizza?) from 1965-1968. That was a tumultuous time on DeBaliviere, and in 1968, he moved to his most memorable location at Skinker and Forest Park Parkway. In the 70's, 304 DeBaliviere on the east side was replaced by a Burger Chef, then a Pasta House, followed by a great restaurant in the 80's called Redel's.



Photo from Lost Tables.com

Talayna's was a St. Louis fixture for nearly 30 years at the Skinker corner. In 1997, when WU bought and redeveloped the Skinker property, Faille went back to his roots, buying his original 304 DeBaliviere location from the Redel's owners for a purported \$800,000. He stayed there for a few years, selling the property (but not the name!) in 2011.

The food: Here's how he described it: "Good pizza is crispy. Right amount of sauce and cheese, good sauce, good cheese, good spices. The dough is proofed, not too old, but not too fresh or it won't rise, it'll get doughy, dark on the outside and raw on the inside... Some people might use all provol cheese, which is not good, and they use a conveyor oven. I use a stone oven... No one goes through what I go through."

The decor on Skinker: After he expanded to the whole first floor, the decor was, shall we say, bold. Stained glass windows from a demolished church were everywhere, and Greek and Roman statues abounded. A take-out window was manned by a very efficient and friendly guy with one ear missing.

The personality: He was the jitterbug champion at the old Club Imperial. The gambling? Neighbors of a certain age will remember the huge house on Lindell he half-built and left unfinished for several years.

The name Talayna's? Said to be Yiddish for Italian, a nickname he got from older Jewish players at the old handball court in Forest Park. Talayna's was a vivid part of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood for 47 years.

Note: Previous articles on the DeBaliviere Strip can be found in the TMES OF SKINKER DEBALIVIERE website, <http://www.sdtimes.org>. See the Special Articles section or use the "custom search" feature to find:

- Memories of the Boulevard, September-October 2013
- KO Koverly and the Mural Room, February-March, 2014
- The DeBaliviere Strip, April-May, 2014
- Girl Who Owned DeBaliviere, Summer, 2014
- Garavelli's, Summer, 2014
- Grant Green and the Holy Barbarian, Summer 2014
- Grace Piccione and the Apollo Theater, April-May, 2015
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IN YOUR EAR

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

Hi there Dear Reader,

I hope that you and your loved ones are safe and doing well. Heck, I even hope that you and your liked ones are safe and doing well. These are crazy times. It's OK to enter a bank while wearing a mask and the rest of the world won't allow US citizens to visit.

I've been writing this column for a long time and it's always been a challenge. Either I don't know what to say and have to stretch my words or I have too much to say and need to parse them. What's really sad is that you probably can't tell the difference. Oh well.

But recent times have made this column particularly difficult. After all, Hawkeye has used this soapbox to make fun of Presidents Reagan, Bush I, Clinton, Bush II, and Obama. I've been pretty consistent although Bush II certainly gave me much more fodder to fod. I thought that we'd reached the nadir during his regime; I mean, how could you have a worse president than Mission Accomplished George W. Bush? When he was considering whether to one-up his father and invade Iraq, Colin Powell cautioned against doing so by saying, "If you break it, you bought it." Well, we broke it and we're still buying. After Bush, Rumsfeld, and Cheney, I thought we could only go up, and we did so by electing Obama.

But then we elected, more or less, Trump. Thank you, Electoral College. To be fair (and Hawkeye is always fair), we shouldn't be surprised at the disaster of his presidency. After all, his experience was a mediocre, multi-bankrupted real estate developer who also was a television reality show host. He inherited so much money that he never had any kind of a boss, so he never learned to listen. What did we expect?

His leadership, lack thereof, causes me to worry a lot. The election is months away and while Biden is ahead in every poll, who knows how that will turn out? (That's assuming we have an election, a topic for another column.) Maybe all of the illegal aliens that Trump thought voted for Clinton last time will now vote for him. Or perhaps the Russian bots will change their party and mail in specious (R) ballots. Stranger things have happened; they did last time!

So, pessimist that I am—Hawkeye did, gulp, predict Trump's election last time—here are some thoughts to prepare yourself for the next four years of President Trump. The terrain in going to be rough until Senator Tammy Duckworth is elected president in 2024. By then, break it, bought it will apply to us times 2. You will want to be

rich so you can benefit from the Republican tax benefits for the wealthy, thus here are Hawkeye's sure-fire stock tips.

1. Buy stock in Hydroxychloroquine. Sure, on July 1, the Food and Drug Administration wrote "FDA cautions against use of hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine for COVID-19 outside of the hospital setting or a clinical trial due to risk of heart rhythm problems," but so what? If it's good enough for DJT, it's good enough for me. Besides, it also works on removing empathy.

2. Buy stock in Twitter. Within a year of re-election, Trump and Attorney General Barr will decide to clamp down on Fake News. Yep, that's any news that Trump doesn't like so it means all news. Newspapers will be forced to cease publishing and the news will only come to us through Twitter or FOX television. I neglected to mention that the television networks will all be seized, except FOX, ESPN, and the Cartoon Channel, and the Cartoon Channel isn't big on news (but then neither is FOX.)

3. Buy stock in sheet metal. With a four-year headwind and not having to worry about re-election, Trump will force the building of the wall, so miles and miles of sheet metal will be needed. He'll get the money by cutting back on the budget for the EPA, food stamps (SNAP), and funding for low-income housing. But relax, the wall is going to be beautiful!

4. Buy stock in military garb. Some of Trump's actions have enraged people and that will only increase. The issues range from his insensitivity to BLM and Covid to extolling the gun-toting parvenues on Portland Place, but for sure we can anticipate more public protests. Yep, that means that General Barr will send in the military pretty frequently and they'll need lotsa uniforms. Camouflage is the new black, or is it orange?

5. Buy stock in airlines. Right now planes are pretty empty but that will change. At some point within the next year we'll have a Covid vaccine. Folks won't be reluctant to get on a plane, and the rest of the world will welcome us. When that happens there will be a tsunami of people trying to leave the country to go to some place with a better federal government—Venezuela, Syria, Lebanon, North Korea, or China.

OK, I hope that my prognostications are wrong. We're overdue for some good leadership, but just in case, buy some kneepads. We're going to be doing lots of kneeling.



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