

The *TIMES* of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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November - December 2020

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

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The Rocky Path to 5G

By Marj Weir

In the last issue of *The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere* (available on the website <http://sdtimes.org>) the story of the planned installation of 5G towers was detailed.

The story has a new chapter. The road to 5G is being paved in St. Louis by Verizon using the subcontractor ABD.

Unannounced on Wednesday, October 14, the ABD contractor began digging small test holes and drilling deep underground on the north tree lawn of the 6100 block of Westminster to install the cables for their fiber. No one had been notified that this would commence, and the Alderwoman indicated on the scene that this was not the agreement in place with Verizon.

If you are wondering what the whole 5G thing is about, let us refer you to the article in the October 18, 2020, Post-Dispatch that provided a good starting point. We have a copy of the article on the Times website.



Later that afternoon (around 6:30) the residents at 6120 Westminster discovered that there was no water service. After contacting the Water Division's emergency number, they were told that there was another water outage at 6106 Westminster and that a truck was on its way. That night both houses were provided with water by way of a hose connection to an adjoining house. This is surprisingly possible, but only if the outdoor faucets are not up to code as the current code requires that water may not be allowed to enter the house through that faucet, only to leave it. Faucets are to prevent "back-flow."

Thursday all work stopped and no apparent progress was made, but water was available at those residences. A call to the Water Division asserted that it was up to Verizon/ABD to get a plumber to fix this.

Something lit a fire under the Water Division (and then Verizon, presumably), however, and digging by the ABD crew began at around 8:00AM on Friday. For some reason the residence at 6120 lost water service again sometime after 8:00AM. (It is unclear how the hose link-up worked in the first place as the faucet at 6120 is up to code and may have started working as expected (preventing water from entering) on Friday. It's a plumbing mystery.) Plumbers were also on the scene waiting for the excavators to make it possible for them to do their work. Finally, by Friday at 5:00PM water service was restored at 6120 and the unsuccessful hose link-up removed.

At 6106 the problem required the delivery and use of a BobCat to dig the necessary holes but reportedly water service was restored on Friday as well. At that address a hose link-up also provided water to 6106 during the outage with the assistance of the neighbor.

Tuesday, October 20, the holes created by the original work and the required repairs were filled in with considerable heavy equipment and manpower evidently required.

This 5G installation has been a source of great consternation on the block for several months during which much conflicting information was coming from the company and its agents. This episode is not unique, apparently. Similar water problems have occurred in south St. Louis according to two independent sources.

By June Vaughan

The residents of 6163 Westminster Place, where a Verizon pole 39 feet tall and topped by the 5G device is slated to replace the existing streetlight pole, were contacted by a representative of Verizon, Tanya Rosin. This occurred after Alderwoman Heather Navarro spoke with the representative, pointing out that there had been no contact between the company and these residents and that there were timing considerations necessary for any work which was to be done. Ms. Rosin assured the residents that work by Verizon and their contractors had stopped and no date was given for when it might resume, but that there would be communication and coordination in the future. She also said she would pass on the comments by the residents that the company was not communicating with the neighborhood, but rather had so far begun work on the street with no advance notice.

Note from Alderwoman Navarro:

Verizon agreed to abandon the poles at the 2 locations on Westminster. The city has also put in place new boring requirements after the mess made in Skinker-DeBaliviere and elsewhere around the city. Several of us, including alderpersons, the City Counselor's office, the Mayor's Chief of Operations, the Streets Director, and others have been in regular communication with Verizon to improve their processes - technically and personally. While ATT and T-Mobile will likely have permits in the queue, the process should be in a better place soon. I introduced legislation restricting the placement of these poles so they could not be placed in front of single-family homes. There was an informational hearing for the city to inform alderpersons about the permitting process during a Public Utilities committee on Oct. 29 via zoom and conversations continue with the providers to improve this process for everyone involved. On Nov. 12 the moratorium that has been in place expires and we can expect to see more of these poles.

Biden declared as President Elect

By Linda Cross

As of press time, the Associated Press and all major networks declared Joe Biden as President Elect in the 2020 presidential election. In a history making election, over 145 million votes were cast for the two presidential candidates. Biden had run unsuccessfully for president twice before but emerged victorious in his third attempt. His running mate, Vice President Elect Kamala Harris will be the first woman, first black person, and first Indian American person to hold the office of Vice President. The Skinker DeBaliviere community showed up in force for this election, as many neighbors voted before election day, and long lines were witnessed on election day. World Central Kitchen donated a bagged breakfast, lunch, and dinner to all waiting in line or just passing by. Voters were patient and allowed those who were elderly to the front despite the lines. Missouri voters elected a nearly complete republican ticket with Mike Parson winning his first full term as Governor, and Mike Kahoe winning Lt. Governor, and Jay Ashcroft winning the Secretary of State.



Line at the polling place



World Central Kitchen Table (Andy Cross volunteering)

Editor's Notes

By Linda Cross

Just as families have had to make so many adjustments during this pandemic, so has our neighborhood. The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council and the committees have been searching for ways to stay active and engaged and to adapt our missions to best serve the community with the new challenges that we are facing. Gone are the activities that we have come to love about our neighborhood, the concert series, Porchfest, the Breakfast Garden Tour, and even the Dog Show. Fortunately, smaller gatherings have been able to continue such as block parties, pizza nights, and more and more lawn cocktail parties. The colder months are going to bring additional challenges that we are going to have to face and our neighbors are stepping up to find new ways to gather and have community while keeping us all safe. Several of the committees have been meeting via video conference to stay on top of the developments going on in our neighborhood to ensure that the neighbors still have a voice in the decision process- the Pearl development, 5G poles in the neighborhood, and even the Hamilton bridge redesign. In addition, there are meetings about how to handle things that we have taken for granted like the neighborhood food drive, trick-or-treating safely, and whether we can still have the Wintermarkt. (Yes on Wintermarkt - with adaptations). On top of this we have an unparalleled election season that is dividing our country. These are still unprecedented and challenging times, but our neighborhood is a small example of people working together to find solutions. Not everyone agrees but we can collaborate in a civil and respectful way to address concerns and make the best decisions possible. Our way of life has been disrupted and our patience is tried but remember that we are all doing the best we can. Hug those in your house, say hello to your neighbors who can't see your smile behind the mask, stay connected to your friends and family via video calls, cuddle your pets, and let's start thinking of creative ways to get rid of this Covid-15 lbs that we have all gained!

Outpouring of Generosity

Neighbors of Skinker DeBaliviere donated over 2,400 items to the Skinker DeBaliviere Food Drive this year! That is nearly double the amount that is usually collected - by far a new record. Thank you to our thoughtful neighbors and the neighborhood food pantries who will distribute the donations to those in need.



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!

Our Envelope Tradition

Enclosed with this issue of the TIMES is a simple envelope. We appreciate your returning it with a check to help us continue this great neighborhood tradition bringing you the



news of development, history, and the personalities of neighbors old and new. 2020 brings our 50th anniversary year to a close, and, although we couldn't have a party, we did do lots of celebrating and letting you know about events and plans throughout the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood, including Parkview, Kingsbury Square, and the Delmar Loop. Along with your financial support, please consider volunteering a bit of your time writing, taking pictures, proofreading, organizing, planning, or delivering on your block. Contact Editor Linda Cross at 749-4961 or email at lcross@sdtimes.org. You can make sure this community newspaper--the "oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis" continues.

If you didn't receive an envelope, send your check to THE TIMES OF SKINKER DEBALIVIERE, 6229 Washington, St. Louis, MO 63130. Help us kick off the 51st year of the TIMES!

Guidelines for Submitting Copy

The Times welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of the Times has always depended in large part on submissions from non-staff area residents.

The writer is responsible for the accuracy of the data, including times, dates, location, and particularly the spelling of names. The editor retains the right to omit or alter any material. Opinions expressed in Commentaries are the opinion of the author.

Deadline for next issue: January 15, 2020

for our February-March 2021 Issue
Please send copy by e-mail to Linda Cross, lcross@sdtimes.org, by disc to 6060 McPherson Ave, 63112.

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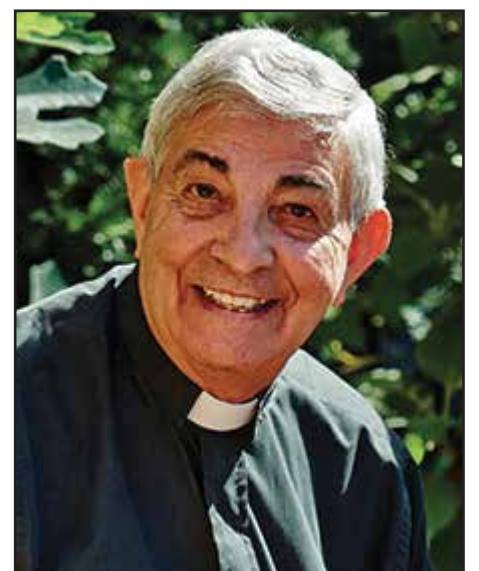
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Readers are welcome to send us e-mail or letters commenting on any of our content. Send to lcross@sdtimes.org.

Happy 90th Birthday Msgr Polizzi

The neighborhood community would like to extend a warm happy birthday to Reverend Monsignor Sal Polizzi! Msgr. Polizzi has served our neighborhood as Pastor of St. Roch Church for 40 years where he has lent his guidance and support. Happiest of birthdays Monsignor!



News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

The year 2020 has certainly changed so many aspects of our lives. And I find that it has even changed our News of Neighbors columns. People are not traveling as they normally do, activities are more limited and people tend to be home bodies. But we are surviving and one of the things I love is that our neighborhood still bonds, even during this pandemic.

There have been socially distanced block parties on several blocks (some with live music), the Red and Black Brass Band has marched in our streets and had neighbors dancing, Irish musicians for a birthday in front of one house, drive by birthday parades, front yard happy hours and dinner picnics with neighbors spread across front yards. So even in the strangest and most challenging of times, our love of our neighbors and this wonderful community has been strong. Let's keep that going and help each other through these times and beyond.

And to continue celebrating with our neighbors, I am happy to share that Emily Dowgwillo has been awarded a Doctorate of Clinical Psychology by The Pennsylvania State University, State College. Upon completion of her one-year internship at Massachusetts General Hospital, Emily and her husband Peter moved to Detroit where she will join the faculty of The University of Detroit Mercy. Emily is the elder daughter of Heidi and Bob Dowgwillo of the 6100 block of Pershing.



Emily Dowgwillo

In searching for news for this column this year, I have asked people to include how and what they are doing in the pandemic.

Jenny Matthews of the 5900 block of McPherson

shared that this fall, both of her sons returned to school with the in-person learning option at St. Roch. She said it has been an amazing experience so far with Toby in 2nd grade and Joss starting his first year of preschool. Jenny is so appreciative of the school leadership and staff for all of their extra work to create options for their community. Even though her children attend in-person, they have benefitted from virtual learning in 2nd grade by being able to jump in online if they have a doctor appointment or being cautious about a runny nose. Jenny shared that "A blessing from this pandemic has been embracing a different pace of our lives...it's slower and more intentional. I was fortunate enough to gain a new job in my industry within one month after being furloughed and then laid off. I work from home most days & am able to take a break to walk to the school nearly every day for pick up and it's my favorite time of the day!"



Toby and Joss

Another way the Matthews family has continued to enjoy time together is in the McPherson Community Garden. At the start of the pandemic this spring, Jenny would listen on work conference calls taking her cell phone & headset to the garden- the only place she said her sons would be content and quiet while digging for worms! Summer heat & bugs lead them to find forest shaded hikes & creeks for cooling off, but they have continued to enjoy the garden and it's offerings. This year their family has harvested 24 pounds of cherry tomatoes, 11 pounds of lettuce & kale, nine pounds of large tomatoes, eight pounds of cucumbers, six pounds of broccoli & cabbage, four pounds of onions and enough strawberries to each eat one whenever they were ripe! Jenny said "I've learned not to underestimate how much food you can grow in a small plot & plant flowers wherever there is room."

Walking seems to be something more and more neighbors are doing too. In our already very walkable neighborhood and in Forest Park, I see neighbors out and about walking all the time. And many, myself included, might just be listening to podcasts on their longer walks. Or maybe you enjoy them in your car, or at home. Either way, our neighbor, Abram Van Engen, of the 5800 block of Nina Place has a new podcast called Poetry For All. VanEngen (an English professor at Wash U), introduces a great poem each week to a wide range of readers. In short episodes (15-20 minutes), Abram and his co-host, Joanne Diaz, read the poem, discuss it, learn how it works, see what it has to teach us, then read it one more time. The podcast opens with Seamus Heaney's poem "Digging." It's a poem that meditates on the point, purpose, and possibilities of poetry itself. Further episodes include Emily Dickinson, Phillis Wheatley, William Shakespeare, Claude McKay, Jen Bervin, John Donne, Toi Derricotte, and more. Abram and Joanne were galvanized to do this podcast by their own experience learning and teaching poetry. "Whenever I teach," Joanne says, "I always speak to the person I was when I was 18: a first-generation college student who nearly failed freshman composition and had no sense of how to analyze and discuss poems. Many of my students are hesitant about poetry, or dislike it altogether, but I want them to feel like poems are for them, no matter what their background or experience might be." At Poetry For All, Joanne and Abram are trying to reach not just those who already love poetry, but those who feel hesitant about it, even those who dislike it altogether. One by one, they discover and discuss great poems, believing that poetry is for all. Look for "Poetry For All" wherever you get your podcasts and visit the website for more information: <https://poetryforall.fireside.fm/>. So neighbors, be sure to check it out. I know I will!



Abram Van Engen

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!

Making Lemonade out of Lemons with Physically Distant Celebrations



Matt and Rachel Boxdorfer enjoying live music at the Kingsbury block party.



The McGroarty family celebrating a virtual SLU graduation



The joy of the Red and Black Brass Band



Neighbors celebrating a physically distanced birthday cocktail party

Getting Even

By Dan Rater

I haven't been doing much lately, except staying close to home. Two of the kids have moved along, but the 18 year old is still around here, somewhere. I drive into work with my wife every morning, which is entertaining. On the odd day I'm alone, I might drink a cup, and grab a smoke; it's the most relaxing part of the day. Every other day, is the trailer for Mad Max: Fury Road; a post-apocalyptic, wagon ride, hurtling toward a parking space. In the evening, we meet at our Netflix account, searching for a nugget in the stream.

Sometimes, I feel zoomed out on humanity. I YouTube guys climbing Mount Everest, then cross it off my bucket list. Next, I think I'll shoot the curl in Waikiki. We have a doorbell that lets you see who comes to the door. It's amazing how little traffic we get. It's either someone bringing mail, checking for mail, or, she forgot her key again.

I was startled when I saw someone ring the bell, drop a bag, and run away. Ding dong ditch in the age of DoorDash. I watched the 18 year old emerge, and retrieve the bag. 'What is that?' I asked remotely. 'I ordered McDonald's', she said, all virtual. I hearkened back to my ding dong days, and thought, 'Different times, but still, just a bag full of crap.'

Technology has sapped our energy. If Necessity is the Mother of Invention, then Innovation

must be her cousin Eddie. In my day, I had to go to the drive-thru for some McLovin'. Now, you get the Hamburglar app, press a button, and a fast food felon shows up at the door, 'Here! Take the food! Just don't hurt me!' I scolded the coddled youth, and said, 'Next time, give me a heads up, and cop me a couple of McDoubles.'

Getting old isn't what it used to be. I have a vision of Grandma, sitting in a chair, knitting an afghan in her slip, rolled down stockings, sturdy shoes, and a charm bracelet, jangling with grandchildren silhouettes. She's 60 years old, and looks like Mrs. Claus. The scent of rose water, and sugar cookies wafts through her house.

I visited my parents recently. They're both 85, and split their lockdown between Milwaukee and Naples. They're what one would call snowbirds, or presently, jailbirds. I called to see if I was still on the visitors list, and then headed north. As I hobbled through the doorway to greet them, Dad sprang from his chair to steady my gait, while Mom came toward me, glammed up in Dior. 'Danny, is it too early for wine?' 'I have an app for that', I said, as I settled into my arch supports. I told them, 'You guys look fantastic. How do you maintain your vitality?'

Dad crossed his legs, brushed off his Cole Haan's, and said, 'It's all about the shoes. Mother, have you checked the mail yet?'

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND: Save Your Own Wildflower Seeds!

By Mark Banaszak

Planting wildflowers in your garden has many advantages. They are beautiful, support pollinators and wildlife, and well adapted to the region. Wildflowers growing untended are the best representation of the gardening rule, "the right plant in the right spot." Wildflowers growing well in a particular spot will probably do well in a similar spot in your garden.

There are a few things to note if you want to grow wildflowers from seed you have collected. Plants that are described "Missouri Native" are not necessarily

the same thing as true wildflowers. Many wildflower varieties growing in our area have been bred by seed producers to produce better color or bloom time or some other characteristic. These plants may be hybridized. Seeds from hybrid plants may not resemble the parent plant or thrive as well as it did.

Wildflowers that attract pollinators and native grasses are common choices for collecting seeds, but identifying plants can be difficult in the fall when plants are dry and brown. There are several apps that help with this problem. Seek and its parent app, iNaturalist, use your phone's camera for image recognition. These apps function even in the fall when plants can be more difficult to identify. They also can provide great information about ideal growing conditions.

To collect wildflower seeds, timing is important. In general, seeds are viable when the seed head or flower has dried out. Viable seeds are often brown and plump. When they are ready, they may fall easily from the seed head or capsule. Don't collect more than 10% of the seeds from wild plants. This ensures that the plant will reseed where you found it.

Many seed collectors will clean the seeds, removing other material. This helps remove insects that can reduce viability. Wild seeds should be kept dry and in a dark cool place. Many people store them in the refrigerator. This helps seeds remain viable over longer periods of time. Many wildflower seeds also need a period of cold storage in order to germinate. This storage is called "cold stratification."

To grow plants from seeds collected from wild plants, many seed savers plant in the late fall or early spring directly on the ground. Choose a spot like the one where you collected the seeds. Often wildflower seeds do better just thrown on the ground than started in pots inside. It is smart to remove all other vegetation from spots where you want to seed wildflowers. Other plants (like weeds) often outcompete wildflowers in the early growing stages. Planting is easy. Scatter the seeds, walk on them to compress them on the soil and assist them with water the first few weeks of growth.

Although wildflowers and grasses may not be as striking in appearance, once established, they are very hardy, can reseed themselves and attract all sorts of beneficial and attractive insects. You will also be happy, because you and nature have just collaborated on a project that benefits you both!



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Charlie Brennan of PBS's Donny Brook, and KMOX radio host organized a socially distant art project to beautify the overpass on Hanley Road underneath the Forest Park Parkway. Two of our artists participated in volunteering their time to make the area more beautiful. Our own Karen Hilmes and Andy Cross painted chalk murals along with dozens of other artists who gave their time and talent.

KIDS CORNER

By Andy Cross

COLORING PAGE: We are making a favorite all-American treat for the holidays. Can you tell what it is?

THE STREETS OF SKINKER DEBALIVIERE



Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1586976/>

MCPHERSON	DEBALIVIERE	LAUREL
WESTMINSTER	KINGSBURY	PERSHING
WATERMAN	SKINKER	LINDELL
DES PERES	WASHINGTON	NINA



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

Masks

By Lana Stein



To wear a mask or not to wear a mask, that is the question. I, and others I am sure, find wearing a mask to be uncomfortable. But, it is not worn for comfort or beauty. Masks can help you and others stay alive. It's not a 100% guarantee but is at least 65%. The anti-mask people remind me of those in earlier times who

refused to wear seatbelts in cars when state laws made their use mandatory. They were also seen as uncomfortable or restrictive.

The antis in both groups vowed to retain their freedom. Those against masks took their cue from President Trump. Even after Trump, his family, some senators and White House staff became infected with Covid, their rhetoric did not change. Their politics predicted their mask stance. They refuted medical guidelines while raising the probability of becoming infected and infecting others. Those packed rallies without masks or distancing also represent for the participants their freedom.

A mask does not prevent freedom of speech. It can mitigate against severe illness. "Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose." But today it can be your health, the health of family and friends, or death. When you use a mask as political symbol and don't wear one, you agree to be losing everything.

We have been part of a community that has pulled together to overcome adversity. That sense of mutual commitment is absent from those who ignore the pandemic at their own risk. Covid becomes a hoax. Masks strip away your rights. Skewed priorities. Nothing left to lose.

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From Your 28th Ward Alderwoman: Heather Navarro

Cars flying through the neighborhood pose one of the greatest dangers to residents, whether we're pushing a stroller, walking the dog, or biking to class or work. Our streets have primarily been designed for cars and they dominate the roadways. Before becoming an alderperson, I didn't know much about traffic, other than I didn't like it. After many conversations about speeding and safety, I am convinced that street design is the best way to change the behavior of drivers. Signs can be ignored and while police officers can issue tickets, enforcement is fleeting. However, a well-designed street can 1) make it physically impossible for people to speed and 2) influence people to drive slowly, naturally.

The neighborhood plan calls for a comprehensive look at traffic and I often receive requests for traffic humps and speeding enforcement so Alderwoman Clark-Hubbard (26th ward) and I worked with the neighborhood development committee to initiate the Skinker DeBaliviere Traffic Study earlier this year. We allocated ward capital funds to bring in expertise from WSP to study neighborhood streets and make recommendations to address safety, speed, and connectivity.

The first phase kicked off in February and over 160 people shared over 400 comments using online and paper surveys that asked for detailed information about intersections and trouble spots in the neighborhood. Because of COVID, the public meeting portion of that survey was delayed until this past September, at which point the consultants from WSP shared what they'd heard so far and explained some of the options to deal with the issues raised. Neighbors were invited to a zoom call to share additional feedback and a final report is forthcoming.

The initial survey highlighted that speeding, bike/pedestrian safety, and stop sign compliance were the top three concerns. The September presentation highlighted how the use of mid-block crossings, enhanced crosswalks, speed humps, and streetscape features, such as trees and bump outs, can help calm traffic. On the topic of connectivity, several people in the initial survey asked about blocked and one-way streets. During the zoom presentation, WSP walked through the traffic implications of opening streets and restoring two-way streets. While they shared examples and options of where changes to street openings and directions have been and could be made, there were no specific recommendations about whether streets should be reopened and further study would be needed before any such changes are made.

The next step is to review the final report, including the neighborhood feedback and the recommendations, with the neighborhood development committee. Any projects would likely be funded out of ward capital so it will be important to prioritize the projects with budgets and a timeline so we can ensure a safer and more pleasant experience for everyone who walks, bikes, drives, and enjoys the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood. To learn more visit the Board of Public Service website and look for the traffic study under "news." Thank you to everyone who participated in the study and be safe!

News from The Delmar Loop

By Rachele L'Ecuyer

There's exciting news from the Delmar Loop! Two retail businesses have opened just in time for holiday shopping.

Designer Danielle Beckham has opened House of Sheabella at 6161 Delmar, Suite 101. Ms. Beckham designs gowns and dresses. House of Sheabella is right down the block from Savvi Formalwear and Posh Shoe Bar, making the 6100 block your one-stop-shop for your next formal event or if you just feel like getting gussied up after wearing your yoga pants every day since March.


The Wizard's Wagon, formerly in U. City, has moved two blocks east to 6178 Delmar (formerly Great Rivers Greenway office). The Wizard's Wagon is the place to get your comics, games, and collectibles. They are the game experts and will help you find a new game for the family over the holidays. Find them on Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheWizardsWagon.

Both House of Sheabella and The Wizard's Wagon are locally-independently-owned which adds to the list of businesses to visit this holiday season for Small Business Saturday, November 28th. Small businesses, retail and restaurants, are relying on your support this winter. We hope you will venture over to the Delmar Loop and order take-out from your favorite restaurants or take care of some of the items on your holiday list. Curbside pick-up is offered by many of the businesses. Our website, www.visittheloop.com has a full directory of businesses.

Events are going to look a little different this year. Normally, we wouldn't talk about how the sausage is made but this year isn't normal and we are working with the City of St. Louis to ensure any activities are safe for all involved. In the meantime, if you are looking to get out of the house, visit the Planet Walk, a great way to teach the kids about the solar system. Also, the St. Louis Walk of Fame is always an inspiring way to stretch your legs and learn about notable St. Louisans.

Last but certainly not least, The Pageant is offering a series of concerts tailored to the pandemic. The concert venue's "Glimmer of Normalcy" Series features local favorites performing with limited seating to ensure social distancing. Find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThePageantSTL for concert announcements.

Stay safe and healthy!




28th Ward Democrats 2020:

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Every winter, craftpersons and artisans from across the St. Louis Region gather at Greg Freeman Park at Kingsbury & Des Peres to display their talents with wonderful gifts for you to purchase for your holiday celebrations. This year the festival will go on as usual, with a few minor adjustments.

Due to the pandemic, we will not be barbecuing or having a bake sale. However, the possibility of having food trucks and catered beverages is being explored.

We are also looking into providing live musical performances safely.

If you wish to enjoy the festival as a volunteer or vendor contact Karen Kelsey at sdcc@skinker-debaliviere.com, call (314) 862-5122, or visit www.skinkerd.org.

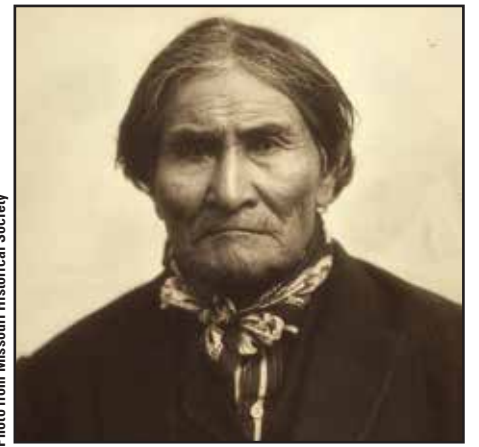
The Gerhard Sisters on DeBaliviere

By Jo Ann Vatcha

The west side of DeBaliviere between DeGiverville and Waterman is now a vast vacant lot, soon to be under construction for the Expo at Forest Park, apartments, commercial spaces and Metro Bus parking. For many years, before the unremarkable 80's strip mall, there were Garavelli's, the Stardust, Apollo Art Theatre, and Talayna's, all subjects of past TIMES profiles. More than 112 businesses were listed in City Directories between the World's Fair in 1904 and the late 60's in a long block of restaurants and shops between DeGiverville on the south and Waterman on the north.

Famed St. Louis restaurateur Al Baker was at Sorrento's Restaurant at the far north end of this block, before moving to Clayton Road. Upstairs were smaller businesses, including a modest, but important photo studio. In 1971, when I needed a passport photo for our long-planned trip to India, I put one year-old Chanaya in the stroller and walked down Waterman from Nina Place to meet Duane Coe, a tiny woman who took our photograph from under an old-fashioned camera with a black cloak. Years later, when working on our neighborhood history at the Missouri History Library, I took the opportunity to look up that photographer and found a 1930 Roosevelt High School yearbook listing for Duane Coe, who wrote, "It is greater to be small and shine than to be great and cast a shadow." My memory of the tiny photographer was correct! Her studio at 339 DeBaliviere was first listed in 1938, so she was there for more than 40 years.

But there was even more important news to find. During the previous 30 years, from 1903 to 1936, the studio was occupied by a trail-blazing pair of sisters, Emme and Mayme Gerhard, who took some of most iconic photographs at the 1904 Worlds Fair, including a series of photographs of native Americans who were "exhibits" at the fair. As described in the profile of the sisters



in the Library of Congress, "Some of the Gerhard's images from the Exposition seem to have been made in their studio, away from the 'controlled chaos' of the outdoor displays on the Fair's Midway. One of those is a portrait of Geronimo that contains an accidental 'portrait' of the photographer at work. It is reflected in Geronimo's eye and was discovered in 2009 when the Library's photo conservator realized someone was looking back at her as she worked. The 'portrait' shows a woman wearing a white shirtwaist blouse with a dark skirt, the uniform of 'the New Woman' of the 1890's and early 1900's. The phrase New Woman referred to feminists."

Later work included photographs of women in the suffrage movement, as well as weddings and other events, with both natural and artificial lighting. Both sisters were active in many professional organizations and gained enough economic independence to travel. They had at least two other studios in St. Louis. Both were married and continued to work together. In 1936, the Post Dispatch noted that Emme Gerhard was closing her studio on DeBaliviere to devote herself to painting at an art colony in Mexico.

When you visit the Missouri History Museum on Lindell and DeBaliviere, take time to visit the World's Fair Exhibit, where you will find some of the Gerhard sisters' photographs displayed. It's not often that one has the opportunity to



delve into neighborhood history and find feminist icons, as well as links to the worlds fair and indigenous people. For more details, explore the MOHIS website, and the Library of Congress under Women Photojournalists. They have more than 100 of the wonderful photographs taken by the Gerhard Sisters, many of them right here on DeBaliviere.

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IN YOUR EAR

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

How safe are you? No, I don't mean while on the highway when 10 percent of the other drivers have been inhaling or imbibing. I'm not thinking of safety on the plane, despite your mask, gloves, visor, and nose plugs. And I don't mean in the alley while taking out your trash, vulnerable to hedgehogs, armies of squirrels, and feral sanitation trucks. I am asking "How safe are you in your home?"

Yep, home safety is a problem! I just learned about a friend who fell down the stairs while eating a donut and smoking a cigar. He hit his head on the railing and fell into the dog's water bowl, unconscious and now drowning. Fortunately, his wife revived him with CPR, but his cigar ignited a stack of Trump For President signs. I am sorry that I missed all this.

Dr. Google says, "Every year, more than 160,000 Americans die as a result of an accident, making accidents the third biggest cause of death." To further lighten the tone, here are the five largest causes of those 160,000 deaths: poisoning, falling, choking, drowning, burns or fires. Wow, it reminds me of birthday parties that I've attended. But Dr. Hawkeye to the rescue, here are tips and taps for you to remain safe in your abode.

Home deaths by poisoning. Avoiding this is easy, don't eat at home. I don't know about you, but I've never been disappointed by a Big Mac Meal, and I used to love getting those tiny toys (although, to be fair, once I did choke on a half-inch tall plastic Ferris wheel). Really, eat out. Or if you don't want to go out, eat in but order the food from out. Unless it's from a Russian KGB restaurant, you're in good shape here. If you must prepare your food at home, minimize risk by using high quality ingredients - Hostess cupcakes, Bier's vanilla and bacon ice cream, and Hunter's baloney. Of course, wine from John Parker's makes anything better.

Home deaths by falling. You're more likely to fall on the stairs than while standing on the floor, so this is more challenging because many of us live in two- and three-story houses. So only live on the first floor. Why not? If you have cable and the Internet, it doesn't matter where you are. Think of all those calories you'd save by not trudging up and down the stairs. If you must use them, install Velcro-covered railings and wear Velcro gloves. It will slow you down a bit but better slow than prone. Since most falls on stairs occur when people are careless or moving too quickly, simply make a point of always walking up/down the

stairs backwards, facing where you went. You cannot do that carelessly or quickly, so you'll always get where you're going. Usually.

Home deaths by choking. This cause of death is different because it's intentional. Unlike an accident, someone is willingly too aggressive with food consumption. That's a technical way of saying that what they ate was too big. Not too much, just too big. Here the prevention is quite simple: chop, chop, chop. Cut those foot-long hot dogs into pieces that are only six inches in length, divide that cheese meatball before swallowing, and if you cannot enclose the hunk of bread in one hand, tear it in two. But if all of this sage advice fails and you find yourself choking, Google Heimlich maneuver and follow the directions. If you're alone, make a fist and use a chair. Note: Do not eat the chair.

Home deaths by drowning. This is the easiest danger to avoid: stay out of the water! If you must cleanse yourself, take a shower while wearing a snorkel. You can't be too safe. If you have to be in the tub with water, gasp, take a toy or two. Focusing on that rubber duck or yellow submarine will ensure that your nostrils stay above the water line. If you have a backyard pool, drain that puppy now. Then forget about water and use it as a repository for all of the neighbors' leaves. They'll love you for it and no one ever drowned in leaves. Alternatively, with enough freon you could have a mini-hockey rink in the back yard, and what could be safer than ice-skating after a brew or two, right?

Home deaths by burns or fires. OK, in the twenty-first century, there are only two reasons for fire in the home: birthday parties and fireplaces. If you were thinking cooking, get over it. That's why God invented the microwave. For birthday parties, once you're older than 19, there is no reason for multiple candles. Just have one big candle next to an abacus that signifies the number. For fireplaces, have you seen the incredibly cellophane fake flames sold at Target? They are so realistic that I toasted some fake marshmallows over them.

So Dear Reader, if you follow Dr. Hawkeye's advice, watch out for hedgehogs, and don't go west of Hanley, your safety is assured. You're welcome. (I'll bet that some of you thought that this article would be about politics. How could it not? But I'm tired of hearing about the 2024 presidential campaign. Let's just appoint Oprah and get on with it.)



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