

The *TIMES* of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 50, No. 5

February-March 2021

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

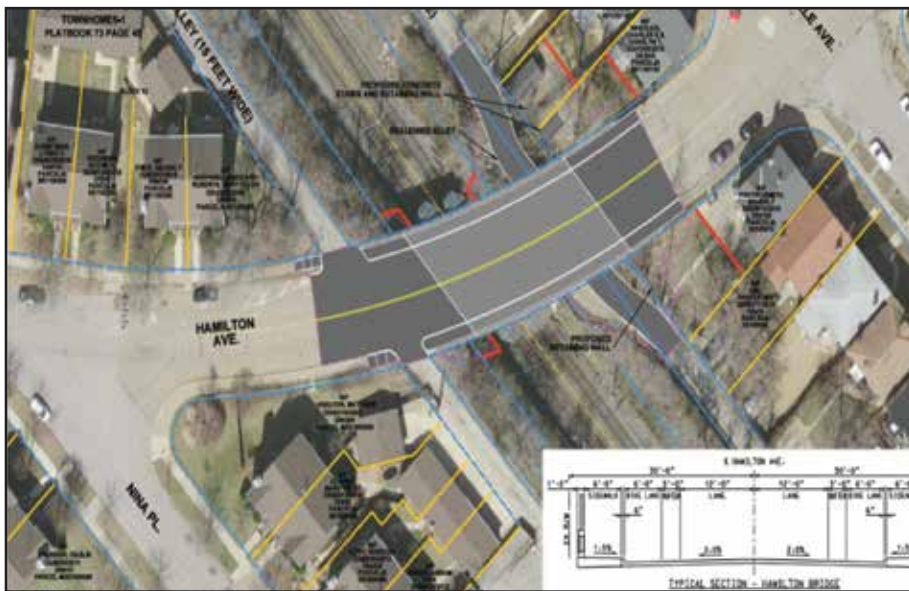
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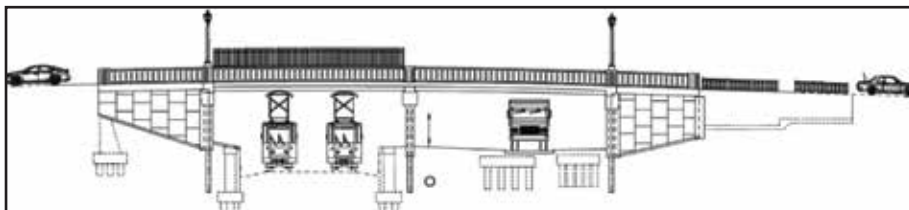
Were Our Ancestors Smart or Lucky? HAMILTON BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

By Richard Bose

The Hamilton Bridge is set to be replaced soon. Built in the 1930s when the Wabash Railroad tracks were sunk in a trench and the Wabash Station on Delmar was built. Now the Metrolink tracks run under. It's served us well for over eighty years, but its condition is near the worst in the city.



Site Plan - The new bridge will match the width of the old, have lights, have painted bike lanes (since snow plows and street sweepers only come in one size – gigantic), high fences to protect the Metrolink wires, and ADA compliant ramps with the alley on the southwest end. The alley on the northeast end that runs under will be straighter.



Elevation - The Delmar bridge over the same tracks was replaced over ten years ago. It had one feature value-engineered out- the holes in the railings. The railings have to be sturdy enough to keep jaydrivers from knocking them off and falling below. The holes mean a weaker railing, so it would have had to be beefed up. Instead the impressions in the concrete were substituted.

Dec 19, 2020 - These holes aren't just aesthetic. They are functional. They allow the low winter sun to shine on the sidewalk to help melt snow. With no ground below a bridge to keep it warm they are more prone to snow and ice persisting. With no provision for snow removal on sidewalks, snow and ice build up, sidewalks on bridges become treacherous. The holes in the railing provide free snow removal. That's right 85 years of free service built in. Were our ancestors smart or lucky?



Dec 19, 2020 - The Hamilton Bridge replacement is on a tight budget as usual. We've built so much infrastructure, more than we can take care of, that we just can't afford nice things. You'd think we were richer than our ancestors, but really we've buried ourselves in liabilities; we're house poor.



Just cross the street? The other side gets sun. Well not everyone walks too well, sees too well, or is on wheels.

We pay a sales tax that goes into ward capital funds. They could be used to cover the cost of the fancier railing. To forego them would be penny-wise pound-foolish.

Thank You Lyda Krewson

The staff of the Times of Skinker DeBaliviere would like to thank Lyda Krewson for her many years of service to our community, first as our 28th Ward Alderwoman and then as our Mayor. We wish you and Mike a happy retirement and look forward to your next endeavors.



Photo by King Schoenfeld

Police And Firefighters Thank You Luncheon Adapts to Pandemic

Our great neighborhood volunteers have for many years held a Valentine's Day Thank You Luncheon for our local firefighters and police officers. Potluck dishes contributed by so many neighbors are giving way this year to a temporary sack lunch, and those same neighbors who previously cooked up their specialties are this year bringing fruit, individual desserts, and chips to accompany purchased sandwiches. These will be packed in individual sacks to be delivered to 5th District headquarters, the three firehouses and the EMTs there who serve our neighborhood, and the Washington University police on Friday, February 12. If you haven't been contacted to participate by donating to this great annual activity, call SDCC at 862-5122 or just drop off or mail a donation to SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury to help future luncheons. Special thanks to Ruth Johnson and Arline Webb for their perennial leadership! They want to say thanks to Busey Bank who are donating lovely (reusable!!) mesh bags for the lunches instead of the boring brown paper bags some of us will remember our school lunches being packed in!

St. Louis Elects Mayor in March and April

Last November city voters adopted new rules and regulations governing city elections for mayor and aldermen. These contacts are now nonpartisan. In the March primary voters can cast a ballot for more than one candidate. The top two vote getters then face off in April. This system is in place in one other city so we will be path breakers. In addition, voters—except the disabled—wishing to vote by absentee ballot must have the ballot notarized. You may vote absentee at Election Board headquarters downtown through March 1.

There are four candidates on the ballot:

- Andrew Jones, a businessman who ran for mayor as a Republican in 2017.
- Tishaura Jones, Treasurer, who ran for mayor in 2017.
- Lewis Reed, President of the Board of Aldermen, who has run for mayor twice before.
- Cara Spencer, 20th Ward Alderman

The COVID pandemic has made campaigning more difficult. Each mayoral candidate has a web site, hosting virtual events.

Andrew Jones wants government run in a businesslike manner. He attributes the city crime problem to lack of leadership.

St. Louis Elects Mayor continued on page 6

Editor's Notes

By Linda Cross

Like many people I know, this year has been a more complicated path of growth, guilt, and ownership. Trying to get routine medical care for my daughter, whose job does not offer insurance and is on the ACA plan, has been really eye opening. If she picks a plan that includes our doctors, her medications are literally 10 times the cost, whereas if she chooses a plan that doesn't have our doctors, she has very few choices to see doctors on the other plan. My sister has a degenerative disk disorder and is disabled. Trying to find her medical care and a safe, clean, affordable place to live in the city has been a myriad of confusing, confounding information with little to no choices. My youngest daughter, who is in the LGBTQ+ spectrum, moves around the country and the world with schooling and work, and is always cautious as to whether she can be her authentic self in new places because of how she will be received. Watching our neighbors of color being treated totally differently by law enforcement, employers, and the military has been painful. In addition, listening to friends, relatives, and strangers who will not follow science and who believe in unfounded conspiracy theories is anguishing. Even those of us who just have different political opinions seem to have been divided into 'us' and 'them'. And the worst for me, people who commit crimes and perpetuate lies that harm others with no consequences. Years ago, I discussed with a friend whose daughter was going through the high school application process about her interview with the principal. She was proud of her daughter who had answered the question 'What makes you really mad?' with 'Injustice.

Injustice makes me really mad'. That answer has stuck with me for over 15 years. How wise for a 14-year-old girl to encapsulate my feelings so succinctly. And then there is my guilt. How can I help or even understand when I am not directly living these injustices?

In observing racial, social, and economic injustice while having this new platform, I have been striving to add different points of view to this paper to reach more of the neighbors that live in our neighborhood and have discovered that is a more difficult path than I thought. While reaching out to people with voices different than my own, I find that I have done a poor job in my presentation. What seems like an opportunity for growth for me and our neighbors, is just more frustrating work for those that I am asking to help.

However, in all of this, I still have hope. I have wonderful family and friends that will have these conversations with me as we all strive to learn. I live in one of the best and most politically active neighborhoods in the city. The constant drum beat for justice from this place is inspiring. In fact, I have some friends that exhaust me just reading their Facebook page. They talk the talk and walk the walk! I, like everyone I know, am a work in progress. I have had a lot of humble pie this year being reminded that what I say sometimes comes off very differently than what I intended. With this said, call me out when I screw up, but also anyone who wants to share a voice other than my own is always welcome. If you have ideas for stories or issues that we can cover that would be relevant to our neighbors, please let me know. I am hopeful that we are now moving in a direction for a more just world.

Our Annual Drive

THANK YOU to our generous donors who keep the TIMES going year after year! As we start our 52nd year as the "oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis," we are especially grateful that we continue to bring in new readers and contributors, from all parts of the neighborhood--from DeBaliviere to Parkview, and all parts of Skinker-DeBaliviere in between. Our fundraising has so far brought in over \$2,300.

THANK YOU to the block captains and dedicated TIMES deliverers who continue to bring the papers to every door in the neighborhood. In these trying times, our volunteer deliverers richly deserve our gratitude. And thank you to Karen Kelsey and Mike Reid of SDCC, whose cooperation and delivery help are gratefully acknowledged.

THANK YOU to our diligent volunteer treasurer, Mark Jacobs, who also expresses thanks to everyone for supporting our neighborhood traditions. If you missed our envelope in the last issue, you can still participate by mailing a check to TIMES OF SKINKER DEBALIVIERE, 6229 Washington, STL MO 63130.

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Guidelines for Submitting Copy

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

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

Deadline for next issue: March 15, 2021

for our April-May 2021 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

Managing Editor: Linda Cross	Business Manager: Mark Jacobs
Editorial Team: Linda Cross	Jo Ann Vatcha
Contributors: Rachel Boxdorfer	Rachelle L'Ecuyer
Cristina McGroarty	Cecelia Nadal
Richard Bose	Derek Knight
Andy Cross	Lana Stein
King Schoenfeld	Mark Banaszak
Marvin Nodiff	Tom Hoerr

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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.

Our Art Glass

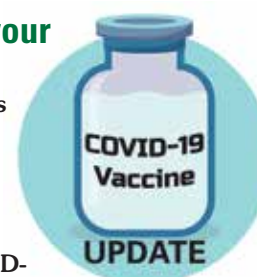
One of the distinctive features of our World's Fair vintage homes is the stained and colored glass they retain in their windows. They comprise several styles, abstract, scenic, floral, etc. We would like to gather some local examples for use both in The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere and on our website where more images can be displayed.

Please send pictures of your art glass windows to Marj Weir at weir.marj@charter.net with as much detail and context as possible (size, location in house, repair/maintenance history, your personal appreciation of the item, anything else you want to add). Be sure to pick a bright day to take pictures of your windows!

We will not publish your name and address. The images will be used to illustrate another aspect of the beauty of our neighborhood.

If you have not signed up for your COVID-19 Vaccine

you can go to the St. Louis City site to get notifications of when it is time to sign up for an appointment. The city website can be found at <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/health/communicable-disease/COVID-19/COVID-19-vaccine.cfm>. The site contains relevant information about COVID-19 and vaccinations. Currently the city is working with four hospital systems to administer the vaccination process, BJC Healthcare, Mercy, SSM Health, and St. Lukes Hospital. You may also register at the hospital system of your primary physician.



News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

And now, it is time to check in on the news of some of our neighbors. I'm happy to report we have some new neighbors that have moved in to the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood, and some who have been born into our community!

Let's give a warm welcome to our new neighbors on the 6100 block of McPherson, Kristin Weis and Ravi Chopra and their lovely children Leah and Luca. Be sure to say hello if you see them around.



Kristin Weis and Ravi Chopra with their children



Teodor Kerr

We also want to welcome to world baby Teodor Kerr! Teodor was born on August 31, 2020 (same day as Maria Montessori!). Proud parents are Cristina and Tom Kerr of the 6100 block of McPherson.



Maggie and Isa Baxter

The 6100 block of Kingsbury welcomed a new neighbor too. The Baxter family welcomed baby Maggie on October 5. Maggie weighed in at 5 lbs, 12 oz. Proud parents are Steven and Flo Baxter. Even prouder big sisters are Ava and Isa (pictured here with baby Maggie).

The Von Rohr family of the 5900 block of Kingsbury has much to celebrate this new year. Congratulations to Melissa Von Rohr on her new position as Quality Assurance Manager for the Jump Co where she had been working freelance for the past year. Jump Co is an ad agency owned by Skinker DeBaliviere resident, Jon Tiede.



Tom and Christine Knoten

Not to be outdone, Melissa's husband, Enrique Von Rohr, started a new position in January as Senior Director, Communications Design Studio at Ascension Health after over 16 years at the Sam Fox School.

Tom and Christine Knoten of the block of 6300 Pershing in Parkview are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year! They made a special donation to The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere in honor of their anniversary which is so kind. Congratulations to the Knotens!

I've often said, my least favorite part of writing this column is reporting on the deaths. It's not something any of us enjoy, but it's also a good way to tribute to people who made Skinker DeBaliviere home. This fall, we lost a few who were big parts of my youth in the neighborhood.

On Monday, October 5, Geraldine "Gerry" Dryden Flynn, passed away. Gerry Flynn was a very longtime resident of the 6100 block of McPherson. Having lived there in her childhood and then with her husband Jack and their eleven children. I remember Jack Flynn telling me that they had bought their home on McPherson "in a handshake deal with the seller." When Gerry was getting ready to move out of the neighborhood, I re-calling her commenting how for much of her life, she had told time by chimes ringing from St. Roch's clock. They used to ring every half hour noting the hour, I too miss that right now. Gerry was a devoted mother, wife, neighbor, and friend. Gerry's life was celebrated in a mass at St. Roch church on October 17. Our condolences go out to all of the Flynn clan.



Gerry Flynn



Joan Bender

Another member of Gerry's generation and strong-willed member of Skinker DeBaliviere, was my mom, Joan T. Bender. Joan, or Grandma Joan as her children called her, or "Joansie" as Monsignor Polizzi got some of us calling her, passed away on November 24th after suffering from a stroke. My mom was not a fan of St. Louis when she and my Pop,

Rick (Albert) Bender, moved here in 1968. But she quickly grew to love it, especially, Skinker DeBaliviere. They selected the neighborhood because of its proximity to Forest Park, and also because the neighborhood was diverse and family friendly (or crawling with kids).

She was one of the many parents when I was growing up who did so much to keep this neighborhood strong, and part of the village (along with Gerry Flynn), who helped raise so many of us growing up here in the 70's. Joan was active in the rebirth of this neighborhood and never (trust me, never), backed down from a fight. Joan Bender leaves behind five children and spouses, including Beth Bender of the 6000 block of Kingsbury, and myself, of the 6100 block of Kingsbury, and fourteen grandchildren. In Joan's later years, when sitting on her porch on Kingsbury, she would ponder her love of this beautiful neighborhood, noting how beautiful it was and what a great place it was to live. She was right (as two of her children have stayed). My mom's life will be celebrated by her family on a later date, when it is safe for us all to gather. And we hope, that we will be able to remember her at our 25th Annual Bender Beach Week this summer, which she and Pop founded. Miss you Joansie.



Gene Hoefel

Sadly, we lost yet another longtime neighbor, Gene Hoefel, on December 28th. Gene and Delores Hoefel lived on the 6100 block of McPherson for decades, raising three children there. Gene was professor emeritus at the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University and was 86 years old. Gene's kindness and generosity benefited not only his students, but his neighbors, and Grace Methodist Church. We send our deepest sympathies to Delores and all of the Hoefel family.

We also lost another neighbor recently, Bob Klepper. He and wife Nancy lived in Parkview for decades.

This next notification seems terribly unfair and a life cut short. My heart breaks to share the news of the passing of Leslie Cunningham on December 30th. Leslie lived with her husband Charles and children, Charlie and Annabel, on the 6100 block of Kingsbury. In addition to spending many pretty days at Missouri Botanical Garden and Forest Park with her family, Leslie enjoyed travel; some of her favorite destinations included Hawaii, Sedona, skiing in Taos, and relaxing on the beaches of Mexico and Florida. She loved reading, music, and appreciated a good meal with even better company. Leslie had a ready laugh and willing heart. She was just as quick to find the humor in a situation as she was the humanity in others. She demonstrated profound kindness and compassion with friends and loved ones who often benefited from her intuitive perspective, genuine empathy, and ability to love without reservation. Leslie's determined spirit will continue to be an inspiration to everyone who was privileged to know and love her. I hope that all of you can take something away not from Leslie's death, but from her life. Her spirit, determination, and fight should be a reminder to all of us to face our challenges, to live, and most importantly to love. Her life was celebrated by her family in a private service. Our hearts go out to Charles, Charlie, and Annabel, as well as Leslie's parents.



Leslie Cunningham

And just as I am wrapping this article up, I'm sad to report that John Bowe has passed away. John was the oldest of the Bowe children who grew up "back in the day" (my reference to my time growing up here in the 70's but John was older than me) on the 6100 block of Westminster. Our condolences to John's wife and children and all the Bowe family.

I hope you will continue to look out for one another and look at the bright side, hopefully we are nearer to the end of the pandemic than the beginning. Be well, be safe, and choose happiness!

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!

The Siege and the Hope of a Beloved Community

By Cecelia Nadal



On January 6 my whole day's work was disrupted by a mob of seditionists who attempted to take over and destroy America's Capitol. It was painful. I was outraged, glued to the television. The siege was surreal taking central stage on a day where the highest number of COVID-19 deaths occurred up to that point. Images I was seeing at the Capitol triggered images of our history as one single agonizing story.

An insurgent carrying the confederate flag inside the Capitol of the United States appeared on screen and my mind jumped back to August 2017, in Charlottesville with clashes between white supremacists carrying confederate flags and Black Lives Matter protestors. The only person to die in Charlottesville was a white woman who supported BLM and was run down by a car driven by a white supremacist.

A videographer filmed a group of insurgents dressed and armed as military men squeezing through the civilian crowd until they joined others in breaking the living barrier of Capitol and DC policeman. This scene took me back to the 2014 Ferguson protests resulting from the murder of Michael Brown by a Ferguson policeman. There I saw heavily armed, white, militia men dressed in camouflaged uniforms atop buildings on West Florissant street allegedly protecting business property. No one knew who invited them. We only knew that the police were not asking them to leave. The very buildings they "guarded" were suspiciously set on fire.

The predominantly white, male crowd at the Capitol that day was so different than the crowds at the Ferguson protests! Men, women, blacks, whites of many faiths were represented including even a group of 8 Tibetan Buddhist monks. While there were peaceful protests during the day, at night criminal opportunists and rioters came. Peaceful protestors organized to stop the night violence and looting in Ferguson. They even helped business owners clean up removing broken glass and putting products back on shelves. I looked hard for intervention in DC at the Capitol, but never saw people try to

The Siege and Hope continued on page 4

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND: Reduce your plastic use!

By Mark Banaszak

We have all seen it--a plastic grocery bag caught by a tree, a styrofoam soda cup in the street, single-use water bottles left on a playing field. We may have even noticed the opposite; a block or an alley with no trash on the ground or plastic grocery bags floating on the breeze. There are many spots in our neighborhood where there is little or no trash, often because of neighbors' efforts.



Litter of bags, cups and bottles creates many problems. It looks bad and makes our neighborhood look uncared for. It is unhygienic. It encourages more trash. These issues are important, but there are also planet-wide issues that result from this pollution.

The negative impact of plastic shopping bags is easy to trace, because they have been closely tracked. Plastic bags cost less to produce and are theoretically recyclable, so they have grown in popularity in recent decades. Most retail stores have plastic bag recycling stations at their entrances. In reality, however, less than 1 percent of shopping bags are returned to stores for recycling. And they are still produced at an astounding rate. Humans produce 5 trillion plastic bags per year, or about 160,000 per second. Of the 100 million tons of plastic produced every year, about ten percent ends up in the ocean.

Plastics do not break down rapidly in nature like cardboard or paper. When plastics break down, they are not transformed by composting processes; they just become smaller pieces of plastic. There is a new scientific term for these small pieces of plastic -- microplastics.

Plastic pollution is impacting many global systems that humans need. The ocean is a good example. The World Counts is a data website that uses reliable institutional data to research planetary concerns. According to their calculations, the worlds' oceans may contain more plastic than fish by weight by the year 2050. Microplastic tend to collect in the digestive organs of creatures and are found in harmful quantities in 117 species of ocean fish, half of which are used by humans for food. In this way, our plastic use is contributing to our own health issues.

So reduce your plastic use! Onestl.com has recommendations for sustainable practices even during COVID. Their first recommendation is to bag your own groceries at your car in your own reusable bags (just ask the store to put your groceries back in your cart, unbagged.) Many stores also provide paper on request. Paper bags are recyclable and you can use the paper bags to collect other recyclables; just remember to empty the bags at the dumpster (this makes recycling machinery run more smoothly). Plastic shopping bags can be repurposed for pet waste. Finally, if you do end with plastic bags (or other stretchy plastics), collect them. They don't take up too much space, and in a few months, you will be able to return them to the stores that handed them out.

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The Siege and Hope *continued from page 3*

stop the mob from hurting police and destroying property.

During a major and violent clash between police and the insurgents at the Capitol, a white woman was shot and killed. As she fell to the ground many in the mob continued their assault as if crazed. Sadly, she was part of the crowd. At that moment the 1855 hanging of Celia the teenage slave girl in Calloway County, Missouri came to mind. For five long years Celia was brutally raped by her owner until she could take it no more and clubbed him over the head. Twelve angry white men on the jury found her guilty. I cannot tell you exactly why Celia, a slave, came to mind when the woman at the Capitol was a participant in the mob, however both were victims in different ways!

As reports on the siege wrapped up, I concluded that there were no heroes from the ranks of this all-white mob in Washington DC.

On that ugly day I could not retire for the evening without thinking about ordinary people, white and black, that have fought for democratic principles. Such people entered my stream of consciousness as if to say, "think of us now!" I thought about Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner of New York City who joined James Chaney as Mississippi civil rights workers registering African Americans to vote. The KKK murdered them in 1964. The only time I smiled that evening was while thinking about Juliette Hampton Morgan, a white socialite and southern belle from Montgomery, Alabama who spoke boldly about the need to oppose white supremacy and didn't care what her wealthy friends thought!

Before closing my eyes from emotional exhaustion with the television turned off, I thought about the bright warm glow that comes from the heroism of ordinary men and women who genuinely care about other citizens and about democracy. On the other hand, I was reminded on January 6 that only darkness comes from anti-democratic insurgents and white supremacists.

The spirit of democracy is overwhelmingly present when one sees the collaborative actions and unity of men and women who come from all races, walks of life, cultures and faiths.

A week later as we began to get more details about the seditionists, I was struck by Kevin Greeson, one of five people that died at the Capitol. He was a union vice-president from Alabama who supported Barack Obama and went to his inauguration. Greeson became an ardent supporter of Trump and went to Washington DC on January 6. He died of a heart attack at the Capitol during the siege. Why the political transformation? Many manufacturers and plants had moved out of the South and Midwest going to foreign countries or closed down due to automation. As he heard Trump speak, he began to feel that Trump had more business acumen, could help keep jobs in America and open up the plants. Greeson began to embrace Republican politics because of the

economy. There is nothing that shows he was a white supremacist but he was a Fox news follower who eventually started listening exclusively to far right news sources.

Reaching out to people like Kevin Greeson is vital to our democracy.

Just 12 days later as we celebrated Martin Luther King, I revisited what he had to say about the "beloved community" after the Montgomery Boycott.

"the end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the Beloved Community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opponents into friends.... It is this love which will bring about miracles in the hearts of men."

Dr. King envisioned a beloved community where there was equality in justice, economics, health, and education. The beloved community would consciously work on insuring this equality because of their genuine love of community.

"The aftermath of nonviolence is the creation of the beloved community, while the aftermath of violence is tragic bitterness."

Martin Luther King, Jr., 1957

The inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris was profoundly inspirational and hopeful. President Biden emphasized that he was there to serve all Americans including those who did not vote for him. He was passionate about being a President that wants to unite the country and make our democracy stronger. The youth poet laureate Amanda Gorman left us with this powerful thought:

"There is always a light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it."

The road ahead will not be easy but each of us as neighbors, citizens and leaders can make our democracy stronger by actively helping to create a beloved community. There is no doubt that history is what gives us depth in our efforts and it is cross-cultural engagement that keeps us honest. So, you are wondering how we can create a beloved community?

In the next issue: "Finding Common Ground."

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The 28th Ward Winter Clothing Drive

By Linda Cross and Heather Navarro

Because we were unable to host the Wintermarkt this year due to COVID-19, the committee decided to use that energy to sponsor a clothing drive with the 28th Ward. It was a huge success due to our very generous neighbors! The neighborhood is planning another food drive in the near future to continue to support families in need.

Collected from the 28th ward winter clothing drive - over:

- 150 pairs of socks
- 200 pairs of gloves
- 250 hats
- 320 coats & gloves
- 450 scarves!!!!

This porch shot is just one of many of what we'll be dropping off to New Cote Brillante, Grace United Methodist, Second Presbyterian Church, and SouthSide Early Childhood Center.



left: Andy & Linda Cross delivering truck loads from Skinker-DeBaliviere right: The O'Gorman Family with donations from Parkview Center left: Mary Walsh & Patrick dropping off deliveries from DeBaliviere Place

STL Village Continues Serving Neighbors Throughout the Pandemic

by Liz Backus



During the pandemic, STL Village has remained connected to our neighbors. Our mission of serving area residents age 50+ who want to continue living in their own homes has never been more important. With safety protocols in place, our volunteers have continued bringing groceries, running errands, providing safe transportation to doctor appointments and making friendly phone calls to members who have been sheltering in place. We're also providing many opportunities to connect socially online through our virtual book talks, happy hours and other events on Zoom. When it's safe to do so, we look forward to getting together again in person and enjoying the many cultural treasures our city offers.

Anyone age 50+ living in the greater St. Louis metro area, whether in a house, condo or apartment and owning or renting, is eligible to join STL Village. STL Village is a nonprofit community organization of neighbors helping neighbors. We invite you to learn more by contacting us at 314-240-5020 or by email at info@stlvillage.org. Join our mailing list at stlvillage.org to receive our weekly calendar of activities. We look forward to meeting you (online for now)!

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KIDS CORNER

By Tracy Granneman

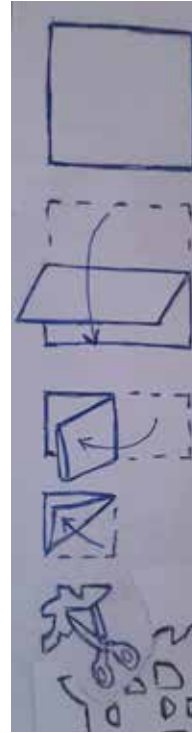
WINTER WONDERLAND IN SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE The Art and Science of Snowflakes

As we continue to social distance, there are many ways enjoy the art and science of our winter season!

Art: Six Steps to Make a Snowflake

Join your neighbors and place snowflakes in your windows for walkers to observe!

1. Find piece of paper. People often use a square paper, but any shape works. You can use scrap paper, wax paper, tin foil, recycled newspaper or even giftwrap!
2. Fold the paper in half.
3. Fold the paper in half.
4. Fold the paper in half again. To make a six-sided snowflake, fold your paper into thirds.
5. Cut shapes on the edges. Try cutting different shapes to make your snowflake your own.
6. Unfold and there is your snowflake! You can color your snowflake or add flair to make your snowflake unique!



Science: The Observation of Snowflakes

Here are two people in history who observed and created images of snowflakes.

Frances Chickering, from Maine, showed snowflake images in her 1864 book *Cloud Crystals: A Snow-Flake Album*. She observed snowflakes as they fell on her windowsill and quickly made paper cut-outs of their forms (Source: <http://www.snowcrystals.com/facts/facts.html>)

Wilson Alwyn Bentley (February 9, 1865 – December 23, 1931), from Vermont,

was called Snowflake Bentley. He was the first known person to take detailed photographs of snowflakes. Snowflake Bentley caught flakes on black velvet and took pictures in a special way before the snowflakes melted. (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilson_Bentley)

You can observe snowflakes nature too!

Fact: Each snowflake is not unique. Identical snowflakes have been found before.

Observe: Next time it snows, see if you can find two snowflakes that look alike. Can you make or draw a snowflake that looks like one you observed?

Fact: Every snowflake has six sides

Observe: Count the sides of the next snowflake you see. It isn't so easy!

Fact: Snowflakes are not at all white. Because of the snowflake's tiny surface, the light scatters in so many directions that it can't absorb or reflect consistently, and the color comes back as white.

Observe: What colors do you see in a snowflake?

(Source: <http://abc7.com/snowflakes-all-different-what-color-is-snow-forecast-weather/1600701/>)

Reading Corner

Interested in learning more? Here are a few non-fiction books about snow:

- *The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter's Wonder* by Mark Cassino (Pre-K to Grade 2)
- *Wonderful Water* by Laura Miller (Age 8-12)
- *Snow Crystals* by W. A. Bentley and W.J. Humphreys (Grade 5+)

Word of the Month

Observation: The act of careful watching and listening; the activity of paying close attention to someone or something in order to get information (Source: www.learnersdictionary.com)

Question for Kids Corner:

Send them to kidscorner@sdtimes.org by March 10th

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From Your 28th Ward Alderwoman: Heather Navarro

MAPMAKING IN 2021- Every ten years, we count every resident in the United States. Last year's count was fraught with challenges from the pandemic to President Trump's attempt to exclude undocumented residents. The total numbers matter when it comes to doling out federal funds and drawing political boundaries. In the case of St. Louis, we can assume that our total population has declined yet again. While parts of the city are seeing growth, we are still losing population overall as people shift to other parts of the region because of crime or schools.

St. Louis is currently divided into 28 wards with approximately 11,000 people apiece. In 2012, the voters approved a measure to reduce the number of wards to 14. This task must be completed by December 31, 2021. By law, wards must be roughly equal in population and be compact and contiguous. The Voting Rights Act also ensures that minority voting power is not diluted by spreading it amongst many wards without having a majority in one or concentrated so much that redistricting results in a disproportionate number of wards for the minority group. Other considerations include neighborhood cohesion and the percentage of population who are of voting age. All of these factors are essential to fair and just representation.

Redistricting in St. Louis is a political and legislative act of the Board of Aldermen. A map has to get at least 15 votes to be approved and then it goes to the Mayor. As the city's population has shrunk over the decades, accounting for all of the necessary factors has gotten trickier. Fortunately, technology and the internet have given us a wealth of tools to compute and plot lines that comply with these factors. In the past, alderpersons have gathered around one shared computer with proprietary software to click and drag lines around to their liking and then shared it with the public. In the absence of an independent demographer to draw the lines, it will be up to the citizens of St. Louis to hold the Board accountable for a fair and just map and they can do so by taking advantage of the tools now available.

There have been several attempts to put redistricting in the hands of an independent demographer or citizens' commission. We voted to do this for the State of Missouri a few years ago with the proposition known as CLEAN Missouri. It's still possible that St. Louis will adopt a similar measure in time but if not, it's important for citizens to pay attention to ensure that their voice and their vote is preserved in the next redistricting. This is the first of a series of pieces on ward reduction so stay tuned for more on the benefits of ward reduction and how we make the transition to 14.

St. Louis Elects Mayor *continued from page 1*

Tishaura Jones feels crime should be addressed regionally. Crime occurs in areas where there is a lack of investment. She does not favor the airplane surveillance plane advocated by a slim majority at the Board of Aldermen.


Lewis Reed supports Cure Violence now being implemented in several high

crime neighborhoods. He wants a comprehensive approach to cure gun violence. He favors aerial surveillance and the privatization of Lambert airport.

Cara Spencer supports the Focus Deterrence program used in a number of cities such as Oakland which cut its crime in half in 6 years. She also wishes to set up a Problem Landlord unit. She opposes airplane surveillance and airport privatization.

Below please find a list of virtual debates that residents can tune into.


In April, voters will choose a new mayor from the top 2 candidates in the March primary. Candidates for the St. Louis school board will be seeking election then.



28th Ward Democrats 2021:
Know your safe voting options & what's on the ballot

Zoom Meetings: Feb 18 - Mar 18
Endorsement Election: Mar 4

More info on FB &
<https://ward28stldems.org>



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News from The Delmar Loop

By Rachele L'Ecuyer

New(ish) in the New Year! K-bop, a Korean restaurant featuring "Korean Street Bowls", opened at 6120 Delmar in December. K-bop started as a food truck known for their hot and tasty bowls that offer a variety of proteins served with rice or noodles and vegetables. The menu includes items for vegetarians and meat-lovers. Their website features their menu, store hours, and online ordering for carry out: www.kbopstl.com. The dining room is open and set-up for social distancing.

Look for news about Swade, the medical marijuana dispensary, and i-Tap, both planning to open soon!

Inquiries have been coming in regarding the Loop Ice Carnival. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer this beloved event due to the coronavirus. Ultimately, health and safety of patrons and business owners takes precedence in making these decisions. We look forward to good times in the future and look forward to the day we can offer events. In the meantime, we are working to keep you connected to your favorite local shops and restaurants with two new video series. Look for #TakeoutTuesday every Tuesday on our Delmar Loop social media pages. The series features local restaurants offering curbside and delivery to the neighborhood. All of the restaurants are within walking distance. Look for a new video every Tuesday. Our #RockinRetail series introduces (or reintroduces) neighbors to retail shops as a reminder to Shop Small and Shop Local every day.

A special shout out to Blueberry Hill, named as one of Esquire Magazine's "100 Restaurants America Can't Afford to Lose".

There's always something fun on The Delmar Loop's social media: Facebook, @thedelmarloop; Instagram @delmarloop; and Twitter @thedelmarloop. News updates: www.visittheloop.com.

Keep Calm and Carry Out - Stay well and healthy!

UPCOMING MAYORAL FORUMS

Community Justice Coalition

Who: St. Louis Community Justice Coalition (CJC)

When: Saturday, Feb. 6, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Where:

Campaign to-do: Attached questionnaire was submitted by 1/23/21. Zoom link was to be sent; nothing online publicly.

SPEAC St. Louis Mayoral Primary Candidate Forum

Who: Social Policy & Electoral Accountability Collaborative (SPEAC)

When: Wednesday, February 10, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Where: Register here on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-st-louis-mayoral-primary-candidate-forum-tickets-136658373875?aff=erelexpmlt>

Campaign to-do: Candidate log on at 6 pm.

Tandy NIA Forum

Who: Tandy Neighborhood Improvement Association

When: Saturday, February 13, 11:00 am – 11:40 am

Where: Zoom link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71344568727?pwd=aUVMZm9jTVREanlCcXNGaUNpZz09>

Campaign to-do: They will send questions before the forum, but they haven't sent them yet.

Southwest Garden Forum

Who: Southwest Garden Neighborhood Association

When: Monday, February 15, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Where: Facebook Live at SGNA's Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/southwestgardenSTL>

Campaign to-do: Questions are submitted from the public to the SGNA and will be asked during the forum, Q&A-style.

Sierra Club Forum

Who: The Sierra Club is a national, member-supported environmental organization, which seeks to influence public policy in both Washington and the state capitals through public education and grass-roots political action, and to encourage people to explore wild spaces.

When: Tuesday, Feb. 16, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Where: <https://www.facebook.com/mosierraclub>

Campaign to-do: above is the FB page but the organization is emailing more info this week; nothing posted about the forum yet publicly.

The Goody Train Restaurant on DeBaliviere

By Jo Ann Vatcha

We've had such fun researching the illustrious past of DeBaliviere. Interviews with many neighborhood residents who grew up near and in the SD neighborhood have raised lots of questions and uncovered many memories about this amazing street of early to mid-20th century businesses. One spot we heard about several times was the Goody Train, and it was odd that we couldn't find pictures of such a fun enterprize. Now the mystery is solved with a marvelous website called "Lost Tables", dedicated to STL restaurants no longer with us.

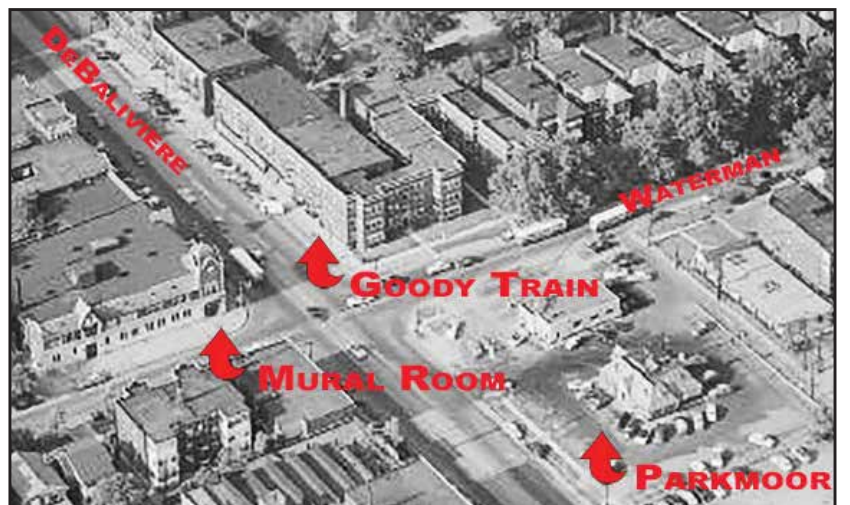
The restaurant with a great name, the Goody Train was a short-lived, but totally unique "concept" restaurant, created by entrepreneur Clarence Bick. Located in a former hardware store on the east side of DeBaliviere, near its intersection with Waterman, it opened in the fall of 1950.

As recounted in Lost Tables.com: The Goody Train advertised "fine food delivered by fast freight." The "fast freight" was a gleaming Lionel locomotive which made its rounds every three minutes over an oval train track, which disappeared through tunnels into the kitchen.

A fanciful story-book mural was created on the tunnel wall by two young Washington University artists. It featured blinking lights and tiny crossing gates, which went into action when the train whistle blew... The Lionel train included alternate Santa Fe and New York Central double diesel engines, a caboose, a gondola, a Sealtest milk car and "plate-cars" to carry the food... Customers sat on stools at the long oval counter and could signal the train with a button to bring menus. When orders were ready in the kitchen, the food was placed on the plate-cars. A whistle was blown and the counterboy started the train on its trip back to the dining area and stopped it in front of the proper customer to deliver their order... The train would bring the check at the end of the meal and customers could pay by train. The train-themed restaurant became a haven for young diners and was the site of many birthday parties. A freight-drawn cake and a juke-box rendition of "Happy Birthday" were added inducements.

Joe Edwards remembers going to the Goody Train with his parents when he was probably four or five years old. "It was a kids' delight!... DeBaliviere had so many cool places. Garavelli's, the Apollo, the Winter Garden, and so much more. Just remarkable for such a short street to have so much life." In a Globe Democrat article about the huge DeBaliviere Place redevelopment by Pantheon in the 80's, Dr. Albert Lindell, who owned an apartment building on Waterman also recalled the "little train" at the restaurant.

Check out other pictures from the Goody Train on the great website "Lost Tables.com" and see our TIMES website for articles about many other memorable DeBaliviere businesses. As Joe says, for such a short street, it had a truly amazing assortment of interesting businesses and demonstrated the ongoing power of the entrepreneur with a unique idea.



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IN YOUR EAR

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

Are these crazy times, or what? I don't know about you, but it feels like I am living an American History class. Wherever I turn, I hear about the constitution, the Electoral College, protests (formerly known as riots), and impeachments. The cable news stations are worried that their number of viewers will decline dramatically once the political machinations and rhetoric diminish. Actually, I don't think they need to worry because this isn't going to happen in the foreseeable future.

At every level, most of the reporting seems to be looking forward. Nationally, inquiring minds wonder if President Biden will put Harriet Tubman's picture on the \$20 bill. Symbols count! Those same inquiring minds ask which country without an extradition treaty to the U. S. will become the home of ex-President Trump. (The list of choices is actually quite long, including Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, and Mozambique.) From a state perspective, we are curious if Senator Josh Hawley will move to Alabama from his Virginia home before or after his next election.

These political forecast questions are almost endless, and that doesn't include the most important issues like whether the National League will adopt the designated-hitter rule and when will the Loop Trolley extend east to the Arch. And don't forget to ponder when the City and County will merge and how elections outcomes will change when recreational marijuana is available at Schnucks.

But I'm weary of looking ahead. Who cares if there's a Trump Tower in Moldova and Rudy Giuliani becomes their premier? For me, it's much more fun to look backwards and speculate about what if. Consider, for example, how our country might have evolved differently if any of the following had happened:

What if instead of the first invaders - oops, I mean settlers - coming from England in the 1600's and landing on Plymouth Rock, MA, had come from Asia and arrived at San Jose, CA? How would the country's west to east settlement have differed than the Westward Ho movement? Would government and governing be different if framed by the teachings of Confucius instead of the Magna Carta? Would the deserts and Rocky Mountains have precluded the formation of one sea-to-shining sea country, and would separate countries have evolved from the Pacific and Atlantic, both ending at the Mississippi River?

What if citizenship and the right to vote had been given to everyone age 18 and over in 1789? What different legislation would have passed? With a far wider voting pool than just white guys who owned property, would we have many more social support programs in place, such as universal health insurance, and maternity and paternity leave? Would the child-labor act have passed before 1906? How would this have changed who was elected?

What if slavery had not come to this country in 1619? Of course, there would have been no Civil War and many subsequent acts of segregation legislation would not have been passed. (Richard Rothstein's book, *The Color of Law*, offers a painful report of this.) But how much more equitable, integrated and productive would our society be today?

What if we had lost the Mexican-American War in 1848, and thus would not have the land that today constitutes New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, California, Texas, and western Colorado? In what ways would the presence of a larger Mexico on our southern and western borders have influenced us?

What if the North had not won the Civil War and, instead, the North and South became separate countries? Would the territories to the west of Missouri have joined the Union or the Confederacy? Might they have become a third country? Or could these lands have become many smaller countries, similar to Europe? (Europe, according to Dr. Google is 3.931 million square miles, while the 48 contiguous states and D. C. cover 3.119 million square miles.)

What if Lincoln had not been assassinated in 1865? To what degree would he have been able to provide leadership to avoid the continued dichotomy of the north and south and the passage of Jim Crow laws?

What if JFK had not been assassinated in 1963? Would he have kept us out of Viet Nam and, if so, how would that have affected future policy decisions and foreign entrapments? Who would have replaced him after his second term ended in 1968?

What if the U.S. had not orchestrated the ascendancy of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the Shah of Iran? With no Iranian hostage crisis (52 Americans held for 444 days) in 1979, would Reagan have defeated Carter in 1980?

What if Reagan hadn't convinced so many voters that the government is the enemy? How might politics and life be different today? Would Bill Clinton have been elected in 1992 if Ross Perot hadn't run as a third-party candidate?

The what-if possibilities are infinite and they've all actually happened in some parallel universe, but that's fodder for another column. I hope you enjoy kicking around some what if possibilities. Feel free to shoot me an email (trhoerr@aol.com) with your thoughts. I'll respond - as long as I can get Internet service in Moldova.



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