

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 51, No. 4

November - December 2021

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

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Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

Skinker DeBaliviere Development Updates

By Linda Cross

NEW 14-STORY BUILDING

Opus Group, a commercial real estate development, construction, and design company headquartered in Minneapolis is proposing a 14-story building at the southeast corner of Delmar and Skinker (the former Church's Fried Chicken lot). The building is a student-oriented, U-shaped, 14-story, 130-unit building that would contain 335 bedrooms. The property is currently under contract. The first floor would have just over 3,400 sf of retail space on the corner, six parking spaces along the alley, and an entrance on the Delmar side to parking on the second and third floors for residents, for a total of 69 parking spaces. The configurations are 21 studio, 61 2-bedroom, and 39 4-bedroom furnished apartments. Amenities would include a rooftop pool, fitness center, and indoor bike storage and repair center. Opus is targeting completion of the project prior to the start of the fall 2024 school year.

The project was reviewed by the Historic District Review Committee, the Commercial District Committee, and the Community Development Committee, and all three committees recommended that the project be endorsed by the SDCC Community council with waivers for height restriction, density restrictions, and parking restrictions placed on buildings built on this property by the city of St. Louis. A Zoom meeting was held with neighborhood residents in early November and many concerns were raised regarding the property and the neighbors requested that more time be allocated for public input before the endorsement vote be held by the Board. The community council agreed and is planning more review and input meetings.

NEW APARTMENT BUILDING

A second project of note is a new apartment building being constructed on the northeast corner lot of Des Peres and McPherson by developer Brent Cowen. It is a new three-story apartment

Development Updates continued on page 6



DRAFT of the OPUS proposal at Skinker and Delmar



Green space to be a three story apartment on Des Peres Avenue and McPherson

Wintermarkt



AN OUTDOOR CRAFTS SALE IN THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON



21ST Annual Wintermarkt Saturday December 4, 2021

For over 20 years, every winter, craftpersons and artisans from across the St. Louis Region have been gathering at Greg Freeman Park at Kingsbury & Des Peres to display their talents with wonderful gifts for you to purchase for your holiday celebrations. It had to be cancelled last year, but this year the festival will go on as usual.

Although there may be a few adjustments due to the pandemic, we will try to maintain as many of the expected traditions as possible: food, beverages, and live music.

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.

ANNOUNCING The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Engagement Special Committee

We want to hear from you – our Community!

The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council has recognized that during COVID, our community events, communications and engagement suffered. As a first step of many, the SDCC Board of Directors approved the Block Captain program to move out from the Security Committee and be a standalone special committee that will not only enable the Block Captain Program, but further neighborhood wide engagement and communications.

We want to hear from you! Whether you are interested in becoming a block captain, would like to promote ideas or would like to volunteer to expand the committee, please contact the committee chair, Josh Peck, at: peckjb@gmail.com.

Opportunity #1 – join the Block Captain Program

We need Block Captains!

Skinker DeBaliviere block captains take charge of getting communication out to their blocks. They create email/contact lists for their blocks and help the Community Council stay informed about the happenings of each block. Basically, this is your chance to become a neighborhood hero!

Interested in becoming a Block Captain or in volunteering to help your Block Captain? Please reach out to Josh Peck.

Editor's Notes

By Linda Cross

Fall is such a bittersweet time for me. I cannot express how I much I do not love winter. And as much as I do not like the cold, the gray, the trees without leaves, I do look forward to the Holidays. This is another time of year when our neighborhood shines. Christmas carolers, holiday lights, snowmen, and the original St. Louis Wintermarkt festival. Wintermarkt is an outdoor festival inspired by the original German festivals with handmade crafts for sale, warm drinks, warm food, and a cappella singers to entertain you (there is even a specific area for young craftspersons). For anyone who hasn't made it yet to Wintermarkt, this was an idea that I thought was crazy when it was first proposed. A festival outdoors in winter in St. Louis?? No one will come, I thought. This is not Germany, I thought. But as often happens, I was wrong. I do have to admit that the attendance is better when the weather is better, but even in our 'not ideal' St. Louis winters talented craftspeople, musical groups, and hearty volunteers come out to share in some cheer. This is the only place where I have hot spiced wine and roasted chestnuts on the regular. It is a great 'shop local' opportunity for your holiday gift giving. We were unable to have the Wintermarkt in 2020 due to Covid, so come out and brave the weather to support artists and enjoy some good food and hear some great music!

RECYCLING UPDATE

While residential pick-up has been suspended until the City's Refuse division can hire more drivers, the City has added a drop off location at the Crossroads College Preparatory School parking lot on the west side of DeBaliviere. Bring your single-stream recycling that you would normally place in the blue bins.



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, 2022

for our February-March 2022 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 Lana Stein
Contributors: Rachel Boxdorfer	Rachelle L'Ecuyer Alderman Heather Navarro
Cristina McGroarty	Cecelia Nadal Marj Weir
Richard Bose	Derek Knight Jo Ann Vatcha
Andy Cross	Lana Stein Tracy Granneman
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.

Little Art Gallery of Skinker DeBaliviere Launch Celebration

By Tracy Granneman

The Little Gallery of Skinker-DeBaliviere launched on October 16th with a celebration that included an art show, kids activities, a raffle and a ribbon cutting of the Gallery. Over 70 community members, artists, volunteers and sponsors participated in the event.



Sitting on the Southeast corner of Kingsbury and Des Peres, the Little Art Gallery builds on the concept of Little Libraries. Instead of books, the Gallery provides a public location for art to be displayed and shared. Artists and craftspeople of all ages and abilities are encouraged to add pieces of their work. Patrons may take their favorite items home. This is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the creativity of our own community.

Photos of work are also shared in the Little Art Gallery Facebook Page (first name only for our younger artists please).

Please follow the Gallery at: <https://www.facebook.com/LittleArtGalleryofSkinkerDeBaliviere>

Thank you to Andy Cross for designing and building the library, as well as help with the event. Thank you to Paul Granneman, Arline Webb, Karen Kelsey and Mike Reid for helping with planning and execution. Also we could not have pulled off this event without the 7th and 8th Grade volunteers from St. Roch School. Finally, thank you to Ms. Gerth from St. Roch School for putting together a display of works from each grade, as well as, working with the 8th graders in advance of the event to create and share tiny art in the gallery.

Art Show youth artists were Terry C. (age 8), Casey C. (age 8) and Genoa T. (8th Grade)

Art Show adult artists were Josh Peck, Makal Hale and Mariah Whitmire.

Please visit the Facebook page to see examples of everyone's work and links to artists' pages.

Our Sponsors demonstrated great community spirit and love of the arts. Please check them out online or in person! Holidays are coming soon and these organizations provide fantastic opportunities to build your own gifts, shop local and support the diverse talent of St. Louis.

The Magic House MADE for kids who hosted an activity table. Located at 5127 Delmar Boulevard, MADE for Kids is a 7,000 sq ft makerspace that features a makers workshop, artist studio, design lab and entrepreneurs marketplace where kids can use their imaginations to create, invent, tinker, explore and discover! MADE for Kids is designed for kids ages 4-14 and their families can explore Screen-Printing, Laser Cutting, Stop Motion Animation, 3D Printing, Pottery and more! (<https://www.magichouse.org/MADE/>)

St. Louis Artworks hosted a table displaying the works of their students and also provided the music for the event. The mission of St. Louis ArtWorks is to enrich the lives of the region's youth by providing art education, essential job skill training, and exposure to career opportunities through paid apprenticeships in the arts. St. Louis ArtWorks operates at 5959 Delmar Blvd. (<http://stlartworks.org>)



News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Can you believe the 2021 is coming to a close? Life is still not back to normal, but happily, there are glimpses and days that seem more normal than the life we have known since early 2020. Let's take a few minutes now to catch up on some news about our neighbors.

There is a saying that you never know the love of a grandparent until you become one. If that is the case, Dan and Monique Hudspeth are experiencing a lot of that love lately. They have become grandparents twice this year. In April, their son Haley Riley, who is part owner and postmaster of Salt & Smoke, and his fiancé Jillian Hausmann, became the proud parents of Isabell Virginia.



Haley Riley, Jillian Hausmann and baby Isabell Virginia



Daisy Hudspeth, Jordan Goodman, and baby Ezra

Then, on October 9th, their daughter Daisy Hudspeth and Jordan Goodman brought them their second grandchild with the birth of their son, Ezra Joseph, who

weighed in at 7lbs and was 19 inches long. Dan and Monique, who live on the 6100 block of McPherson, are beaming with pride when they talk about these little angels who will grow up together. Congratulations to all on such wonderful news and such beautiful babies.

Anne and Mike Stephens of the 6200 block of Waterman in Parkview have had a lot to celebrate this year with their three children. Son Truman obtained a Master of Science in International Social and Public Policy from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He completed the program in September and the graduation ceremony is in December.



Truman Stephens



Mitchell Stephens



Meta Stephens

Mitchell Stephens, graduated in May from Loyola University Chicago with a BA in History and minors in Religious Studies and Criminal Justice. And Meta Stephens, who is currently attending Fordham University, ran the New Yorker Half Marathon in September in a time of 1:45.46! Meta was first in the female 19 and under category and 13th female (out of 131) and 47th overall (out of 228). It was her first half marathon and she really enjoyed the distance and had a lot of fun!



Richard Bowe

We have also lost some neighbors recently. Richard Charles Bowe passed away peacefully on Friday, September 3, 2021. Richard was the beloved husband of the late Catherine Joan and cherished father of Tom, Angela, Michael, Steven, Kevin (Kim), and the late John (Tonya); dear grandfather of Hannah and Elizabeth Bowe, Alex, James, and late Shaun Hutchinson, Mike Bowe Jr., Christina (Jason) Nedvin, Claire, Erin, and Bryce Bowe, and Ava and Jackson Bowe; great-grandfather of Kayla, Emily, and Pierson. The Bowe's had lived on the 6100 block of Westminster.

Another long time neighbor on the 6100 block of Westminster, (since 1969), Patsy Westbrook-Singleton also passed away on September 3rd. The Westbrooks were one of the pioneering black families in the neighborhood. After close to 60 years on Westminster, Cliff Westbrook moved just last year.



Patsy Westbrook-Singleton

Jean-Robert Leguey-Feilleux, professor emeritus of political science at St. Louis University, passed away, October 14, at the age of 93 after a two-year battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was born in Marseille, France in 1928 and received his MBA from the Ecole Superieure de Commerce de Marseille, France, following which, he received a U.S. Fulbright Grant to study at the University of Florida, where he received an MA in political science. After receiving a fellowship from Georgetown University, he obtained his Ph. D in political science. He became director of research at the Institute of World Polity, Georgetown University, then taught international affairs. He became department chair for thirteen years and directed the foreign service certificate program at St. Louis University. While on sabbatical, he became a visiting researcher at Harvard University. During a subsequent sabbatical, he attended an entire session of the UN General Assembly in New York. He is the author of articles in international studies, and the author of *The Dynamics of Diplomacy* (2009) which was selected as a "2009 Choice Outstanding Academic Title." In 2017 he authored *Global Governance Diplomacy*. He was a loyal member of the St. Roch's Catholic Church and Skinker-Debaliviere communities, living in his neighborhood home for 55 years. He was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia, in 2015. They were married 62 years. He is survived by his daughters Michele Leguey-Feilleux, Monique Harvey, Suzanne Leguey-Feilleux, and Christianne Resinger; and two grandchildren, Courtney Weidle and Caroline Harvey.



Leguey-Feilleux, Jean-Robert

Our condolences go out to the Bowe, Westbrook, and Leguey-Feilleux families.

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!

A Skinker-DeBaliviere Reunion

Recently former neighbors the Botz's and Storey's decided to get together and catch up. Joe and Bette Botz have been gone for several years and George Storey passed away three years ago. Nine of the children and some spouses plus the remaining parent, Rose Storey was in attendance and did not go home early!

Both families lived East of St. Roch near the viaduct; the Storey's on Waterman and the Botz's on DeGiverville-(until they moved into the Morely house on the 6100 block of Kingsbury). Between the two families there were 15 children- so there was plenty of fun, mischief, mayhem and a few emergencies. The kids recalled playing kickball on the Storey's side yard; the boys were in Scouts and on baseball teams together with their parents as coaches and scout leaders. Every large family has crazy stories but on separate occasions both families had small children locked in a bedroom which required calling the fire department to come in through a window for rescue (Kathy Storey, Bill Botz and Suzie Botz were the inmates). The best story remains as the day Bill Botz decided to go on a walkabout with his brother John still in a diaper (maybe four and two years old?). Mrs. Botz was frantic and the entire neighborhood was looking for them until Terri found them barefoot at Velvet Freeze on DeBaliviere. Bill wanted ice cream.

The younger Botz kids were surprised to hear that their Dad, Joe Botz had been the ambulance driver for the Storey children on three separate occasions. Both Dads had been part of the St Roch barber shop quartet and the Storey kids learned that Bette Botz had been a ballerina-literally.

We all reminisced about the neighborhood at Halloween, school picnics, the Kingsbury art fair (Bette Botz presenting her painting as well as commissioned water colors of neighborhood homes), the Mother's Day flower sale, annual blood drive and many great gatherings. It was just a typical Skinker-DeBaliviere family reunion where the youngest kids were still learning things about their parents and older siblings. Parents who had become good friends but also great support for each other raising large families. In those days the Storey's (8 children) and the Botz's (7 children) were medium sized families but if you only had one bathroom the families felt large enough. Lots of laughs and memories were shared and they promised to do it again soon.

From Your 28th Ward Alderwoman: Heather Navarro Rescue Funds are on the Way

Heather Navarro, Ald. 28th Ward

The federal American Rescue Plan is kicking into gear here in St. Louis. The final spending bill for the first phase passed out of City Hall with \$135 million for improving public health, access to housing, and public safety. This first phase of spending is intended to support and stabilize families and provide economic relief. The next phase is focused on infrastructure improvements that will serve the long-term future of St. Louis.

In this first package there is \$15 million for the Department of Health, including \$4 million to increase vaccination rates, including mobile vaccine clinics, vaccine incentives, and community canvasses to reach people door to door. Additional funds to the Department of Health are focused on violence prevention and behavioral health providers. There is \$49 million allocated for direct economic relief, including housing and utility assistance, support for unhoused neighbors, legal assistance, and a public benefits navigators to help residents connect with these services. For assistance with housing costs, there is over \$12 million for rental and utility assistance and \$2.5 million for mortgage assistance. I am also pleased that there will be an additional \$15 million for the Healthy Home Repair program, which often has lengthy wait times. Direct payments of \$500 will go to 10,000 families hardest hit by the pandemic. As soon as the application process is available information will be available at www.stlouis-mo.gov.

The Rescue Plan funds give us an opportunity to upgrade systems by adding high speed wireless to the city's recreation facilities. Improvements in voting technology is also on the way with new machines that will allow for people to vote anywhere and avoid long lines if one polling place is too crowded. The Parks Department will receive around \$1.7 million for learning labs and sports programming.

To boost our local economy, the plan includes \$2.5 in a Small Business and Non Profit Revolving Loan Fund and \$5 million for a small business grant fund. The package also fills a \$5 million gap for police overtime created during the budget process earlier this year. Other public safety efforts include \$11.5 million to address the root causes of crime through increased funding for violence intervention programs and youth programming and jobs.

To see a full accounting of the funds see Board Bill 2 on the Board of Aldermen website. It includes the line-item detail as well as the items vetoed by the Mayor's office.

With these funds St. Louis has the chance to not only recover from COVID, but build back better. Getting back to "normal" in St. Louis means too much disparity, inequity, and poverty. These federal funds can make it possible for everyone in St. Louis to have a path to COVID recovery and success. We have lost so much in the last year and a half, some more than others, and pooling our resources and directing taxpayer funds to overcome disparity and support families, neighborhoods, and small businesses is going to be how we put this pandemic behind us and embrace a better and stronger St. Louis.

News from The Delmar Loop

By Rachele L'Ecuyer

We are very excited to see some of the Loop Holidays favorites returning this year!

Kick-off your holidays with your best friend with Tito's Pics with Pups at The Moonrise, 6177 Delmar, on Saturday, November 20 from 11 AM to 4 PM. Get a card-worthy photo of you and your pup with Santa. Later that day enjoy a Tito's cocktail at your favorite Loop watering hole. Details at VisitTheLoop.com

The St. Louis International Film Festival returns to The Tivoli this year from November 4-21. Visit social media for the schedule.

Small Business Saturday is Saturday, November 27th but don't wait until then to start your holiday shopping. After wading through shutdowns and social distancing businesses are faced with supply-chain disruptions. Shopping now will not only support local business, but it will ensure a very happy holidays for everyone on your gift list. Stroll on over to Delmar and visit your favorite shops.

The Delmar Loop Kwanzaa celebration will be held on Saturday, December 11 from 10 AM to 3 PM at the St. Louis Artworks, 5959 Delmar. The celebration opens with an art sale and exhibit by St. Louis Artworks apprentice artists. Pro tip: Go for the celebration that includes music, the Vails Brothers food truck, and a fashion show and then buy art and check off some folks on your shopping list. It's a win-win!

Finally, The Pageant has a full calendar of music and comedy performances. Visit their website ThePageant.com for concert details.

Stay well and healthy!

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THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND: Plant bulbs for spring flowers!

By Mark Banaszak and Katrina Stierholz

Correction: In the last issue of the Times of Skinker DeBaliviere, there was a factual error. The references to Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K) were switched throughout the article. In one place, the text should have read, "Phosphorus is important for root development, flowers and fruit. Potassium is present in every plant cell and plays an active role in moving nutrients within a plant." A corrected version of the article is available at <https://bit.ly/2Z1blsl>.

It is fall bulb planting time, so it is time to get some new flower bulbs in the ground. St. Louis has impressive traditions with fall-planted, spring-flowering bulbs going back a way. Perhaps the most memorable are the daffodils along interstates in the city of St. Louis from Operation Brightside; in addition, both Missouri Botanical Gardens and Shaw Nature Reserve have nationally recognized collections and plantings. The daffodil lawn at Shaw Nature Reserve goes back 80 years and represents the work of an enthusiastic amateur who worked to breed flowers that produced a succession of blooms over a period of months.

There are two main types of flower bulbs that St. Louis gardeners regularly plant, categorized by their planting time: fall bulbs and spring bulbs. Fall bulbs are planted before the onset of cold weather and are winter hardy. They produce flowers in the spring, the exact flowering time may be different depending on the variety. Gardeners have often planted fall bulbs with this succession in mind, planting a variety of types with different bloom dates to ensure fresh flowers over a longer period. Spring bulbs are planted in the spring and are generally not winter hardy. These bulbs are dug up and stored over the winter for replanting in the spring. Spring bulbs often flower in the summer or fall. Fall bulbs (spring flowering) include daffodils, crocuses, snowdrops, alliums and heirloom tulips. Spring bulbs (summer and fall flowering) include dahlias, cannas and lilies of the valley.

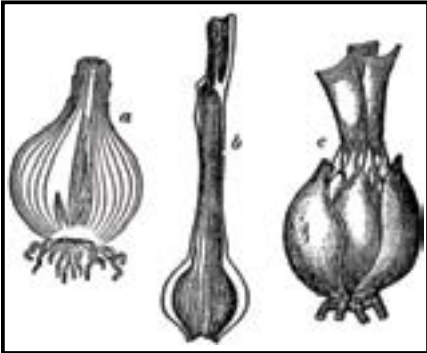
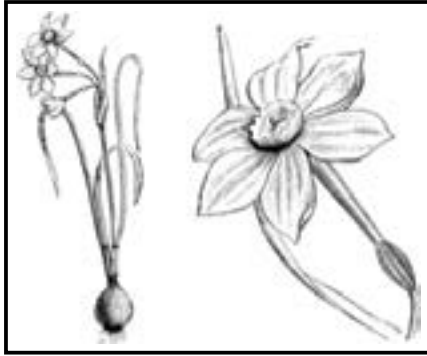
It is important for all bulbs that you choose spots that get the appropriate amount of sun. Many bulbs need at least 6 hours of sunlight, but because they grow and blossom before trees leaf out, they are sometimes planted in spots that become shaded when trees develop leaves. This is a common trick with daffodils.

Most bulbs require rich, well-drained soil, so it is often a good practice to add compost when planting. Many bulbs are planted at a depth three times their height. For a two inch tall bulb, that means six inches. Poorly draining soil or over watering bulbs can lead to problems. Bulbs will rot in the ground if overwatered or soil won't drain well.

"Naturalizing" bulbs are often preferred for planting, but check packaging before buying to see whether a variety is "naturalizing." This only means that the bulb will produce flowers perennially in a spot. Naturalizing bulbs can often be dug up after flowering and divided for planting out.

Some of the countries that have long standing traditions of flower bulb planting, like the Netherlands, where many varieties of flowering bulbs have been cultivated since the 1600s. One interesting tradition is Stinzen lawns. Stinzen lawns are traditional lawns, where a variety of naturalizing, spring flowering bulbs have been planted. They are planted with careful consideration to bloom time, so that when one type of bulb finishes flowering, the next is beginning. Such plantings might begin with early Spring flowering bulbs like Snowdrops or Hyacinths, progress to Mid-Spring varieties like Daffodils, Fritillaria or mid-season Tulips and end with late Spring flowers like Lilies, Dutch Iris or Alliums. Planting a series of bulbs with a variety of blooming times provides a succession of beautiful flowers.

One final point: most bulbs naturalize best when the bulbs and leaves are left to die back, rather than being removed or mowed down. Photosynthesis continues for several weeks (6 weeks to 2 months) after the flower has died, so long as the plant is exposed to light and water. This will let the plant store energy for the next year; ensuring a vigorous future bloom next year.



KIDS CORNER

By Tracy Granneman

THIS EDITION'S PROJECT: The Art of Rubbings

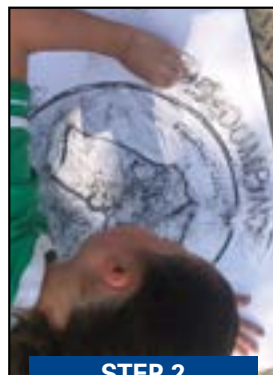
Our neighborhood is filled with embossed or engraved signs, manhole covers and architecture. These provide a textured peek into neighborhood and city history and a great opportunity for a quick and easy art project.

Step 1:

Find a subject for your picture. Here are some examples:



STEP 1



STEP 2

Step 2:

Place a piece of paper onto the item you want to transfer. Then use a crayon, chalk or pencil to gently rub on the paper. You will see the design transfer to the paper. Note: it may help to use the side of your chalk or crayon.

Step 3:

Paint or color in your rubbing to add to the design.



STEP 3

Looking for things to do?

www.fun4stlkids.com is a FREE website listing everything there is to do with kids in the St. Louis area! You can also check out events at: <https://www.facebook.com/Fun4STLKids>

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SCOUTING IS BACK!

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CANOEING! **CAMPFIRES!**

BSA Troop 98 meets every other Wednesday (5/19, 6/2...) in the evening on the green space outside the St. Roch Gym. Meeting times are currently to be determined. Scouts BSA is open to students who have reached the age of 11 or are finishing 5th grade. Scouts can join at any time during the year. Costs to families are minimal. If interested, or if you have questions, please contact Paul Winter (paul@krispaulw.com) or Sean McGroarty (mcgroartyz@gmail.com).

More Neighborhood Walking

By Janice Thomas

‘Walking Man’ by James Taylor is about the passage of time according to some. James Taylor reportedly said it was about his father. His pronouncement carries the most weight as the author but I like to think ‘Walking Man’ is about the passage of time, the changing of seasons.

“Well, the leaves have come to turning and the goose has gone to fly and bridges are burning, so don’t you let that yearning pass you by.”

Though summer has now officially passed us by, my yearning to walk has not. I still yearn to see my neighborhood in the new view of fall, to catch the latest the area around me has to offer and yes, to see the leaves start to turn.

There is change in the air. The days 24 hours now are consumed less by day light. Less time to walk for some I guess, but the walking person still walks.

“The walking. The walking man walks. Well, any other man stops and talks, but the walking man walks.”

Unlike the walking man, this walking portion does stop and talk. I’ve met interesting people that way. Like the neighbor selling homemade goods from the front porch. Not sure if that’s lawful but it was the spark for a delightful conversation. Or the couple tending their plantings edged with the most beautiful hydrangeas of mixed hues. I asked if they had turned the hydrangea colors and learned that the hydrangeas belonged to the neighbor. They were long time residents, retired and invited me to stop by anytime to chat. They were delightful.

Neighbors have asked about my reading choices while I walk to or from the University City Library, discussed the weather; sometimes at length when it was so very hot or the when there is no rain or like recently when the weather has been so beautiful.

But not everyone likes to talk, a group of looking at their phones intently appeared lost. I presumed they were students and asked if I could help. They replied “no, no” in broken English, hurriedly continuing on their way. I get that too. It is not infrequent to pass people who do not speak, or acknowledge my presence on the sidewalk we share. Those who give a “hello”, a nod, a smile or a warm glance receive my “hello” or “how are you” in return just like those who do not. The gift of a hello or other acknowledgment is the least I can give to my fellow human. Once a group passed me walking in a single file line. Each person passed me in silence until the last person at the end of the line said “hello”. Maybe they were the groups spokesperson or maybe they were the one who saw the value in “hello”. Anyway, “Hello and Happy Fall Skinker DeBaliviere neighbors! Maybe I’ll see you on my next walk.

28th Ward Democrats 2021:

Next meeting Nov 18th

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

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Development Updates *continued from page 1*

building that will have one four-bedroom unit on each floor and has been approved by the Preservation Board and Cultural Resources. The Historic District Review Committee of the SDCC met with Mr. Cowen to review the plan. Mr. Cowen intends to live in the first-floor unit of the building and lease the additional two units above.

An update on universal design senior condos, a project proposed by neighbor Dan Schesch. The project is being moved from the 6001-05 Westminster lot to the 521 Des Peres lot that was the planned home of the Walker Townhomes Project proposed by the Skinker DeBaliviere Housing Corporation. SDCHC is no longer proceeding with the construction of the Walker Townhomes.

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House History

By Jo Ann Vatcha

1914-1919 The first owners of 6117 Westminster were Otto and Rosa Starck. VP of Stephens Lithographic, noted in a book called "Historical and Descriptive Review of St. Louis: Her Enterprising Business Houses and Progressive Men," published in 1894, Otto and Rosa bought the newly built house in 1914 in our fast-growing neighborhood north of the World's Fair/Forest Park site. Otto was 73 by then. One imagines him buying this new home at the pinnacle of his successful working life. World War I started just three years later, undoubtedly a distressing turn of events., as Starck was born in Germany. As we know from other documents, the SL Post Dispatch and elsewhere, there was increased fear and prejudice, with changes to street names (nearby Berlin Ave. was changed to Pershing), even a lynching in Collinsville, IL in 1918.

Otto Starck died just after the end of WWI, in 1919, of "apoplexy [now called stroke]" and "influenza", during the terrible "Spanish Flu" pandemic which took the lives of 1,703 and affected over 31,500 St. Louisans, a terrifying period of history. Maybe those 5 years he spent on Westminster were a high point!

1919-1941 George McCullough was also a prominent businessman, President of the McCullough-Tumbach Company, raw fur dealers. Also featured in a book of prominent St. Louisans, and like Starck, he was also an immigrant, but from Ireland. George lived in the Westminster house for 19 years, and his sister Jennie McCullough continued to live there until 1941.



George McCullough

1941-1944 Edmund and Ina Hanley



Hez Petty with co-workers Wagner Electric Co.

1944-1951 Hez and Tillie Petty bought the house in 1944. Petty was an employee of Wagner Electric Co., whose company newsletter included mention of 10 years of service in the Packing and Shipping Dept. in 1953. In 1954, the newsletter showed a photo with three co-workers on a rabbit hunting trip.

1951-1952 Marie Dohrendorf

1952-1965 Robert and Dorothy McDaniel

1965-1968 Paul and Patricia Whelan

The Whelans lived here with their 10 kids in the 60's. Whelan was said to have been a career military man by neighbors and St.

Roch parisioners who remembered them fondly. Once in the late 70's, one of the Whelan children, by then all grown up, knocked on the door and said he had grown up here.

1968-1972 OC and Willow Pastard

A prominent African-American activist during the 60's, Pastard also owned a tavern in the CWE, which brought him money troubles during the lowest point of real estate values in the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood, due to "white flight" and the red-lining by the federal government, which resulted in the inability to get loans and obtain mortgages. This was well documented in my history of the neighborhood (Celebrating Skinker DeBaliviere), published in 2009.

1972 HUD To make it marketable, HUD did basic repairs: a new roof and gutters, plumbing updates, and an awful green sand-finish paint job throughout the house!.

1973-2021 Neville and Jo Ann Vatcha

Neville lived at 6045 Kingsbury with his Indian Parsee school friend, both of whom had immigrated from India to attend engineering school. Neville worked at Dennis Chemical Co., then founded his own companies, Quantum Plastics and later DMX Industries. For 8 years we lived on Nina Place. I was a teacher, then stay-at-home mom who discovered the pre-school "story time" at the little library on DesPeres and met the women of the Residential Service and Cal Stuart, director of SDCC. Dan Feinberg showed us many houses in the CWE, some huge homes which had been turned into boarding houses, and needed too much work. But Westminster felt like home, clean and spacious, and we could do the updating as we lived there. On the sidewalk were children riding their big wheels and playing with each other. We felt welcome in this racially diverse neighborhood.

Buying it wasn't easy, and Feinberg helped us get financing, almost derailed by the flood of 1973, when it was decided that all HUD-owned property would be made available to flood victims, free for a year. Fortunately, no one wanted a house in the city! So we were able to buy it. Moving in, the young girls from next door, Mary Lou and Melissa Green, appeared at our door with rakes and brooms: "can we help?"

And so for nearly half of its lifespan, an Indian immigrant became the longest resident of 6117 Westminster, first purchased by a German immigrant in 1914, then by an Irish immigrant in the 20's. Home ownership, American-style!

A personal note: great thanks to those who have reached out to me after Neville's passing. My daughters Chanaya and Dina and I were so gratified that other longtime neighbors made contributions to the TIMES in his memory. I look forward to learning of a new family at 6117 on our great Westminster block.



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IN YOUR EAR

By Hawkeye Z. Hoerr, Commentary in the TIMES since 1980

I need your help. Actually, the producers of the television show Jeopardy need your help. As you may have heard, the show has been suffering because of some missteps in choosing a new host. The failure to pick a warm and trustworthy successor to Alex Trebek, R.I.P., has severely hurt their ratings. Consequently, they've asked me to reach out to my readers to solicit the best questions to some answers that they will use on the show.

So, here's the deal. The Jeopardy producers have identified ten answers that will appeal to viewers, and they want to know the best questions for eliciting these answers. Once the questions are selected, they'll be asked on the February 29 episode. Read and choose!

Jeopardy answer 1: The Gateway Arch

Possible questions:

- a. What is a monument to people heading to West County?
- b. What is between the Gateway Heel and the Gateway Toes?
- c. What is the world's largest upside-down smiley face?
- d. Where does Donald Trump think they serve Gateway burgers and fries?

Jeopardy answer 2: The Loop

Possible questions:

- a. What is a St. Louis suburban shopping area without a trolley?
- b. What suspends your shirt if no hanger is available?
- c. Where is the best coffee served at Meshuggah?
- d. In what will you get all wet if you jump in backwards?

Jeopardy answer 3: Not achieving their potential.

Possible questions:

- a. What were the baseball Cardinals in 2021?
- b. What were the baseball Cardinals in most years?
- c. What is every ten-year-old boy?
- d. What is every fifty-nine-year-old boy?

Jeopardy answer 4: Not in any of our lifetimes.

Possible questions:

- a. When will the St. Louis City-County merger happen?
- b. When will one device be invented that manages all television controls?
- c. When health care costs get under control?
- d. When will the final James Bond movie be made?

Jeopardy answer 5: A Covid mask

Possible questions:

- a. What easily prevents the spread of disease?
- b. What do foolish politicians oppose?
- c. What hurts orthodontists' businesses?
- d. What is helpful to dieting unless it is removed?

Jeopardy answer 6: Forest Park

Possible questions:

- a. What is bigger than NYC's Central Park?
- b. What lacks a basketball court?
- c. Where would walking paths would be safer if Lindell was narrower?
- d. Where is a Ted Drewes needed?

Jeopardy answer 7: Ice cream

Possible questions:

- a. What do we all scream for?
- b. What can you never eat too much of?
- c. What is surprisingly good at breakfast?
- d. What do astronauts miss the most in outer space?

Jeopardy answer 8: Skinker Avenue

Possible questions:

- a. What is one block east of the actual St. Louis City boundary?
- b. What should be narrower to reduce automobile traffic?
- c. What is only street named after a bartender?
- d. What separates two confusing street layouts?

Jeopardy answer 9: Zoom

Possible questions:

- a. Where do we all spend too much time?
- b. Where can you see everyone's facial eruptions?
- c. Where can you type while seemingly being attentive?
- d. What is the backwards plural for noises that cows make?

Jeopardy answer 10: "Uninformed and foolish"

Possible questions:

- a. Republican candidates
- b. Republican office holders
- c. Republican voters
- d. All of the above

Please convey your responses to me by mental telepathy or email (trhoerr@aol.com). By the way, I just learned that there's good news about Jeopardy choosing a new host. The final two candidates are former MO Governor Eric Greitens and Lord Voldemort, Master of the Dark Arts. Choosing the host will be a difficult decision.



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