

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

Vol. 51, No. 5

April - May 2022

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

FREE

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

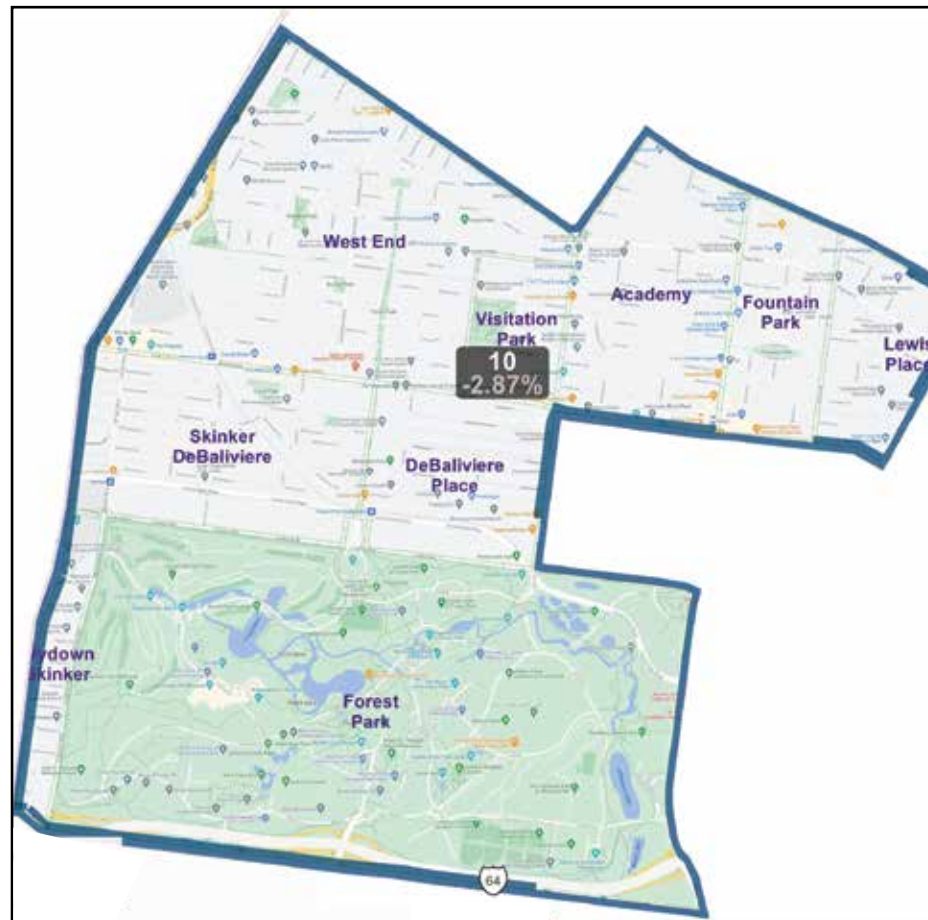
## New Times, New Ward: New Opportunity to Create An Inclusive Community

by Cecilia Nadal

So much of our collective consciousness these days is centered on “big issues” such as the state of democracy in America and the war in Ukraine. Across political parties, race, class, and ideology we are all engaged viscerally in what will happen in the Ukraine and to the United States. In spite of years of troubling polarization here, the crisis in Ukraine has given us memorable examples of unity like our bipartisan support for sanctions in Russia and robust support for military and financial aid to President Zelensky and the people of Ukraine. While this unity may dissipate as we get closer to elections, at the moment, it is a welcomed breath of fresh air.

It was through the lens of these “big issues” that I began to think about our new Ward 10 which arguably will be one of the most diverse wards in the City of St. Louis. I thought Democracy and its manifestations are also local. Democratic values are reflected by how we engage others in our community who may not live on our block or in our neighborhood.

Broadly speaking, every major demographic category is represented in Ward 10. From the highly educated and wealthy to citizens who are underemployed or not employed at all. There are differences in the number of elderly and those under the age of 18, and there’s a growing community of refugees and immigrants.



Field	Value
District	10
Population	20922
Deviation	-619
% Deviation	-2.87%
White	5817
% White	27.8%
Black	11662
% Black	55.74%
AmIndian	83
% AmIndian	0.4%
Asian	1623
% Asian	7.76%
Hawaiian	8
% Hawaiian	0.04%
Hispanic Origin	1019
% Hispanic Origin	4.87%
Not Hispanic	19903
% Not Hispanic	95.13%
Other	569
% Other	2.72%

Most important will be how dedicated we are in Ward 10 to use community strategies that reflect the ideals of democracy: to engage the diverse voices and bring benefits to all of our citizens regardless of race or ethnicity, income, age, education, or residency in particular neighborhoods.

We often make huge and erroneous assumptions about people and places, a reality that often stymies progress and community innovation. Demographics do not allow us to find the “unique exceptions” nor do they help us mine for unique opportunities that are not

apparent. The vehicle to finding the gems and opportunities is community engagement with the people themselves encouraging the sharing of their perspectives and insuring their representation.

In 2010 a young Ethiopian teenager was killed in the Hodiament area near Page Blvd. and Skinker. At the request of one of the families living there, I went to the apartment complex where the incident occurred to learn the details and to see how Gitana Productions, an arts and education program, could assist in the midst of a tragedy. After talking with families, the owners of the property, city officials and

Our new ward boundaries, or will they change again? According to the Post Dispatch, the redistricting proposal, which got on the April ballot through an initiative petition drive, will shift the redistricting duty from aldermen to a new commission set up to limit the influence of city politicians as much as possible. However, Board President Lewis Reed said a lawsuit would be filed to try to block the proposal and, failing that, to clarify that the new commission process wouldn’t start until after the next U.S. census in 2030. Until that is decided, the map, including our Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood, as voted in by the Board of Aldermen, keeps our neighborhood and the DeBaliviere Place Neighborhood together, but pushes our ward boundaries north to Page, then along MLK, to Taylor to Delmar and Union, to Lindell and Kingshighway, to Oakland and Clayton Rd, to the City Limits point of beginning. Additional neighborhoods included are West End, Academy, Visitation Park, Lewis Place, and Fountain Park. The Central West End goes into a different ward.

**New Times, New Ward** *continued on page 3*

## Missouri Prison Books

Missouri Prison Books is a St. Louis-based 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that sends free books on request to incarcerated people in Missouri. We are located in the World Community Center at the corner of Kingsbury and Skinker.

MPB formed in 2019 to fill the need for reading material inside prisons. This need is particularly acute in Missouri, where few other organizations do similar work. While demand for books is high in prisons across the U.S., incarcerated people are barred from receiving books from individuals, and prison libraries are often under-resourced. Many prisoners lack money to buy reading material, are restricted from accessing Internet resources, and have few contacts outside prison that can procure books for them.

In the past couple of years we had a spot at both the wonderful neighborhood Wintermarkt and Rags to Riches events as two of our donation fundraisers. We are also happy to be affiliated with Subterranean Books in the Loop - one of the great independent bookstores in St. Louis. As we are entirely volunteer-staffed and donation-funded, we always welcome contribution of books, or money (for postage, mailing supplies, and specific book purchases).

Our webpage address is <https://missouriprisonbooks.org> for more information, and we are on instagram @ moprisonbooks. We can also be contacted at the email below for book pickup or drop off arrangements.

Your neighbor -  
Christiane Carlsson  
[moprisonbooks@gmail.com](mailto:moprisonbooks@gmail.com)



## Editor's Notes

By Linda Cross

Spring is here! (Albeit a wet and cool one so far). Even with Covid it feels like we can break out of our cocoons and see our neighbors emerging to work on yard or garden projects or to walk their dogs instead of the brisk pace required to beat the winter cold. Our family has a new and unexpectedly large puppy that is requiring a lot of outside time. In lieu of a dog park in our neighborhood, I have joined the U. City dog park and it has been magical. Our dog, Popcorn, can run and run and play with other dogs and get more exercise than I could give her on a 10-mile walk. It is with that same thought that our neighbors have once again picked up the gauntlet to get our own dog park built. Of course, with any project the major obstacle is fundraising. My husband Andy has thought of a creative way to 'upcycle' (my apologies to anyone who hates that word like my daughter does) in our neighborhood and raise funds for the dog park. When the students move out at the end of the semester, we drive around the neighborhood and pick up reusable items, clean them, sometimes restore and repair them, and then sell them at Rags to Riches in the fall for money to donate to the dog park. The first year we made \$105 dollars and thought that was wonderful, but last year we were able to donate \$750! So, if you see us dumpster diving in the spring, don't be concerned about our wellbeing. If you would like to join our effort or if you have a creative idea that your family would like to do, let us know and we can help spread the word. Having said that, remember that the most important part of our neighborhood is you. Please take time to enjoy the garden that you are tending, smell the flowers on your walk, sit on your porch and take time to rejuvenate.



### 28th Ward Democrats 2022:

Next meeting  
May 19th

More info on Facebook &  
<https://ward28stdems.org>

### 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: May 15, 2022**  
for our Summer 2022 Issue. Please send copy  
by e-mail to Linda Cross, [lcross@sdtimes.org](mailto:lcross@sdtimes.org).

## 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 Tracy Granneman
Cristina McGroarty	Cecelia Nadal June Vaughan
Richard Bose	Jo Ann Vatcha
Andy Cross	Lana Stein
King Schoenfeld	Mark Banaszak
Marvin Nodiff	Tom Hoerr

The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere is published by the West End Publishing Co., a not-for profit, independent, community organization.  
Layout: Karen Hilmes Printing: Arcade Printing

Advertising Rates - Display Advertising:  
Column width, 2.25". Minimum ad size 2" x 1 col: \$25/insertion.  
For a complete list of sizes and rates, write:  
The Times, c/o 6229 Washington, 63130, or call 314-359-9771.

Readers are welcome to send us e-mail or letters commenting on any of our content. Send to [lcross@sdtimes.org](mailto:lcross@sdtimes.org).

## To the Editor

The January February issue of Times had a report on the SDCC January 2022 board meeting. It contained misinformation about the 6001 Westminster Place lot on which I previously intended to build four universal design condos for seniors: "Nearby residents are concerned about contamination that might occur during removal of two buried gasoline tanks ... adjacent to other residential properties"

1. No (zero) underground storage tanks (USTs) have been found on the lot. Three Phase 2 environmental site assessments were ordered by the MO Dep't of Natural Resources to determine contamination after use by gas stations until about 1980. The lot was surveyed with magnetometers and ground penetrating radar. DNR "would not expect them" (the tops) "to be more than six feet below the surface". The tank(s) may have been removed when Bob's Sunoco changed to a car repair garage, or when that building was torn down (no city records have been found re tank removal or a building demolition permit).

2. The allegations of possible contamination during lot remediation were voiced and refuted in 2019. Remediation of former gas station sites is performed by specialized licensed professional remediation contractors under the supervision of the MO Dep't of Natural Resources. Safety techniques include wetting the soil to prevent dust. Any contaminated dirt (tested during remediation) is hauled away by covered trucks and dumped at specialized landfills. If the 6001 Westminster lot had been remediated, the fire hydrant on the edge of the property would have supplied sufficient water to prevent dust from forming.

UST gas tanks were removed and the soil remediated at six former gas station sites in our neighborhood all adjacent to residential properties apparently without dust or contamination complaints by adjacent neighbors (there are 24 sites within a half mile).

Dan Schesch

## SDCC Board Meeting Notes

By June Vaughan

On February 15, 2022, the Board of Directors of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council (SDCC) met at 7 P. M. by Zoom. Brandon Sterling, formerly executive director of the SDCC, spoke in his current role as board president for the Delmar Main Street (DMS) initiative. This group is asking the SDCC to establish a relationship with them, sending Executive Director Mike Reed as primary representative to their board. Other SDCC board members could participate in the organization. SDCC would agree to make an unspecified monetary contribution.

DMS is affiliated with the Missouri Main Streets Connection, Inc., a not-for profit based in Branson, MO, with active projects in Laclede's Landing and Dutchtown. The common aim, to restore urban economic corridors, is supported on federal, state, and local levels. Delmar is identified as a local and state level priority. DMS has a three-year commitment funded by state and private sources. It is in the process of applying to the IRS for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.

Goals of DMS include historic preservation, a stronger tax base, and walkable neighborhoods with mixed use and space for general life activity. Committees focus on four areas: design, covering aesthetics of buildings and spaces and security; organization; promotion, to attract both businesses and people; and creating economic vitality through support of businesses, entrepreneurship, and appropriate development.

Originally aiming to revitalize the area along Delmar Boulevard from Rosedale to Kingshighway, DMS is extending this goal to Taylor. On November 17, 2021, the group held a town hall event at St. Louis ArtWorks, 5959 Delmar Boulevard. They seek participation from the neighborhoods of West End, Lewis Place, Skinker-DeBaliviere, Visitation Park, DeBaliviere Place, Academy, and Fountain Park. Asked how the group handles disagreements when not all members support a proposal, Mr. Sterling said that they operate by consensus. Rachelle L'Ecuyer, who both chairs the SDCC Commercial Committee and is employed as Executive Director of the East Loop CID (Community Improvement District), said that the East Loop CID is working on a memorandum of understanding with DMS. There was consensus among the SDCC board that more information and time for consideration would be required before any decisions are made.

SDCC Board Meeting continued on page 4

# News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Hello neighbors

Let's start off this column with some great news about our neighbor, Kim Freter, of the 5700 block of McPherson. Kim was recently became a a Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Illinois. Kim was appointed by the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals for what she says "is likely to be the last legal job I'll ever have." She will head one of 81 authorized federal defender organizations in the US representing indigent clients charged with federal crime. Congratulations Kim! We wish you much success.



Kim Freter



Emily Cross

We already know that talent runs in the Cross family. And we are excited to share that Emily Cross received the Award of Merit from Soulard Art Gallery for her work, "Wedding Tree" in the Anything Goes Exhibit. Emily is the oldest daughter of artist Andy Cross and

Linda Cross of the 6000 block of McPherson. Congratulations Em, that is truly awesome!

Former Parkview resident, Dorothy Jean Gotway passed away on March 10 following an almost 20 year battle with Alzheimer's. Dorothy was predeceased by her loving husband of 51 years, Edward O. Gotway (June 10, 2019).

The Gotways lived on the 4300 block of McPherson throughout the 80's (and maybe into the 90's, I honestly don't know for sure!). Dorothy was a beloved mother to her 5 children, and she took a 14-year break from teaching to raise them. She enjoyed making unique and special birthday cakes for each of them, making homemade Halloween costumes, and supporting her children in any way she could. She returned to teaching mathematics at St. Louis Community College, and later returned to the University of Missouri as a mathematics lecturer and coordinator for the Center for Academic Development. Dorothy loved spending time with family, especially with her 12 grandchildren. In accordance with her dedication to lifelong learning, Dorothy donated her body to the Saint Louis University School of Medicine.



Dorothy Gotway

The neighborhood lost another longtime friend and resident, Rick Lake. Richard Ezra Lake III, was born on April 21, 1941 in Kansas City, KS and passed away on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at Sunrise on Clayton, St. Louis, MO. Rick is survived by his wife, Venita. Rick and Venita were longtime active residents (since the early 70's) of Skinker DeBaliviere, raising their daughters Beth and Missy in the neighborhood. Until what seems like not long ago, I recall seeing Rick Lake out walking the neighborhood regularly. Our condolences go out to the entire family. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.



Rich Lake

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!

## Crescent Plumbing Plans Move to U City, Clearing the Way for Development Around Delmar Metrolink Station

By Richard Bose

Opus Development Company plans to construct a 76,750-square-foot warehouse, retail showroom, and offices for a new home for Crescent Plumbing Supply Company at Olive and Kingsland in University City. The University City Plan Commission considered the proposal at their March 23rd meeting. The plan is to move in in mid-2023. The properties at 6610 Olive, once home to Shur Sav, 6662 Olive, and 950 Kingsland are owned by Washington University in St. Louis.

Crescent Plumbing Supply Company is currently located at 640 Rosedale. It has been a sticky wicket for development around the Delmar Metrolink Station, where almost all of the property around it is owned by WUSTL. Crescent also owns 521 Rosedale across the street. Crescent has been at this location since 1955.

Also noteworthy is that Opus is developing the new facility for Crescent as they have recently been shown the door to their proposals for apartment buildings in the Delmar Loop, first at Delmar and Leland and then at Delmar and Skinker.

The Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood Plan and the Delmar and Forest Park Station TOD Plan envisioned dense mixed-use walkable development around the Delmar Metrolink Station including making the shuttered Wabash Station the entrance to the Metrolink station.

It appears the pieces are falling into place for long-anticipated development there.

## New Times, New Ward *continued from page 1*

the police, it was clear that promoting dialogue between very diverse neighbors was critical. As a result, with input from the community, the Amherst Park Peace Festival began, bringing a diversity of community members together through music, inclusion of community resources, and education. Community people helped select the artists, the food, and many residents volunteered. African Americans, Latinos and other immigrant began talking to each other and working on a joint project for the first time. Here is what I learned:

Community engagement is a critical tool for democracy. It is a strategy that encourages participation, and allows us to hear different perspectives. It is a strategy of inclusion and builds community.

The Amherst Park Peace Festival expanded from 2-3 collaborating organizations to 15. Spanish and African American artists joined the festival from all over the region as did institutions and local organizations. Families wanted their kids to have constructive activities after school so we started the Global Education program, a cross-cultural arts and education program located in one of the apartments in the area that ran for 10 years. Sunita Manu, a refugee from Liberia lived on Hodiament, was a teenager in that program for many years receiving academic coaching and counseling. The good news! Sunita just graduated from St. Louis University with a Ph.D. in Public Health Policy. Maria Anaya, an immigrant from Mexico also participated for a number of years and she is now a sophomore at Webster University on scholarship.

Without deep community engagement we would not have found Sunita and Maria nor would we have known what connections were critical to their individual success.

Looking at the crime rate and demographics in the area many would not have imagined that such extraordinary individual outcomes were possible. It took community engagement and radical listening to hear and see what was needed and what would work. Maria and Sunita and many others give testimony to the fact that demographics are not predictors of success. When I think about Ward 10 it is my greatest hope that we will be engaged enough to find such people to help us with community building.



Sunita Manu



Maria Anaya

### Tons of Support!

Since January, The Delmar Loop/East Loop Community Improvement District, has diverted over a ton of trash from landfills by implementing a pilot recycling program. The program was made possible with the aid of the St. Louis Jefferson Solid Waste District and the Department of Natural Resources that provided funds to purchase recycling bins for the district. This is the first time a recycling program has been offered on the St. Louis City side of The Delmar Loop. The program not only supports recycling but the new receptacles are helping overall management of trash in the district.



The Delmar Loop/East Loop CID has also commissioned the St. Louis Artworks to repurpose 16 of the old cement trash bins into artist designed planters. The planters will be on display with plants as soon as Mother Nature allows. This program will divert more than 3 tons of concrete from ending up in a landfill and it provided a unique experience for artist apprentices at St. Louis Artworks to engage in a public art project.

“The St. Louis Jefferson Solid Waste District and the Department of Natural Resources not only helped The Delmar Loop/East Loop Community Improvement District with the foundation to start a pilot recycling program, we are able to ensure that the district is well-maintained and more welcoming for visitors and neighborhood residents.”, said Rachelle L’Ecuyer, Executive Director of The Delmar Loop/East Loop Community Improvement District. “This type of program is fundamental for improving the district and is in line with the goals of our organization. It’s a win-win-win for neighborhood, the businesses, and the City. We are grateful to have this opportunity. At the rate recycling is being collected, the district is on target to divert over 14 tons of trash from going to a landfill this year.”

### SDCC Board Meeting *continued from page 2*

Lauren Tucker spoke for Odd Couples Housing, which brings together older and younger adults to share housing. Older homeowners benefit from a small rental income, increased social interaction, and continued independence in their own homes. The younger tenant, usually a student, benefits from lower rent and learns about the community of residence. Background checks and use of references are encouraged. The agency does follow-up checks to protect both parties. Older adults sharing their homes through the program range in age from 55 to 94, with 42 matches in the St. Louis metro area. Ms. Tucker was advised of the city ordinance limiting each residence to no more than three unrelated persons. Interested persons may call (314)925-2003. This information will be posted on the SDCC website.

Cordell Whitlock with Vector Communications spoke about plans to revamp the Steinberg Rink across from Childrens Hospital for year around use. It currently operates from November through February. Mr. Whitlock requests that residents complete an on-line survey as to what they would like to see in the renovated facility. A link will be listed on the SDCC website. A project hotline number is (314)384-5858.

Dan Schesch asked the SDCC to take ownership of his lot at 6001 Westminster, formerly the site of a service station, where he had planned to build senior-friendly apartments. Lead has been found in one spot along with volatile organic compounds (oil leakage) in specific areas. The city estimated cost of remediation at \$72,000. The SDCC originally endorsed the sale of the lot by the city to Mr. Schesch, he said. However, he cannot do residential construction without environmental remediation. Instead, he purchased and is building on a lot where the Housing Corporation formerly planned to build. Other uses of the contaminated property are possible without disturbing the soil--as a dog park, for example. The surface is not contaminated. He said there was an agreement that if he did not use the lot he could donate it to the SDCC, otherwise he would sell it and the neighborhood would have less control over how it is used. The board did not have a clear understanding of the agreement he described and will discuss the issue further at the next meeting.

The treasurer, Marnita Spight, was not present. Mike Reid led a discussion of the budget plans in progress. Mr. Reid’s hours will increase from 20 to 35 per week. He has been paid for 20 hours weekly, but the job has regularly required unpaid overtime. Karen Kelsey will be working in afternoons only. The air conditioning in the building needs repair and the boiler is not dependable long term. SDCC’s responsibility for this equipment under terms of their lease from the Housing Corporation, the landlord, was discussed. Mike Reid is working toward acquiring more grants for the SDCC.

Beautification Chair Andy Cross announced that the annual garden tour, on the first Saturday in June, will again include individual gardens, as it did before the pandemic. Another neighborhood-wide food drive on March 19 will be announced in the SD Times. In addition to past recipients, donations will be shared with food pantries in the new Tenth Ward area north of Delmar.

Rachelle L’Ecuyer reported for the Commercial Committee that Ameren is looking for a property to replace the current transformer near Crossroads. She strongly discouraged the real estate agent who called from placing a large transformer station on a main boulevard in our area.

### March 14, 2022 SDCC Meeting

The Board of Directors of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council (SDCC) met on March 14, 2022, at 7 P. M. by Zoom. Ald. Shameem Clark Hubbard, 28th Ward, discussed a new program coming from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). It will offer grants to persons who, due to financial problems caused by the Covid pandemic, are about to lose a house through a tax sale. Other forms of financial “empowerment” also will be available. She reported that the Imo’s Pizza proposed for Delmar is still working through appeals to complete permits from the city. She mentioned the special election on April 19, when the 28th Ward will elect a replacement for former Ald. Heather Navarro. The replacement will serve until the election of 2023 when we will elect one alderman for the new Ward 10.

Mike Reid is filling in on the Security Committee where a new co-chair is needed. He reported that a drug problem in the 6100 block of Washington was cleared up by arrests made in another area of the city.

Rachelle L’Ecuyer was asked if she thought that her serving as chair of the SDCC Commercial Committee while also employed as Executive Director of the East Loop CID created a conflict of

**SDCC Board Meeting** *continued on page 6*

**SHARI WHAY & ASSOCIATES**

636.534.9493  
text: 314.550.9493  
email: shariwhay@kw.com  
shariwhay.kw.com

**kw**  
KELLERWILLIAMS

Skinker-DeBaliviere Resident  
★★★★★  
Top Producing Agent

See what people are saying on Zillow, Realtor.com, and Facebook @ShariWhayRE

Each office is independently owned and operated.

Would you like to have a website?  
Just go to:  
[www.SAHosting.com](http://www.SAHosting.com)

You can have domain registration at \$30 for two years.  
You can get hosting service also two years for only \$48.  
The Personal Plan is most affordable and probably all the disk space and email inboxes you will ever need.  
Use a credit card. Processed by PayPal.  
Satisfaction or charge refunded.

Operated by Ken Krippner since 2002  
Ken@SAHosting.com

## This Land Is Your Land: Grow great tomatoes this summer!

By Mark Banaszak and Katrina Stierholz

Summer is coming and better yet, home-grown tomatoes. Although store-bought tomatoes have improved over the years, the best ones for fresh eating are still the ones grown in the hot, humid Missouri summers. There are so many great varieties that grow well here. You can grow them in containers in your yard or in a garden bed at one of the neighborhood community gardens. It isn't difficult to grow great tomatoes. Following some simple advice will help.

Because of the huge number of varieties available, choose plants that will match your preferences. You can get good plants at many places, but understanding what you are getting is important. What you want to use them for is first. If you plan to make sauce, you want a larger harvest over a short period of time. That means you want "determinate" varieties. If you are more interested in slicing, salads and sandwiches over the summer, you probably are more interested in "indeterminate" varieties that ripen over a longer time period.

There are also hybrid and heirloom varieties. Usually, hybrid tomatoes produce more tomatoes, suffer fewer tomato diseases and mature more quickly. They can also have less summery tomato flavor and texture, although they are constantly improving. Heirlooms come in a variety of impressive flavors and colors, and heirlooms run "true to type" so you can save the seeds and get similar tomatoes the next year. This is the origin of the name "heirloom." A BLT with homegrown heirloom tomatoes has no match, but heirlooms can crack with too much water, produce fewer tomatoes, and are more susceptible to diseases and pests than hybrid plants. Hybrid varieties also often keep longer once picked, depending on the the variety.

Garden stores get plants as early as March, but it is not a good idea to put them in the ground until soil temperatures are consistently above 50 degrees. Lizzie Rickard of Bowood Farms says, "We receive our farm-grown tomato plants in late April and even then it is possible that we will get colder night temperatures than the tomato plants prefer." Nevertheless, she suggests, shop early and care for the plants yourself until planting time, in order to get the varieties you want. Plants may get "leggy" but that is ok. Keep them in their pots until the soil is warm enough outside. Ms. Rickard's family typically waits until after Mother's Day, her grandmother's strategy. Other local gardening wisdom suggests waiting to plant in the ground until the fireflies appear.

Thoughtful planting also improves results. Tomatoes develop roots along the stem if under the soil, so remove the bottom leaves and plant them deep. Ms. Rickard also recommends fertilizer at planting time. Tomatoes need to develop strong root systems, so use a fertilizer specifically for tomatoes. Tomato fertilizers often have more phosphorus for this reason. Bone meal is traditional fertilizer for tomatoes because it supplies phosphorus as well as calcium. This prevents end rot, a common problem.

Stake your tomatoes early. Tomatoes are a vining plant, and stems need gentle support. One last important growing tip is mulching. Mulching can help reduce watering needs, but more importantly can help prevent many tomato diseases. These diseases are spread by bacteria and fungi in the soil. A layer of mulch helps keep soil from splashing up from below on leaves and stems, reducing the chances of soil-borne problems.

Enjoying home grown tomatoes is one of the great joys of living in Missouri; you may travel far and wide, but the best BLT is the one you make at home with your own tomatoes.



Internal Medicine  
Dermatology  
Dentistry  
Grooming

**Dr. Bret Shaw, DVM**  
**Dr. Lydia Mitchener**

420 N Skinker (at Kingsbury)  
St. Louis, MO 63130  
Phone: (314) 721.6251  
www.kah.com    doc@kah.com



### KARLEEN O. HOERR

Top Real Estate Professional Since 1978  
Specializing in Skinker DeBaliviere and Parkview  
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

### DANIEL B. FEINBERG REAL ESTATE CO.

Office: 314-721-5600, ext. 115 • KareleenHoerr@aol.com

# KIDS CORNER

By Tracy Granneman

## THIS MONTH'S ACTIVITY

### Cardinals Seek & Find

B J W  
 L V K O M  
 K F N P O I C  
 Z N E H N D T T G  
 E H I M E S F M S H E  
 P F I Z M R S O Z A S G E  
 E R Q V N C R I R Z T R O I G  
 Y E W X P E F E V D G L X E S R X  
 M Y S S R H R A R P G N Z N N N A W D  
 L E B S B Q V H R A P W O D I O V A Y N L  
 J S Q N U C H I H L D A P J V F A S C D L I W  
 E O O M I K O L A S A W S A E J A Q V L R O C A C  
 P J Q O C M A T Z P D N H O V D A N O X K R Z J Q W P  
 C I P N H Y E L S L E H D O G V N D R V Z B S A G P G I B  
 T G A O D I C K E R S O N H Q E I T Q C E S V I O C O V V J R  
 D V V O N M M T I Q B W B I L W K N H H H G V T Y O K K E  
 W Q N N A M D E M Z Y K O L K Q C N T Z I D G N N Z D  
 N W A H S L A W U T M N A P N P E T E I C E B E A  
 M H K R D E W K R M O G A I Y Y D M R I K D B  
 W I D P V X U E C D S X A I O H I L V N S  
 A T K G R R H N N Q H S S C I L O A C  
 Z L J Z R A O O R W Y S F I E N E  
 N E B Y L O R K Y D I K E R N  
 J Y P F T X Z L M S T E O  
 F A Z B U O C L K F S  
 I B A G U Q A Z D  
 E A V X C V U  
 R I U P H  
 I Z K  
 J

### WORD LIST:

- |           |             |           |            |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| ARENADO   | GALLEGOS    | MCFARLAND | SANCHEZ    |
| BADER     | GOLDSCHMIDT | MIKOLAS   | SOSA       |
| CARLSON   | HELSLEY     | MOLINA    | WAINWRIGHT |
| DEJONG    | HERRERA     | NOOTBAAR  | WALSH      |
| DICKERSON | HICKS       | ONEILL    | WHITLEY    |
| EDMAN     | HUDSON      | OVIEDO    | WOODFORD   |
| FERNANDEZ | KNIZNER     | REYES     | YEPEZ      |
| FLAHERTY  | MATZ        | RONDON    |            |

## New Librarian at Charing Cross

By June Vaughn

Stephen (Steve) Morris, our new librarian at the Charing Cross branch, already seems at home going about his work there. According to another long-time employee of the St. Louis Public Library, much consideration was given to who should fill the opening left when Charles Lamkin retired. It is likely that similar consideration was exercised when Charles himself was chosen, for apparently our little branch was opened in 1992 with the goal of creating a special kind of neighborhood library, which requires a special librarian.



Someone in library administration at the time had been enchanted by the collection of letters published in 1970 by Helene Hanff as 84, Charing Cross Road, which was made into a movie of the same name in 1987. The movie starred Anne Bancroft and Anthony Hopkins, with supporting roles for Judi Dench and Mercedes Reuhl. Through these letters a relationship developed between a well-read, witty, sarcastic writer in New York and the traditionally reserved employee of a second-hand bookstore in London, at 84, Charing Cross Road, also drawing in other employees of the store. The first letter, with a somewhat arcane shopping list for out-of-print books enclosed, left New York for London in October of 1949, while severe food rationing plagued post-war London. The following letters tell an audacious story with the power to shatter cynicism and encourage radical kindness—because it is true.

Thirty years ago, a person working in our grand and elegant Central Library dreamed that our neighborhood branch library could be special, incorporating some of the spirit of 84, Charing Cross. That is the story Steve was told of how our library received a name straight from the heart of London via a small, remarkable book.

Steve appreciates that Charing Cross has the welcoming ambiance of a small town library. As a child in Highland, Illinois, he came to know his local Carnegie library well. While studying English at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, he worked in the library

**New Librarian** continued on page 7

# Plans Continue to Bring Dog Park to Skinker DeBaliviere

By Lana Stein



Various residents have been working toward achieving a neighborhood dog park. It is a costly venture but one that would bring a number of benefits. Our neighborhood has many of the canine variety. A park would provide a good means of exercise. And dogs love to run free. Dogs are also pack animals so they might find playmates. Owners could meet and talk about their pets and the neighborhood. This extends possibilities for communication and reviving networks.

This park would be on Des Peres just north of what once was the Hamilton branch school. Money has to be raised to erect the park. Our housing corporation will provide the land. The dog park committee is being reconstituted and held its first meeting on APRIL 12th. The committee is welcoming interested neighbors to help with planning and fundraising. Please email Tracey Granneman at granneman@outlook.com to see what you could do to help. June's annual dog show will be an opportunity to spread the word. When the park is completed, memberships will be available with dues to cover maintenance. Dog vaccinations will be verified.

## SDCC Board Meeting *continued from page 4*

interest. She explained that the two roles function well together and therefore does not see a conflict. There was no further discussion. She then reported that there have been dozens of complaints about trash and the general condition of the Family Dollar Store site at 5935 Delmar. Local management is not responsive. A letter will be sent to corporate management. She suggested that as many people as possible complain to the Citizens Service Bureau, because large numbers of complaints often generate action by the city. She also reported that Ameren is now looking for a transformer site north of Delmar in West End, but it could still be built in SD. A transformer upgrade is necessary due to the number of new apartment buildings in the area.

Andy Cross reported that the Beautification Committee has scheduled Alley Cleanup Day for April 30 and Electronics Recycling Day for May 14. Donations to the food drive on March 19 will be taken to Centennial Christ Church on Fountain, north of Delmar in addition to New Cote Brilliante and Grace Methodist, in recognition of our relationship with our new 10th Ward neighbors. We are asked never to donate food with expired dates, because food pantries cannot distribute them.

Treasurer Marnita Spight was not present. Mike Reid noted that air conditioning repairs will cost less than expected and that fund raising events have increased 10-15 percent in the past year. He thinks that SDCC will qualify for a substantial grant from CARES act money and presented a budget for the fiscal year. One member noted that the budget allowed only for covering known expenses with no funds designated for initiatives emerging from strategic planning which is on-going. Another member commented that, historically, the practice has been for budgets to cover only expenses. The budget was approved with the understanding that it will be reviewed on a monthly and a quarterly basis by the financial committee to assure that expenses do not exceed income.

Proposed committee chairmen were accepted. A chairman is needed for the Dog Park Committee.

There was considerable discussion of the property at 6001 Westminster, which Dan Schesch wishes to donate to the SDCC. This revolved around issues related to environmental contamination on the site and to the details of a document dating from the time when Mr. Schesch purchased the land from the city. These details are described in published summaries of SDCC board meetings in January and February. There was a motion not to accept ownership of the property. This motion was tabled until a copy of the original document is made available to all board members.

Due to the late hour, there was no discussion of a memorandum of understanding which is being developed regarding a possible relationship with the Delmar Main Street initiative described in the published summary of the SDCC Board meeting in February.

**CONCRETE CONTRACTING**  
**WEIR**  
 LLC  
 SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

**RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL**  
**314.398.1499**

DRIVEWAYS  
 PATIOS  
 SIDEWALK  
 RETAINING WALLS  
 MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS  
 POWERWASHING  
 SEALING  
 CAULKING  
 DECORATIVE FINISHES

GREG WEIR  
 GREG@WEIRCONCRETE.COM

Small business is **big business.**

*We promise to keep your business successful and nimble.*

Busey understands that small businesses are the lifeblood of our local economy.

For 150 years, we've remained a dedicated partner to those businesses and entrepreneurs who bring vibrancy to the local economy.

Busey. Your Dream. Our Promise.

**BuseyBANK**

314.367.8800  
 busey.com

Member FDIC

**S N A R F ' S**

**Sandwiches**

Gourmet Sandwiches, Salads and Soups

The Loop • 6301 Delmar Blvd. University City, MO 63130  
 P. 314-725-4800 F. 314-725-4805

MX Building • 614 Washington Ave. St. Louis, MO 63101  
 P. 314-241-0100 F. 314-241-0105

SLU 374A • S. Grand Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63103  
 P. 314-833-4828 F. 314-833-4829

Skinker • 360 N. Skinker Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63130  
 P. 314-449-1771 F. 314-449-6823

**WE DELIVER & CATER!**  
**WWW.SNARFSSTL.COM**

**Healing Hands**

Muscles tight? Not enough flexibility?  
 Looking to build muscle, strength and endurance?  
 Need that extra push?  
**Tonya can help!**  
 Call today to get a quote and schedule an appointment.

*A Better You is Just a Phone Call Away!*

**(314) 632-6525**

**BOXDORFER SPRINGER TEAM**

*Top 1% in the Global Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Network - 2021*

**Proud to be a Skinker DeBaliviere Resident!**

If you are looking for exceptional real estate service and representation with unparalleled experience, we are the neighborhood team you need!

**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices**  
 Alliance Real Estate

**CHAMPION'S CIRCLE PLATINUM**

©2022 BHH Affiliates, LLC. An independently operated subsidiary of HomeServices of America, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate, and a franchisee of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Equal Housing Opportunity. ®

c: 314-691-0538 | o: 314-872-6641 | rboxdorfer@bhhsall.com  
 c: 314.817.6620 | o: 314.872.6673 | wspringer@bhhsall.com  
**www.BoxdorferSpringerTeam.com**

## Finding Companionship

By Marvin J. Nodiff

“Aging in place” is something that only affects others. Until it sneaks up on you.

Amica, my two-year-old Golden Retriever, may be smart and cute, but she wasn’t capable of an adult conversation. Cooking for one wasn’t any fun. CNN was becoming addictive. The pandemic was limiting social activity. In short, rattling around alone in a big house was getting a bit lonely.

As a man of a certain age, getting in touch with my inner feelings was not easy. Perhaps I could find a companion. After all, the entire third floor, including a bedroom and full bath, was available.

I decided to test my comfort zone and contacted Odd Couples Housing (OCH), an innovative organization that connects seniors with mature grad students. OCH already had more than 40 matches in the St. Louis region.

The result, last November, was Portia, a grad student at Washington University’s Brown School of Social Work. In St. Louis from her native Ghana, she adds the value of quality conversation, covering subjects ranging from a simple “how was your day?” to complex challenges facing society on a global scale.

And Portia loves to cook. The house is filled with the aroma of native Ghanaian

cuisine, based on beans, rice, fish and chicken. I’m all in.

What attracted a grad student from Ghana to this unusual arrangement? “I was in need of housing,” Portia recalls, “but wanted something within my budget.” Intending to apply her expertise back home in Africa, she says, “I wanted to live in a house with a local St. Louisian to help me learn more about life here and America as a whole.”

The Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood is aging in place. According to recent survey data for the census tract west of Des Peres, more than one in every five residents (21.7%) is 65 years or older. East of Des Peres, the share is 14.5%.

The objective of Odd Couples Housing is simple: to “pair” seniors who want to age in place with responsible graduate students to share housing. The process begins with the homeowner and student completing a general profile to measure compatibility, using an algorithm as an empirical tool.

When general compatibility yields a potential match, the OCH community outreach director arranges face-to-face meetings, either in person at a coffee house, virtually by Zoom, or by phone. If the parties want to pursue the match, OCH schedules a time to see the premises. Thus, the process is more sophisticated and protective than a dating site because it includes substantial and direct social interaction between the

parties, all with personal involvement by the OCH match team.

For the senior homeowner, this unusual arrangement provides companionship and the opportunity to share day-to-day experiences with another person. For the student, it offers a chance to learn and grow in an inter-generational relationship and have quality housing, near school, in a great neighborhood for nominal cost.

“Absolutely amazing” is how Portia describes the past five months. “I talk through my homework and projects with Marvin, and he shares wonderful insights that help my decisions on topics. We discuss career choices and life lessons. He is always ready to listen, help analyze issues, and provide perspective on St. Louis and American history.”

OCH president and CEO Steve Lilly puts it this way: “We at OCH appreciate the opportunity to partner with the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood and homeowners who wish to age in place. The social and economic benefits of our innovative service are numerous for both the older and younger adults who participate in the program.”

This unusual program offers an attractive alternative for the growing number of seniors living alone in our neighborhood. For more information and videos of other OCH matches, visit [www.oddcoupleshousing.com](http://www.oddcoupleshousing.com).

## New Librarian *continued from page 5*

there. He first worked in the St. Louis Public Library system at age eighteen as a book shelver. In the years since he has held nearly every position available, so he is ready to wear the “many hats” which Charles Lamkin has said are required at Charing Cross. Steve is no stranger to our neighborhood. When he moved across the Mississippi in 2005, he lived for a while on

the Delmar Loop in an apartment over the current Starbucks coffeehouse.

Steve arrives with an awareness that the square footage of the Charing Cross branch belies the position it holds in our community. He says that staff throughout the system were deeply touched when we had a “Charles Lamkin Day,” expressing our appreciation for a job well done. It is his goal to encourage such a relationship between library and community to continue and to

grow. During the Covid pandemic, while university library services were curtailed, more Washington University students used the library. Steve wishes to encourage this relationship. He finds it rewarding to see young hands holding an actual book, young eyes reading from paper. If you have not visited the library since his arrival, he would like to meet you. As for continuity and smooth transition, the word is already out that Steve’s middle name is Charles.



**Blueberry Hill**  
Restaurant  
\* Music Club

**Delicious Food!**

*Famous burgers, hot appetizers, homemade soups, tasty sandwiches, vegetarian specials and a kids menu!*

**Dine-In** One-of-a-kind atmosphere!

**Outdoor Seating**

**Carry Out!**





**Celebrating 50 years!**  
1972-2022

6504 Delmar in The Loop  
314-727-4444 ★ [BlueberryHill.com](http://BlueberryHill.com)

Online Ordering available!

ORDER ONLINE



## IN YOUR EAR

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

We will soon know it all. Sure, that's an audacious claim. I mean, all statements that include "all" are false, including this one. But there's a lot of truth to it. Please inhale, because our scientific knowledge is advancing at a breathtaking clip. Just the other day I read about tiny ingestible pills that contain a camera. Yep, you gulp and then videos of your entire digestive tract are sent to your physician. I am not making this up! Check out the Mayo Clinic's article on capsule endoscopies: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/capsule-endoscopy/about/pac-20393366>. And while the Mayo folks didn't tout this in their article, inside sources (no pun intended) tell me that the pill is bluetooth connected to Spotify so you can be rhythmically moving and jiving throughout the day. Personally, I am going to ask that my ingestible capsule be linked to NPR so I will seem knowledgeable. I can hope.

Scientists at our neighbor, Washington University in St. Louis, thank goodness, are working to develop treatments for Alzheimer's, and that's another thank goodness. See <https://medicine.wustl.edu/news/new-alzheimers-treatment-targets-identified/>. They've also just created a screening tool to determine if young people are at risk of schizophrenia (<https://source.wustl.edu/2022/03/risk-of-schizophrenia-assessed-with-new-screening-tool/>). Progress is bursting all around us!

Of course, as we pitch our KN95 masks, we cannot forget the rapid development of Covid vaccines. To be fair, former president Trump deserves credit for creating Operation Warp Speed. Even a blind presidential squirrel occasionally finds a nut. Continuing to be fair, it's too bad that he pushed back against common sense safety measures that would have reduced Covid deaths.

At the other end of the life continuum, we are learning more and more about the composition of our genetic make-up. Did you know that we each have around 20,000 genes? See <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-05462-w>. No wonder Levi Strauss & Co. stock does so well. (Get it?) With that DNA knowledge comes the temptation to tinker; that's a technical term meaning edit, modify, play with, or roll the dice. Indeed, The Guardian published an article, "Designer Babies: an Ethical Horror Waiting to Happen" (<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2017/jan/08/designer-babies-ethical-horror-waiting-to-happen>). That title means you can

skip reading the article, just pour yourself another gin & tonic. Let's hope that our leaders use better judgment here than they did in displacing Native Americans, allowing slavery, forbidding women to vote, supporting pollution-generating automobiles, and letting the St. Louis Hawks move to Atlanta.

These kinds of breathtaking medical advances are especially relevant to me because I'm older than I used to be. OK, that's true for all of us, so let me rephrase: Despite my youthful appearance, I am much older than I used to be. I mean, I've been writing this In Your Ear column since 1980, before many of you readers were alive (and trust me, the columns before your birth were nothing short of sensational!). So, it floats my boat when I read about inventions that offer immunity against diseases, retard aging, and eliminate mental decline.

But despite this encouraging prospectus, the reality is that our knowing it all, or at least semi-all, is confined to scientific knowledge, the math/science areas that were particularly challenging in school for Hawkeye. It's good that scientific breakthroughs will enable us to live longer, better, and stronger, but what about the environment in which we'll be spending those additional scores of years? The outlook here isn't rosy at all.

Consider global warming. It's happening folks, so don't buy near a coastline, don't plan on being cool in the summer and don't throw away your snow shovel. Unfortunately, while the term "global warming" is accurate, it makes it harder for people to understand the many negative ways we are affected. We wise people – those of us who swallowed the ingestible capsule that is linked to NPR – know that global warming not only raises seas, it also contributes to more severe winters, summer fires, and hurricanes. Too bad that the impact of the global temperature increase wasn't termed "weather catastrophes." Maybe we need to plan to live longer on a mountain top.

Of course, our environment isn't just the physical world. There's our political environment and the prospects aren't much better here. I just read a terrific book that I highly recommend, *Why We're Polarized* by Ezra Klein, that offers lots of data about the increased divisions between Republicans and Democrats. Here's a particularly distressing comment: "... there is a growing urban-rural divide. There is no dense city in America that routinely votes Republican. There are few rural areas that vote Democratic." He continues, "... the dividing line is at about nine hundred people per square mile; above that, areas trend Democratic; below it, they

turn Republican" (p. 39). The distressing implications of this vis-à-vis the Electoral College mean it will be harder and harder to elect a Democratic president. (Of course, if you're a rare Republican reader, you may be smiling.)

When you consider global warming, the impact that Covid had and will continue to have, our political divide, and the pernicious behaviors of the Republican Party (yeah, let's ignore all the evidence and say Trump won the election),

it's pretty discouraging. Our extended lives will be in an unhealthy environment, like going to an all-you-can-eat smorgasbord with terrible food.

How to respond? Well, I try to follow the Serenity Prayer, God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference. Please pass me a glazed donut and an OPRAH FOR PRESIDENT bumper sticker.



Expert Landscape Design and Installation.

**QUIET VILLAGE**  
LANDSCAPING CO.

DESIGN YOUR PARADISE.

314.657.7050 [QuietVillageLandscaping.com](http://QuietVillageLandscaping.com)

**WHERE ACADEMIC  
AND FAITHFUL  
PREPARATION HELP  
STUDENTS FLOURISH.**



25% of the class of 2020 received merit scholarships to the high school of their choice.

To learn more, call 314-721-2595 or email  
Principal Karin Hiatt at [karinh@strochschool.org](mailto:karinh@strochschool.org).

[#stroch2020strong](https://twitter.com/stroch2020strong)