

The *TIMES* of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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Summer 2022

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

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Spotlight On Lewis Place: A Ward 10 Neighborhood

By Cecilia Nadal

In 1879 the St. Louis Republican newspaper included the following editorial: 'There could be no death in St. Louis that would have given a greater shock to the whole community than that of William J. Lewis. He was a man esteemed in all circles. Of thorough business habits, enterprising and progressive, he seemed to influence all by whom he was surrounded. In social life he was genial and unselfish. He was devoted to everything that meant prosperity, fame and honor.' When William J. Lewis, President of Lewis Coal Company laid the plans for a private street about 2-blocks long he would have never imagined that he laid the groundwork for the emergence of a community of talented and well-educated African Americans that would display progressive and unselfish commitment to their people.

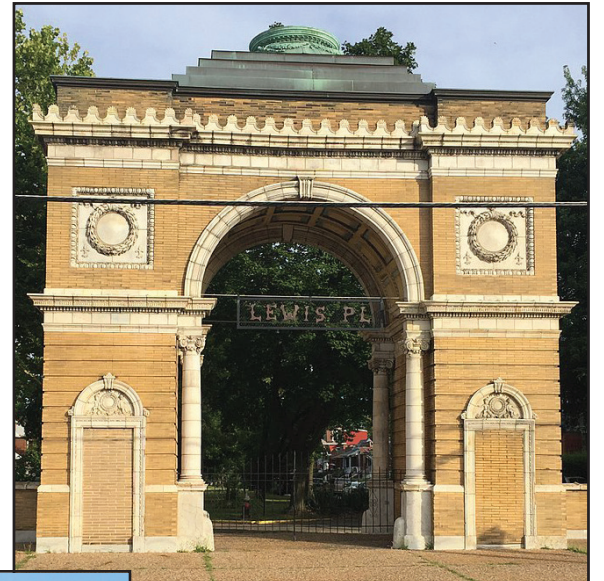
After 1926 racial deed restrictions and covenants became popular. Lewis Place followed that trend not allowing Blacks to live there. Lewis Place would become known across the

United States for the landmark case of Shelley vs. Kraemer that struck down restrictive covenants across America. In the 1940's, Attorney Robert Witherspoon and his wife Dr. Fredda Witherspoon fought the restrictive covenant on Lewis Place. Quietly they recruited African Americans who could pass for white to purchase the homes and once the sales were completed, turned the deeds over to the real purchasers. They successfully bought enough homes to then remove the restrictive covenant from Lewis Place.

Many prominent African Americans past and present have come from Lewis Place including; Ruth Porter, the first female President of Harris Stowe Teachers College; Robert and Fredda Witherspoon, Betty Lee, Editor of Proud Magazine, and James Buchanan, founder of the Ethical Society of Police. This neighborhood of generosity and activism became known by members of the Negro Baseball League as a welcoming community where they could



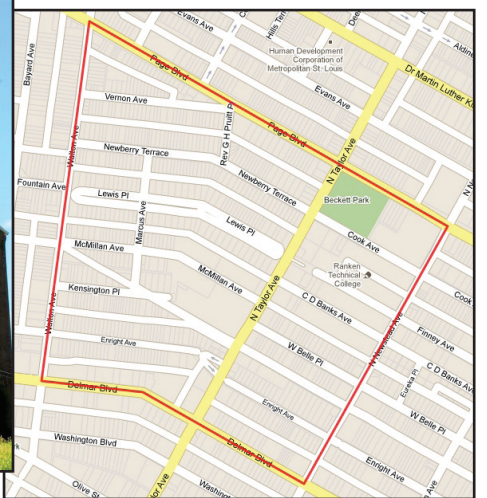
Pamela Talley, Executive Director of Lewis Place Historical Preservation



Lewis Place Gate



A home in Lewis Place



Map of Lewis Place

A Ward 10 Neighborhood *continued on page 4*

Washington University Plans to Demolish the Rosedale Building



By Richard Bose

Washington University is seeking to raze 6030 Delmar, the Rosedale Building. They say it is very unstable and is prohibitively expensive to save. WUSTL acquired the building in early 2020 from Joe Edwards who had owned it since 2007. In 2014 part of the façade collapsed, and was repaired that year. There hasn't been a tenant in the building in recent memory. There was an occupancy permit application for a marijuana dispensary in 2019. I'd wager they decided it was too expensive to fix up the building. Soon after acquiring the building in 2020 WUSTL built a wooden structure to help support the façade.

The building was built in 1911 and is in the Skinker-DeBaliviere-Catlin Tract-Parkview Historic District. WUSTL plans to salvage the terra-cotta and cast iron features for future use. The demolition would go to CRO and the Preservation Board, though WUSTL could attempt to get an emergency demolition citing it as a safety hazard.

WUSTL owns nearly every property around the Delmar Metrolink Station. The Crescent Plumbing properties on either side of

Washington University Plans *continued on page 4*

Remembering Dennis Townsend and Boulevard Cleaners

By Jo Ann Vatcha

The Rosedale building at 6030 Delmar is slated for demolition, due to its significant deterioration. Despite attempts to shore up its brick facade, the 100+ year old building has clearly run its course. The chemicals used in the dry

cleaners which was the major tenant for many decades may also have been a factor. As June Vaughn reports in this issue, the SDCC board considered current owner WU's request for support for demolition, and voted at its last meeting to support the demolition.

However, as part of the Delmar Commercial Committee's efforts to revitalize this area, I also like to remember the building's owner, Dennis Townsend, who contributed so much to our discussions and debates over the future of Delmar. As a founding member of the committee, his voice and professional demeanor made a big impact on our analysis of the street's past and present and plans for its future. I learned so much from him! Our committee considered and supported other demolitions, which were sometimes the only solution to moving forward, and we were pleased to see some



Alderman Irv Clay at the podium with then-Alderwoman Lyda Krewson, Joe Edwards, Jo Ann Vatcha, then-Mayor Francis Slay and many others, celebrating the lighting, trees, sidewalks and other improvements for the Delmar Loop and the Metro Link station.

Remembering Dennis Townsend *continued on page 4*

Editor's Notes

By Linda Cross

Remember the adage 'Never go to the grocery store hungry'? You should also never write an editorial while crabby. I have been putting off (procrastinating) writing this piece until there was a day without another mass shooting, without frustration about ideological differences that can't be discussed with civility, without hearing about hatred against other races and religions and orientations, without the illogical dismissal of science and research, without a political lies and scandal and lust for power and money that affects every level of government from our city to the capital. I think I would have to wait forever. This time has been particularly challenging for myself and my family and friends. I personally have put on all the weight that I worked two years to get rid of and my mood and stress level are often in the toilet. My daughter is moving to New Zealand in the fall and helping her find a place to live and looking for jobs for her has gotten me to think that it looks like a great place for the whole family to go. The weather is better, they are progressive, they basically eliminated covid 19, and they had one major school shooting and then got rid of military assault weapons and have not had another. It is times like this when it is a struggle for me to decide 'When is it time to give up, and when is it time to continue the fight'? For me it must be the latter. I still believe in America, and I really believe in Skinker DeBaliviere. Andy and I looked for over a year when we were baby newlyweds to buy a house that we could afford in this neighborhood. We saved and waited because I felt that this was a unicorn of a place. Andy had grown up here; his parents are wonderful and therefore their friends were wonderful. There is a unique mixture of people with so many races, ethnicities, ages, and incomes that have been able to work together for many, many years. I am not saying this neighborhood is perfect, but I do believe it is unique. There are so many active people who are willing to step up and get involved to work to maintain the stability and beauty of our place. Getting out and visiting with our neighbors is therapeutic. To meet like-minded and engaged people is a gift. A cocktail makes that even better! There are some great activities happening in our neighborhood in which you can participate and even volunteer to get to know your neighbors better. We just had the breakfast garden tour, there is a community garden to visit, a playground to play in, we have a couple of food drives a year, and we are having Porchfest in the fall and Wintermark in the winter. I still feel like we live in a unicorn of a neighborhood and even though I am sometimes overcommitted, it is important to engage and contribute.

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: August 15, 2022 for our September/October 2022 Issue. Please send copy by e-mail to Linda Cross, lcross@sdtimes.org.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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One Question Answered

By Robert Dowgwillo

Q: Where is the extra tax money going for the East Loop taxing district? It is not evident in the depressing appearance of that area as you move east of Rosedale.

A: Rachelle L'Ecuyer, executive director of the East Loop CID and an SDCC board member, provided our answer.

This is a new column by Robert (Bob) Dowgwillo. Bob noticed people in the neighborhood that had a lot of the same questions about what was going on in the neighborhood that he did, so Bob decided to tackle one question each week and get some answers by those in the know.

The East Loop Community Improvement District (CID) was formed in 2016. I (Rachelle) was hired in August 2018 to develop the organization and implement the goals and mission of the CID. The funds for the East Loop CID are designated by ordinance to provide for administration, economic development, and safety & maintenance. The revenues for the CID are generated by a property assessment; there is not a sales tax imposed by the CID.

We manage security patrols in the area and are investing in a security camera program. We also manage a maintenance crew that comes into the district three times a week to clean and remove trash.

The pandemic brought new challenges to the district and we developed grant programs to aid the businesses to help them through the stay-at-home order and get through the series of mandates that had been in place since March 2020. The Pageant and Delmar Hall, which bring over 250,000 visitors to the district annually, were shut down for almost a year. Our goals were to help the businesses navigate this. That may not be a visible investment to a passerby. However, only a couple of businesses closed and we are already seeing those spaces filled and there is a lot of interest in the available spaces. Ten new businesses in the CID opened in 2020 and 2021.

Regarding, economic development, the East Loop CID has made most of the capital investments in the 5800 and 5900 blocks of Delmar. We are planning a street lighting and enhancement project for the upcoming year. Here are some of the projects we've undertaken:

- 1. Catenary Lights on the 5800 block of Delmar installed - fall 2020
2. New Parking Lot signage installed - summer 2021. The East Loop CID also paved, striped, and landscaped the parking lot in 2018.
3. New trees planted in the 5800 and 5900 blocks of Delmar - fall of 2021
4. New trash/recycling containers installed throughout the district - December 2021
5. Planter project with St. Louis Artworks coming spring 2022
6. Two new crosswalks to be installed (Laurel & Delmar and DeGiverville & Delmar) - planned by June 2022
7. New crosswalk signage at The Pageant crossing - planned by June 2022

A presentation we gave at our March town hall meeting is available. It provides a formal overview of the East Loop CID and our projects.

While we do have a focus on economic development, we are not developers, nor do we have jurisdiction over the properties in the district so we cannot enforce development. We are working to encourage the owners of vacant buildings and vacant lots to develop them but that is all we can do related to those properties. In the meantime, our hope is to implement a large scale capital project that will enhance the area and encourage more development.

SAINT LOUIS MISSOURI 28th Ward DEMOCRATS 2022: Meetings are on the third Thursday of each month More info on Facebook & https://ward28stdems.org

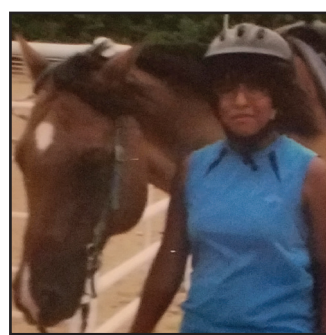
News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Hello Neighbors,

The summer season is here and it feels so refreshing to be able to enjoy many of the activities that we used to consider "normal", although Covid is still very much a part of our lives. I personally have already enjoyed a few Cardinal games and I am looking forward to garden tours, movies on Art Hill, any many outdoor concerts. Summer in St. Louis, especially in Skinker DeBaliviere is the best! Now, let us catch up with some of our busy neighbors.

Nora Christeson, granddaughter of Marlene Sr. and Joe Mestres long-time former residents of the 6100 and 5700 blocks of Kingsbury is headed to Missouri State University to study Equine Science in the fall. She has completed two years at St Louis Community College and works at Bass Pro Shops. This outdoor horsewoman currently rides at Kraus Farms. Proud mother Marlene, Jr. lives in Kingsbury Square.



Nora Christeson (with horse)



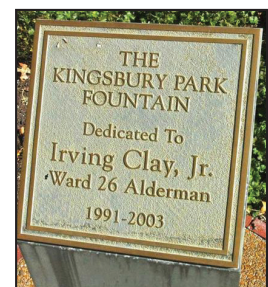
Irving Clay

Former Alderman of the 26th Ward, Irving Clay died at age 97. Clay was elected 26th Ward alderman in 1991, three years after his retirement following 37 years in various city posts including recreation commissioner.

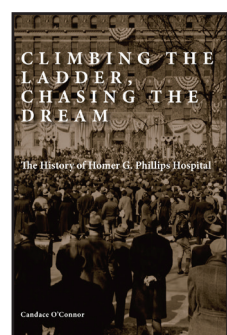


Photo above: Alderman Irv Clay at the podium with then-Alderman Lyda Krewson, Joe Edwards, Jo Ann Vatcha, then-Mayor Francis Slay and many others, celebrating the lighting, trees, sidewalks and other improvements for the Delmar Loop and the Metro Link station.

He was on the Board of Aldermen 12 years. He will be remembered for spearheading the building of single family homes north of Delmar to considerable success. He had originally been frustrated in this quest but finally secured the support of former mayor Harmon. Clay was also critical in the passage of the Delmar redevelopment plan. He was co-sponsor with then Ald. Dan McGuire and had worked with the SDCC Delmar Committee. He was sympathetic to the goals, straightforward and easy to contact.



One of our talented neighborhood writers has written another book. Candace O'Connor of the 6100 block of Kingsbury. Candace just published a new book, called Climbing the Ladder, Chasing the Dream: The History of Homer G. Phillips Hospital. The book details the history of this hospital, which was in business on North Whittier from 1937-1979. The building is still there, and it has become a very nice senior living center.



Candace O'Connor's book

Candace was asked by the nursing alumni association of the hospital to undertake this project, and did dozens of interviews with former medical and nursing staff members, as well as community people who remember the hospital. Thus, this book, which was published by the University of Missouri Press, is not an academic history at all, but a social history, with lots of stories of people, events and patients. Candace even tries to solve the mystery of the (still-unsolved) murder of attorney Homer G. Phillips, for whom the hospital was named! I think this will make a great addition to my summer reading list, how about you?

During the season of Lent each year, the students of St. Roch School hold an annual service project of collecting "cans and cash" for a needy cause. This year, their monetary donation and canned goods were taken to St. Alphonsus Rock Church to benefit their food pantry. The collection generated more than 1000 cans and dollars combined, thanks to the generosity of the students of St. Roch.



Paul Shaver

And while we are talking about St. Roch, Paul Shaver, has retired after 39 years at the school. Paul has taught multiple generations of neighborhood families and has served the St. Roch community as a teacher, a member of the St. Roch board, a mentor to students, headed the math and chess club, and brought new ideas to the students in the pursuit of education. He will certainly be missed but we wish him the very best and hope he enjoys his well deserved free time in retirement.

One of our young neighbors, Maddy Boxdorfer (and my daughter!), was recognized by Pedal the Cause at the Top Fundraiser Event in April and received the Clare Blase Spirit Award for her continued fundraising efforts and involvement



Maddy Boxdorfer

in Pedal the Cause. The award is presented to younger members of the Pedal the Cause family recognizing their efforts and enthusiasm for helping raise funds for research towards finding a cure for cancer and is in memory of Clare Blase who attended Nerinx Hall High School, and enthusiastically raised funds herself for Pedal until losing her battle with cancer her freshman year of high school. Maddy has participated in Pedal the Cause for eight years on our friends and family team, Bill Box's Blue, Red, and Grey and will be riding and fundraising again this year. She has raised over \$20,000 in eight years and has been a top fundraiser for Pedal the Cause every year, earning their 'Yellow Jersey' status or higher.

The mission of Pedal the Cause is to provide critical funding for cancer research at Siteman cancer Center and Siteman Kids at St. Louis Chil-dren's Hospital through the annual cycling event. Maddy's parents are Matt Boxdorfer and this columnist, of the 6100 block of Kingsbury. We are incredibly proud of Maddy and our team which includes many of your neighbors!

Saint Louis University presented Cecilia Nadal with the prestigious "Pioneer Award" at its Commencement Recognition Dinner. This award is an annual recognition of a graduate who is innovative, driven and committed to the development of the whole person and whose actions, accomplishments and pioneering spirit have helped pave the way for others.



Cecilia Nadal

Gitana Productions is a nonprofit arts and education organization founded in 1996. Cecilia has produced more than 25 major international music/dance shows: more than 20 original plays on major theater stages; the first major cross-cultural engagement conference in St. Louis and numerous educational events within the community to promote peace and connection across cultures. She started Global Education through the Arts, the first community arts program in Missouri bringing together African American and refugee /immigrant youth in South City, Ferguson and the Amherst Park area.

Cecilia, now semi-retired, leads Cross-Cultural Strategies as principal consultant/trainer and continues social activism as an influencer, community organizer and writer including our very own Times of Skinker DeBaliviere.

Enjoy your summer neighbors! I hope to see you out and about and hope you will share some news for our next issue. I know many of you have celebrated graduations recently, so please send in photos and news of these great accomplishments.

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!

Correction

Last issue's article on the Skinker DeBaliviere Dog Park Committee had the incorrect spelling of Tracy Granneman. In addition, her correct email address is tracygranneman@outlook.com.

Au revoir to the Weirs

By Lana Stein



Weirs at a block party

Age continues to take its toll. Marj and Brad Weir said goodbye to our hood in March for a more accessible environment. They spent over five decades in Skinker DeBaliviere and were volunteers in almost every aspect of neighborhood life.

Their first major foray was political. They became active in the 28th Ward Regular Democrats. Brad served as treasurer and Marj as secretary for many years. In the neighborhood itself, Marj worked on the Mother's Day art fair and house tour. Brad staffed the grill at numerous events. Marj participated actively in the planing and implementation of our 2008 centennial and house tour. She also worked with JoAnn Vatcha to create the neighborhood history.

Perhaps Marj's greatest contribution can be found with this newspaper. Since the paper's inception, she has written, edited, laid out many issues. In the past few years, she has placed every issue on line and created an index to make usage by all easy.

In days to come, I will look for them at every event. Brad and Marj's spirit will remain with us even though they can no longer be with us in person. They were certainly among our stalwarts, those who loved the neighborhood and worked tirelessly for its stability and diversity. I have been privileged to enjoy their friendship for over 30 years. We have all benefitted from their many contributions.

A Ward 10 Neighborhood *continued from page 1*

stay overnight at the homes of residents living there after being rejected at local hotels. The hospitality of these prominent residents even extended to inviting students to come and live with them while getting an education in St. Louis!

Today, Lewis Place is a historic district and is no longer a 2-3 block private street for middle and upper- class African Americans. It is a more economically diverse community defined by Martin Luther King Drive on the North, Delmar Boulevard on the South, Newstead Avenue on the East, and Walton on the West.

Pamela Talley, Executive Director and co-founder of Lewis Place Historical Preservation, describes her work as a convergence of passions for history and for community-building bringing visionaries, historians and residents together. "We started in 1998 issuing a call to action to the neighbors and in 2000 incorporated Lewis Place Historical Preservation. "The strength of the history, admiration for the architecture and legacy of service to community has created a dynamic source of energy resulting in long-term relationships with neighborhoods that are contiguous to Lewis Place. For almost 15 years Fountain Park and Lewis Place have met together on a monthly basis collaborating on projects benefiting youth, the elderly and housing. They have co-sponsored an annual Juneteenth celebration in their communities and assisted each other during a tornado disaster getting help for their residents to fix their homes. Kaytrude Palmer, a long term resident of Fountain Park said, "Pamela Talley and I have a relationship built around our vested interest in families, children, education, and our neighborhoods. We also share an interest in the political aspects of our neighborhoods."

The spirit of the early Black residents who shared so much of themselves with their community remains alive and well. Here is what Pamela said about the challenge of leveraging the history of Lewis Place, the private street with Lewis Place the expanded community of almost 4000 people. "Yes, our work has incorporated the entire Lewis Place neighborhood. It has given us the opportunity to meet and work with wonderful, caring and committed neighbors. We have examined the history of several of the blocks. looked at who was there and their unique stories sharing this with the broader community."

When I asked Pamela what hopes she had for Ward 10 she said, "I see this as an opportunity to share and enrich the ward. I am hopeful." I expressed to Pamela my hope as a resident of Skinker DeBaliviere that we would work together with Lewis Place towards seizing opportunities that benefit our ward and its people.

I am inspired by the fact that the founders of Lewis Place Historic Preservation included extraordinary regular citizens like Mattie Divine, a nurse known for her compassion, Alvin Willis, a Southwestern Bell employee and Pamela Talley, a community activist informed by history and dedication to community. What we become together depends on us as citizens!

Next months article will focus on the Fountain Park neighborhood and I will speak with residents that have been there for over 50 years.

See YouTube video: Lewis Place/Living St. Louis

Washington University Plans *continued from page 1*

Rosedale appear to be heading into WUSTL's holdings with the plan to build a new facility for Crescent on Olive in motion. The Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood Plan and the Delmar and Forest Park Station TOD plan envision walkable traditional city development around the Delmar station including making the Wabash station the entrance to the Metrolink station.

Editor's note: Washington University met with the Community Development Committee on May 3rd to demonstrate that the building is deteriorated and beyond repair. After reviewing the documentation, the committee concurred that unfortunately the best course of action is to demolish/deconstruct the building carefully saving important architectural elements for future use. Wash U has no current plans for construction on this site.

Remembering Dennis Townsend *continued from page 1*

great architectural ideas from Kiku Obata, SL Design Alliance, and others, blending old and new. One great example is how the Moonrise Hotel incorporates the facade of the old funeral home. Perhaps the Rosedale will someday be part of another step forward in revitalizing Delmar.

This Land Is Your Land Make space for Monarchs!

By Gretchen Stierholz, Katrina Stierholz and Mark Banaszak



Monarch butterflies are on their way north; it's time more people paid attention. Many people recognize them but may not know why they are of such great interest to both scientists and wildlife enthusiasts. Although Monarch butterflies are just one kind of butterfly, they are a signature species for many conservation efforts. This is because the presence of a healthy migration of Monarchs each year is considered an indicator of the ecological health of an area. In recent years, Monarch populations have had steep and worrisome declines. To address this problem, conservation efforts are being made to provide them with more of the plants they require. This is an effort to which you can contribute..

The Eastern Monarch migrates from Mexico to the northern US and Canada in successive generations and then migrates back to Mexico in one single generation. Monarchs can be spotted in our area on their journey north. The journey often crosses into Canada. A single monarch makes only part of the journey north; they lay eggs along the journey and their offspring continue the trek. The Spring migration north requires multiple generations, but the journey south is accomplished by a single generation..

Monarch butterflies have very specific habitat needs—they can only use milkweed for host plants (where they lay their eggs). About four days after being laid, the eggs hatch and the baby caterpillar begins to eat milkweed. After two weeks, the caterpillar is fully grown and attaches itself to a leaf or stem and forms a chrysalis. Inside the chrysalis, over ten days, the monarch transforms from a caterpillar to a butterfly. Then the monarch pupa emerges from the chrysalis as a butterfly to feast on other nectar and, except for the last generation, survives only about 2-6 weeks, laying eggs for the next generation. Monarchs go through roughly four generations while migrating north. The fourth generation lives 8-9 months flying from their summer homes up north to their winter home in Mexico to rest up and start the migration all over again in the spring. This southern migration also passes through our area.

Drastic drops in the number of migrating Monarchs have led to many conservation efforts. These efforts can be supported by planting in your front or back yards. Although many flowering plants can provide nectar for Monarchs and other butterflies, planting milkweed gives Monarchs an opportunity to breed and increase their numbers. Experts say you don't need a lot of milkweed plants to attract Monarchs – they have been known to spot a single young plant and lay eggs on it. Swamp or Marsh milkweed is an excellent choice for our area, especially if you have a spot that is often wet, like near a downspout. Swamp milkweed also makes an excellent rain garden plant.

Once you get your plants in the ground, check them from time to time for eggs or caterpillars. It is a treat for kids and adults to witness the changes from tiny caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly. When you do get eggs, you can report your sightings on journeynorth.org or use an app like iNaturalist. There are even Monarch tagging programs, like the one run by Monarchwatch. org that serve scientific research.

Monarchwatch has planting guides for butterfly gardens, you can attract a variety of butterflies simply by choosing the right plants. Many local nurseries sell swamp milkweed, but Monarch Watch has an online milkweed market, if plants are sold out locally. Several yards in our neighborhood have already been recognized by Monarch Watch as Monarch Waystation Gardens. Whatever you do, consider planting some milkweed in your yard. That way, you can share your space with Monarchs!



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KIDS CORNER

By Paul Granneman

CYC Athletics at St. Roch Parish



JOIN THE FUN!

Did you know that any child, regardless of faith or school, who lives in the St. Roch Parish, which includes all of Skinker-Debaliviere, can participate in CYC sports at St. Roch?

We strive to make our programs as accessible as possible for all, with reasonable fees and scholarships available. The mission of CYC Athletics is to build communities of faith through sports in a fun and supportive atmosphere.

PROGRAMS

FALL – Soccer, Volleyball

WINTER – Basketball, Chess

SPRING – Baseball, Softball, T-Ball, Golf, Lacrosse, Track, ESports

For more information on CYC Sports including when the seasons are, what ages/grades can participate, and how to register go to

www.playcyc.org

Or email: strocsteams@gmail.com

New Addition to the Neighborhood

By Sandy Marsh

Nearly one year ago, Grace United Methodist-St. Louis and University United Methodist (UUM) churches merged, and the congregations began the journey of becoming one family. Navigating a pandemic, the two church families spent lots of time and energy creating ways to become one.



New Little Library

One symbol of this new congregation is the new Little Lending Library which now stands outside of Grace. The brainchild of a couple of United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women), reaching the final ribbon cutting on May 1 took lots of planning and hardwork. Legacy UUM members John and Alice Mohr researched how the actual library should look and took on the task of building the library. They work as a team (John is 90 and Alice turned 90 in May) and designed and constructed the library. Alice thought it would be fitting if the library had stained glass so Legacy Grace member Becky Ballard designed windows, inspired by the Rose windows of Grace. And, of course, the door to the library is painted with the same paint as the doors of the church!



Caption?



Rev. Katie Nix cutting the ribbon

Finally, installation had to wait until spring. Church member Jim Nusz and custodian extraordinaire Gary Voyles installed the library in time for the ribbon cutting.

The library is conveniently located near a bus stop, at the food pantry distribution point, and near the corner where Washington University students pass. Stop by any time; after dark you can appreciate the solar lighting which lights up the stained glass!



John and Alice Mohr, designers and creators of the library



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 & ASSOCIATES

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SDCC Board Meeting Notes

By June Vaughan

The following is a summary of topics discussed at the SDCC Board meeting held by ZOOM on May 9, 2022, at 7:00 P. M. Official minutes of the meeting may be found on the SDCC website <https://skinkerdebaliviere.wordpress.com/sdcc-board-meeting-minutes/>, along with committee reports which were submitted to the board in writing.

Mike Gras, elected to serve as alderman for the 28th Ward until elections for the new 10th ward take place in April, 2023, addressed the board. He expressed interest in ongoing commercial corridor discussions and said he would not be a candidate for the post of 10th Ward Alderman in 2023. His cell phone number is 314-497-8373; email is grasm@stlouis-mo.gov.

President Molly Rader stated that the decision by the board to decline a property donation by Dan Schesch, which was discussed at several previous board meetings, was recorded in an addendum to the minutes of the previous board meeting.

Commercial Committee Chairwoman Rachelle L'Ecuyer stated that six parking places have been taken by the Regional Arts Commission.

Beautification Committee Chairman Andy Cross asked for help from the board members in selling advance tickets to the neighborhood garden tour to be held on June 4. He asked each member to sell 10 tickets, noting that advance tickets are \$10, a 20% discount off the regular price of \$12.

New Security Committee Chairman Grady Vaughan reported that our police department liaison, Ofc. Skaggs, said that crime was down in our area by 41% last

month. Arline Webb voiced safety concerns about persons walking in traffic lanes or between cars, sometimes while pushing another person in a wheelchair in the center turn lane near the traffic lights, to solicit money from drivers stopped at the intersection of Forest Park Parkway and Skinker Boulevard. Ofc. Skaggs asked that such a dangerous situation be reported through a 911 call for immediate attention rather than to the police non-emergency line.

SDCC Exec. Dir. Mike Reed noted that the Porch Fest on October 2 is the largest fundraiser for the SDCC and called for support. He also said that costs for air conditioning repair in the SDCC offices will be less than anticipated. The SDCC, at the end of the first quarter, has received one-third of projected income for the year. Treasurer Marnita Spite is resigning from the executive committee due to family responsibilities.

Stephen Condrin, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Real Estate, and Mary Campbell, Associate Vice Chancellor for Real Estate, both at Washington University, spoke regarding the proposed demolition of a building at 6030 Delmar Boulevard. The university purchased the building in January, 2020. The emergence of the Covid pandemic shortly afterward hindered further activity regarding the property, which is across from the former Dobbs Tire Co. site. Structural engineers recently evaluating the structure determined it was too unsafe for close inspection by their employees and would not allow them to enter. Numerous photographs taken from the perimeter by the engineers were displayed, showing extensive damage to the interior and to structural components, aggravated by water damage. One photograph showed the

front façade having separated noticeably from the rest of the structure. Shortly after the purchase, the university had protective supports erected between this unstable façade and the sidewalk along Delmar.

The university is greatly concerned about the danger the building poses to the public should anyone manage to enter. It is the policy of the university to save older buildings, renovate and repurpose them, and they deeply regret that this structure is beyond reasonable efforts for restoration. They plan to salvage decorative architectural elements of the building wherever possible and store them until new construction can take place on the property. They have no current plans for such construction. Assurances were given that whatever is built, by the university or a second party, will be designed in the spirit of the current building and in collaboration with the neighborhood. Preserved architectural artifacts will be incorporated. After demolition and infill of the basement, the property will probably be seeded with grass.

The board voted to write a letter supporting the demolition of the building.

There was explanation of how the board conducts its meetings. Members of the public may not ask oral questions but may submit them in writing to the SDCC before the meeting. Committee reports are submitted in writing before the board meeting and distributed to members for reading. Members may ask questions relative to the written reports at the board meeting. Following each board meeting, the committee reports just submitted and discussed and the approved minutes of the previous meeting are posted on the SDCC website, available to the public.

Porchfest

By Tim Woodcock

Porchfest 2022 is slated for Sunday, October 2 and the planning process is underway. The event is a mini music festival with porches and front yards across the neighborhood operating as performance spaces. This year event will culminate with a larger show at Greg Freeman Park in the late afternoon. If you have not experienced Porchfest before, it is a magical and memorable event that shows the neighborhood in its best light.

The event is not unique to St. Louis, having started in Ithaca, New York, and then spread across the country, especially in college towns. However, Skinker-DeBaliviere's event is St. Louis' only Porchfest and it has taken place since 2017.

How can you be involved?

Musical acts of all kinds are encouraged to express an interest by submitting an online sample of their music. In the past, the acts have primarily been pop/rock acts and singer-songwriters but variety is the key and any style of music that will garner an audience will be seriously considered.

Organizers are also seeking neighbors who would be interested in hosting a concert. The decision on which porches to use is combination of the logistics of the individual porch/yard itself as well as where it is in relation to other potential venues, so that coherent walking routes from porch to porch can be created.

Details of how to sign up as either a musical act or venue can be found at <https://skinkerdebaliviere.wordpress.com/>

The Porchfest Committee is meeting on a regular basis, but additional members – especially those with an interest in food and drink, publicity, or organizing the logistics of the day itself – would be welcome. If that sounds like you, please contact Community Council Director at Mike Reid at mike.reid@skinker-debaliviere.com.

And even if you can't be involved in any of these ways, be sure to save the date of October 2 in your planner.

Porchfest St. Louis is an annual music festival highlighting local bands and taking place on front porches and yards in the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood.

It will take place on October 2, 2022. Attendees will enjoy intimate concerts on porches and in front yards throughout the neighborhood and then can enjoy a larger show at Greg Freeman Park to end the day.

New Businesses in the Delmar Loop!



The 6100 block of Delmar is getting two new businesses from well-known members of the St. Louis Food scene.

Brandy Dixon and Jasmine Yandell have been operating 12oh7 Herban Eatery as a ghost kitchen for a few years but now they have a home to call their own at 6138 Delmar (next door to The Baked Bear and across from The Pageant). The menu is 100% plant-based and offers a fast-casual lunch and brunch menu with an infusion of a variety food styles including soul food plates and beer-battered "phish" and sandwiches. The restaurant had a soft opening on May 18th and a ribbon cutting is being planned for Saturday, June 11th at 11 AM.

Check it out: 12oh7 Herban Eatery, 6138 Delmar, www.12oh7eats.com

Summer will bring a very well known and established St. Louis brand to 6170 Delmar. Kingside Diner will open its third location at 6170 Delmar (across from the Moonrise Hotel) with a new concept, Kingside Express. The diner will offer counter service when it debuts and plans to open at 6 AM to offer breakfast and remain open through lunch until 2 PM. They will be open for dinner when there are shows at The Pageant. The building is currently being renovated with interior design being led by Space Architects, a local firm known for restaurant design, so be prepared to be dazzled by the new space. Look for a mid-July opening with more news to be shared at a later date!

Look for more Delmar updates at our new website: www.thedelmarloop.com

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IN YOUR EAR

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

The pandemic is over you think and you hope,
I wish you were right, but no, it's not, nope.
Vaccines let us think that Covid's past-tense,
We now talk and sing with no exhaling fence.

But a surge is around the corner, it will happen again,
Like the flu and political foolishness, the question is when.
Covid will return, there's no scientific doubt,
Again we'll be hindered, both inside and out.

So save your masks, don't throw them away,
By Thanksgiving you'll need a new one each day.
Demonstrations to oppose mandatory masks will arise,
Given the history, is that really wise?

Pandemics are dangerous and restraint is required,
But that didn't happen with the 45th president we hired.
Recommendations based on science were not heeded,
At White House parties, masks were not needed.

He suggested drinking bleach, that's not an exaggeration,
It is mind-boggling to think he was leading this nation.
He minimized dangers and spread Twitter falsehoods galore,
You thought he hit bottom, but there was always more.

He denied Covid was real and said it would disappear,
But then he was hospitalized because some positives were near.
Republicans believed him and masks would not require,
ABC news says Covid deaths in red states were 38 percent higher.

The pandemic was interrupted by a national election,
How appropriate that the Covid response was in our selection.
It would be close because of the red and blue states,
Perhaps Trump's debate performances sealed his and our fates.

The voters were wise and he lost by seven million,
But Mr. Petulant's hair became more vermillion.
He protested and tried to find the imaginary votes,
Maybe they were eaten by Democratic goats.

Most Republicans think Trump won, imagine that.
They also think cigarettes are healthy and the Earth is flat.
He wasn't re-elected and no fraud was found,
But his protests continued with increased sound.

Overturing the valid election became his focus,
The January 6 assault on the Capitol was the locus.
The U.S. Capitol was invaded and people died,
But most Republicans avoid investigating and chose to hide.

He's out of the limelight, thank goodness and hoorary,
While he won't be on the ballot, his imprint will stay,
The lack of a strong Democratic bench is concerning,
But I still don't think Turmp will be returning.

So who runs against Biden in '24 is a question you ask,
Because rummaging through the Repub possee is quite a task.
Ultimately Trump will choose who goes on the ticket,
Someone who will polish his boot and, further, then lick it.

My prediction for the 2024 Republican nominee makes me wary,
He's visible, charismatic, and I think quite scary.
You read it here first and I hope that I err,
But I think Trump will choose Tucker Carlson to be his heir.

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Correction
Last issue's article on the Skinker DeBaliviere Dog Park Committee had the incorrect spelling of Tracy Granneman. In addition, her correct email address is tracygranneman@outlook.com.

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