

The *TIMES* of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

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50 Years of Blueberry Hill and Delmar Redevelopment

By Lana Stein and Jo Ann Vatcha

If you were a resident of Skinker DeBaliviere in 1972 you can remember the conditions in the U City Loop. For those not born in 1972 or those who came here in more recent times, we offer a little history. Throughout U.S. urban areas 50 years ago, the federal government, insurance companies, and chain businesses disinvested in any areas undergoing integration. White areas, under these circumstances, often quickly became black areas.

In 1972, the U City Loop showed clear disinvestment. At least half the storefronts were vacant. Enter two young people who decided to do something there that went on to alter the trajectory of the Loop. Joe Edwards had returned home from college at Duke and was at loose ends. His wife Linda had grown up on 6000 Pershing. Edwards decided to try to open a place that featured music, drinks, and food (especially burgers!). He was able to find a couple investors to cover the initial investment. As the accompanying photo shows, Blueberry Hill was much smaller then. Adopting the name of a classic Fats Domino song, this quixotic venture succeeded. Artist Linda Edwards decorated the windows of the venue which attracted considerable attention. They even produced rock and roll beer for a time! Many years later, they enticed rock and roll legend Chuck Berry to perform once a month in the Duck Room, which has been a mainstay of

the local music scene.

As Joe Edwards has noted, turning things around takes considerable time. Blueberry Hill succeeded to some people's amazement. A business association was formed in the Loop. Joe and Linda Edwards made things happen. Joe Edwards ran a tight ship: no hassling unaccompanied women, acting quickly on any neighbor complaints re noise, etc.

Blueberry Hill proved to be a key catalyst for the redevelopment of Delmar in U City, and Joe extended that magic across Skinker almost three decades later. Working again with neighbors and fellow businesses (especially the Delmar Commercial Committee and yours truly), Joe built the Moonrise Hotel, with a fanciful decor and wonderful views from the rooftop bar with the "world's largest Moon". Joe and partner Pat Hagin made the Pageant a world-renowned reality. They created Delmar Hall and many other rehabs nearby. Then there's the fabulous St. Louis Walk of Fame, linking the City and U City into one seamless Loop. And later this year, we'll see completion of another exciting Joe Edwards development next to the totally renovated former Olivet church, quite an accomplishment during a pandemic.



Blueberry Hill 1975



Linda and Joe Edwards

FOUNTAIN PARK "JOINED AT THE HIP" WITH LEWIS PLACE: 10th Ward Neighborhood Profile

By Cecilia Nadal

There could not be a better example of two neighborhoods effectively working together as one based on proximity, shared history, similar demographics, common needs and vision of the future. For many years the Fountain Park/Lewis Place Community Organization has had members coming from 8 block units within their territory. The boundaries of Fountain Park are Dr. Martin Luther King Drive on the North, Walton Avenue on the East, Delmar Boulevard on the South, and North Kingshighway Boulevard on the West.

In 1857 the Aubert Place subdivision was laid out by John Lay with a central oval shaped area reserved for a park space. In 1889, it was donated to the city and named Fountain Park, because of the ornate multi-tiered fountain that was placed there as a gift from the Merchants Exchange. In 1944 Fountain Park was still a restricted area for African Americans; however the demand for housing by returning African American soldiers resulted in pressure to find housing. Eventually African Americans succeeded in buying houses in the area.

Fountain Park was the home of the prominent African American Attorney Homer G. Phillips who is responsible for getting the first Black teaching hospital financed in St. Louis City. Attorney Phillips was the son of a slave and minister orphaned as a child and raised by an aunt. He went to Washington DC to study law at Howard University living at the home of the well-known poet Paul Laurence Dunbar. For many years sharing their homes with students was often a pattern for many middle and upper class African Americans during and after the great migration.

The City of St. Louis tried to force African Americans not to go to Barnes Hospital after approval of a city bond issue passed to rebuild Barnes. Attorney Phillips challenged this in court resulting in the building of Homer G. Phillips Hospital a decade later with a million dollar bond issue.

Initially it was surprising to learn that Fountain Park has the only statue of Dr. Martin Luther King in the entire St. Louis region but after learning about the past leaders from this community it is perfectly understandable! They had insight and appreciated the power of images that highlight service and love of community. The statue of Dr. King



Kaytrude Palmer and Margaret Williams, Fountain Park/Lewis Place Community Organizers

AARP Community Challenge Grant Winner!

The East Loop CID was selected out of 3200 applicants nationwide and awarded a grant by the AARP for their annual Community Challenge Grant. The grant is for artwork to bridge the north side of Delmar to the south side of Delmar in crosswalks at Delmar & Laurel and Delmar & DeGiverville.

Earlier in 2022, the East Loop CID contracted with the Board of Public Service to install two crosswalks on Delmar at Delmar & Laurel and Delmar & DeGiverville. In the stretch of Delmar east of Des Peres, there were no pedestrian crosswalks anywhere but at traffic intersections. The crosswalk installations were completed in July 2022. Part of the project includes the installation of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB), lighted signage that improves the safety of the crosswalk, was generously funded by Alderwoman Shameem Clark Hubbard. A third set of the RRFB's will be installed in the crosswalk in front of The Pageant, the funding for that portion of the project was earmarked by former Alderwoman Heather Navarro.

The artwork portion of the project is being undertaken by St. Louis Artworks, 5959 Delmar, through their artist apprentice program. The design process included a focus group with residents from both the West End and Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhoods and business owners on Delmar. The final designs chosen to symbolize the bridging of the Delmar Divide and will be completed in the fall of 2022.

Fountain Park *continued on page 4*

Editor's Notes

By Linda Cross

Although I am writing this at the beginning of August, I feel like the summer is wrapping up. (Although you could never tell by the weather that we have been having). Kids seem to go back to school earlier and earlier, back to schedules, and back to pumpkin flavored everything.

There are some things that I do look forward to in the fall: sweatshirt weather, being able to take sweat-free walks, and the colors changing. I do, however, have a slight sense of dread in the fall from the PTSD of my kids' homework even though I have not had a student in my home for years (yay!). It seemed to me that schools began to measure their prestige by how much homework they gave on a nightly basis.

The neighborhood is continuing to work on some very important initiatives that neighbors should be involved in, the finalization of the form-based code (pg 5), development of the lot at Skinker and Delmar (pg 3), and choosing who our elected officials will be (pg 2).

Those that know me understand that I am militant about voting. I think that it is the most fundamental responsibility in a democracy. As we have discovered in the past few years, who we elect makes a huge difference in the quality of our lives as well as our value systems. I encourage everyone to research the candidates and totally ignore the monsoon of ads that are coming our way. And if you must see the ads, please research the reliability of the SOURCE of the information that you are reading. A great reference to use is the Ad Fontes Media "Media Bias Chart" that determines in an academic and independent way how truthful our media sites are.

I know, that is asking a lot for overworked and overbooked people. If you don't have time for that, ask advice from people who know the issues and who you trust and that have the same values as you. (I refer to a lot of them).

Our political climate is a cluster. We had three aldermen resign in disgrace locally, a person with a pending felony charge run for Senate, and people in federal office that probably couldn't even spell the United States of America. We need to find our common ground and work for the betterment of our region and our country. We need to stop hindering progress if it makes the other guy look good.

My favorite thing about this neighborhood is the diversity. We have so many different types of people that come together for the common good - food drives, fund raisers, clean ups. I have called this neighborhood a unicorn neighborhood in the past. I hope that we can continue to be a model for how a mixture of people and cultures makes us all better humans. Be engaged, be a good neighbor, and vote.

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.

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

PORCHFEST

By Tim Woodcock

Plans for this year's Porchfest are firming up but there are still opportunities to get involved. The event, scheduled on Sunday, October 2, is a music festival incorporating multiple mini venues across Skinker DeBaliviere, mostly on residents' porches and front yards.

Acts already signed up to perform encompass a wide variety of styles, including folk, punk, new age, classic rock, jazz, and choral music.

New this year is the St. Louis Boogie Brass Band, which will wind its way through the neighborhood, encouraging spectators to follow the band so the audience grows as the procession goes on.

The afternoon of music will conclude with a performance by the Free Agents, a soul/funk band, at Four Corners Park (Des Peres at Kingsbury) at 5:30 pm. The full listing of performers and neighborhood venues, including a map with suggested walking

routes, will be released near the date.

Volunteers will also be needed for the day to coordinate logistics, such as refreshments and handing out maps.

Porchfest organizers are also looking for further financial sponsors for the event, available at a variety of levels. Sponsors' names will appear in highly visible places, including on porch signs throughout the neighborhood at PorchFest STL. Sponsors will also be acknowledged in social media, posters and other promotional materials leading up to the event. Money raised will cover the costs of presenting this distinctive and free neighborhood event, with additional monies acting as a fundraiser for the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council.

If you are interested in being either a volunteer or a sponsor, please contact the SDCC office at 314-862-5122.

The latest information about Porchfest 2022 can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/PorchfestSTL/>

Upcoming Elections

By Lana Stein

September 13: A special primary election will be held to fill the unexpired term of Lewis Reed for president of the Board of Aldermen. The two candidates in this race are Megan Green, alderwoman of the 15th Ward, and Jack Coatar, alderman of the 7th ward.

November 2 Midterm election for Congress and state legislatures. For U.S. Senator, candidates include Republican Eric Schmitt, Democrat Trudy Busch Valentine, and Independent John Wood. For Member of Congress, Democratic incumbent Cori Bush is opposed by Republican Andrew Jones. For State Senator, Karla May, the Democratic incumbent, faces Republican Mary McLean. For

State Representative, Democrat Del Taylor is unopposed. In addition, the general election for aldermanic president will also be on the ballot.

Because of the change from 28 to 14 wards, our new ward will be ward 10 in 2023. Current 26th ward residents join with Skinker DeBaliviere residents now in the 28th to create the new 10th.

For reasons of space, minor party office seekers are not listed. Neither are the county officeholders. To learn more about them, you may go to the Missouri Secretary of State's web site.

Turnout in our neighborhood has been quite low in a number of recent elections. Sometimes, even one vote can make a difference. Vote!

STL Village and the Harvey A. Friedman Center for Aging host "Solo Aging Well" with Author Carol Marak



Older age brings a new set of opportunities and challenges. Solo agers have unique experiences in later life that require thoughtful planning. Join STL Village and the Harvey A. Friedman Center for Aging for a live discussion of successful solo aging:

Wednesday, September 28th, 5pm-7pm, at The Stupp Center, Tower Grove Park, 3616 Southeast Drive, St. Louis, 63110. Free event. Registration required, at: www.eventbrite.com/e/solo-aging-well-tickets-394432737937

Carol Marak, author of Solo and Smart: The Roadmap for a Supportive and Secure Future, will offer guidance for aging as a single person. Panelists will share the legal considerations for single individuals and ways to meet new people and remain connected. Light refreshments will be served, and there will be time to network following the presentation.

For more information contact: info@stlvillage.org.

News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Hello Neighbors,

As summer comes to an end and the fall season approaches, can we re-lect on the craziness of the the summer in St. Louis? Crazy hot temps (not unusual for St. Louis, but really more heat warnings than I recall in most summers) and historic rainfall? Hopefully all of you made it through without too much trouble, or damage to your homes. I know plenty of people in other areas suffered much more than we did, but we certainly had plenty of neighbors and local businesses that were hit hard by the record rainfall and flooding.

Despite all of that, I'm happy to share that several neighbors, were able to venture off to exciting vacations in other parts of the world. The past couple of years have limited travel for so many of us, so it is really fantastic to hear about the trips that friends, family, and neighbors are now getting to enjoy. I'm going to tell you about a few today and maybe some more of you could reach out and share your travel stories too.

Like many people, Erik and Sarah Solverud had to postpone a trip they had planned a couple of years ago due to the pandemic. But clearly it was worth the wait!



Eric and Sarah Solverud

In early June, Erik and Sarah stayed in Cortona, Italy. While they were there they took several day trips and drove to other cities in Tuscany. One of their stops was in Siena, Italy. It is UNESCO-listed his-toric center, which is best known for hosting the Palio horse race. Duomo di Siena is a church that was built in the 13th century, pictured here in the background of the photo of Erik and Sarah.

During the second week of June, Erik and Sarah's were joined by their children in Rome. They loved the many



Solverud Family

sites of Rome and took a day trip by train to see Florence. The family is pictured here in Florence in front of the famous, Ponte Vecchio, which means Old Bridge. The Solveruds live on the 6300 block of Washington.



Joe and Beth Hogan

Joe and Beth Hogan, of the 6100 block of Kingsbury had a very different adventure, spending eight days in July in and around the fjords of Norway. From stave churches built in 1100s to glacier hikes, kayaking,

biting alpacas, and fresh seafood - the fjords of Norway is a must see destina-tion according to the Hogans.

Truman Stephens, who grew up on the 6200 block of Waterman had planned a solo trip to Vietnam as he prepares to go to law school at



Mike and Truman Stephens

Fordham and will not have time for much travel while he studies. At the last minute, he invited any family members to go along and his dad, Mike Stephens jumped at the chance to join him!

They started in Ho Chi Minh (via a very long flight to Hong Kong) then went north to Hoi An (a lot of clothing is made here) and are ending up in Hanoi with day trips from those cities (they are still traveling as I write this). They have explored a lot of museums and historical sites by foot, boat, bicycle, motorbike, and an overnight cruise. What a wonderful fa-ther and son adventure before Truman heads to Fordham Law School in the fall!

The Stephens family will have more to celebrate than Truman and Mike's travels as their son Mitchell will be wed in early September to his fiancé



Mitchell Stephens and Clare Holeman

Clare Holeman. Clare is also from St. Louis. Both Mitchell and Clare work as missionaries at the University of Washington through the Fellowship of Catholic University Students. Congratulations to Mitchell and Clare!

I know that many of you are busy, but honestly, we'd love to hear from you about your trips, your promotions, celebrations, weddings, births, etc...so drop me a line (info on how to do that is below). The best thing about our neighborhood, which obviously boasts beautiful architecture and an incredible location (Forest Park is our backyard), is the people! And we all love to know what our people are doing or if our neighbors need anything. So please share.

And whether the crazy weather continues, or life gets back to a bit more normal routine, be sure to check on your neighbors. We are so fortunate to live where we do, let's continue to look out after one another.

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!

Report on SDCC

By June Vaughan

SDCC Board meetings were held by ZOOM on June 13 and July 11 of 2022 at 7 P. M. The only committee activities covered are those described in oral reports to the board. Official minutes of board meetings are posted on the SDCC website, <https://skinkerdebaliviere.wordpress.com/sdcc-board-meeting-minutes/>, after they have been approved at the following meeting. Committee reports or minutes submitted to the board in writing are also posted but are no longer read or discussed at the board meetings.

June 13: Ald. Shameem Clark-Hubbard highlighted Juneteenth activities in the neighborhood. She noted the opening of 1207 Urban Eatery, a vegan restaurant across Delmar from the Pageant. Chiemic Johnson, Neighborhood Improvement Specialist (NIS), discussed trash pick-up and recycling. Many people use recycling bins for non-recyclable items. Audits are being done of trash bins in the alleys. JoAnna Schooler's WU team keeps a close eye on the trash situation and reported that students are not doing the dumping that is occurring. WU monitors the alleys during the end of May and June when students are moving out. Many non-profits make use of the donation events held by the university for repurposing of discarded student items. Residents are encouraged to contact Ald. Clark-Hubbard or Ms. Johnson (314-657-1372) regarding waste removal or recycling; report illegal dumpster activity at Citizens Service Bureau (CSB) or call the police non-emergency number (314-231-1212).

Security Committee co-chairman Grady Vaughan reported that crime is down 30% since last month.

Ald. Mike Gras plans a public meeting on the six metered parking spaces now allotted to the Regional Arts Commission 24 hours, seven days a week.

Andy Cross, Beautification Committee Chairman, reported record donations for Planting/Electronic Recycling Day. He called for volunteers to water Four Corners Park. The garden tour took in over \$1000.

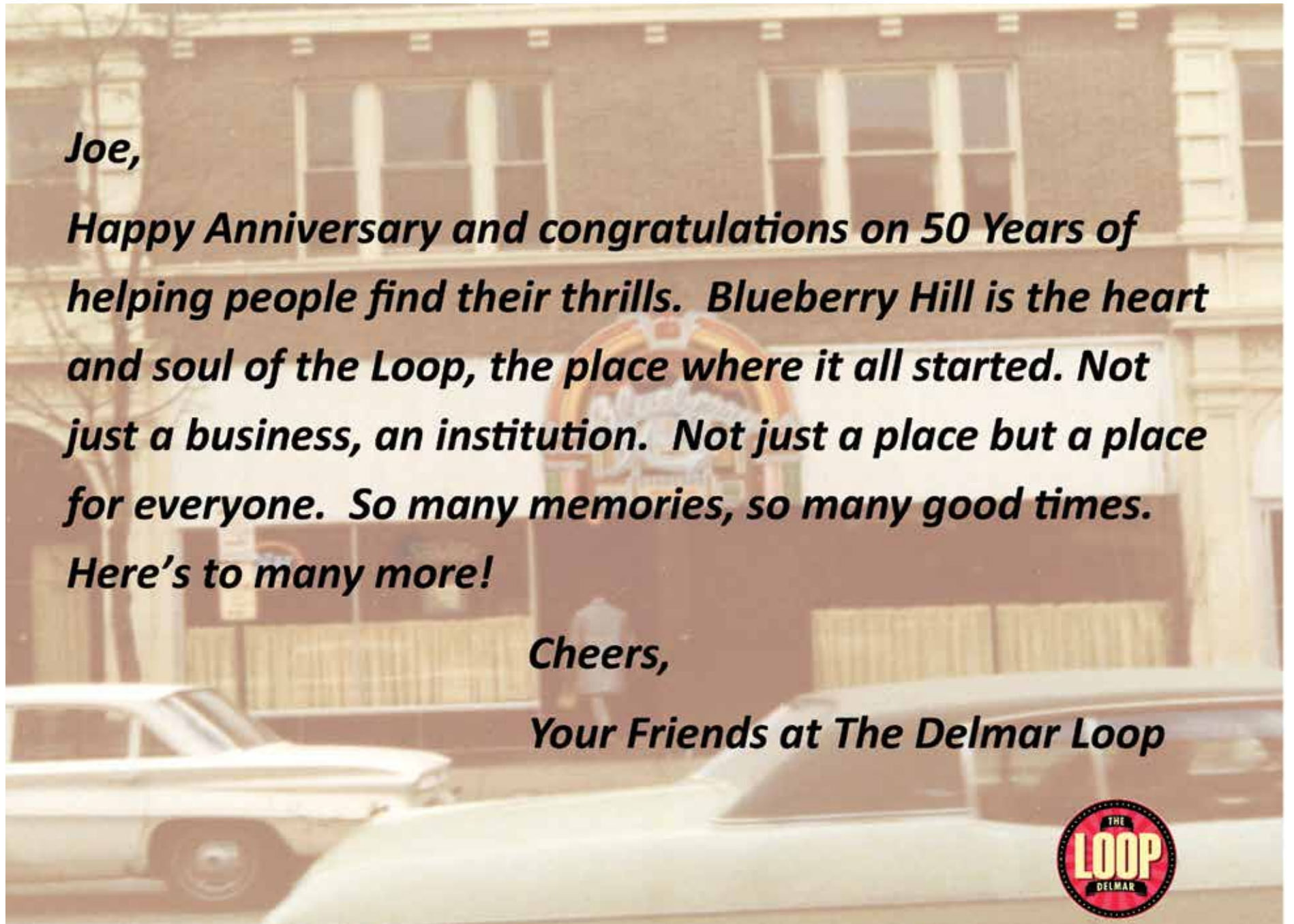
Yvette Kell will be the new SDCC treasurer. Exec. Dir. Mike Reid reviewed financials, reporting assets and income as outpacing last year's numbers. He reported Stanley Hoffman's intention to develop the southeast corner of Delmar and Skinker himself rather than sell it. Hoffman wants input from the neighborhood. Mike has been having porch chats during neighborhood walkabouts and working to reestablish neighborhood clusters to improve communication. He is developing suggestions for committee operations.

No oral reports were given by the following committees: Historic District Review, Community Development, Residential Housing and Zoning.

Andrew Cawood of Parkview Agents, having moved away, will no longer serve on the SDCC Board. The board plans a retreat in autumn, where it will update the SD Strategic Plan.

Ald. Mike Gras discussed trash removal issues. The city cannot use outside contractors to supplement city resources because the dumpsters require the city's proprietary trucks for dumping. The city may consider using pushable bins. There was discussion as to why this would not work well in many

Report on SDCC continued on page 6



Joe,

Happy Anniversary and congratulations on 50 Years of helping people find their thrills. Blueberry Hill is the heart and soul of the Loop, the place where it all started. Not just a business, an institution. Not just a place but a place for everyone. So many memories, so many good times. Here's to many more!

Cheers,

Your Friends at The Delmar Loop



Fountain Park *continued from page 1*

would become listed on the National Register, as would the iconic fountain. Churches in the community include Centennial Christian Church, Pleasant Green Baptist Church, and West Side Baptist, all active partners in the Fountain Park/ Lewis Place activities

Katrude Palmer and Margaret Williams are members of the Fountain Park/Lewis Place Community Organization. They reflect

a dedication to community that has long been a legacy of many in their community. Each has lived in Fountain Park over 45 years raising their families and serving their community. Katrude retired as a reading specialist in St. Louis Public Schools with expertise in the highly successful New Zealand Reading Recovery program. She became a trainer of teachers using this program with great success. Margaret is a retired social studies teacher and department chair from University City School District. She is also the 2009 Missouri Teacher of the Year, former St. Louis Public Schools teacher and former Principal of the Westside Academy.

Working with other community volunteers, these women have been involved with voter registration, services to grandparents raising their grandchildren, distributing emergency supplies to those in need, coordinating the Juneteenth celebration for 15 years, providing summer and after school programs for youth,

Fountain Park *continued on page 5*

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We Fell In Love With Westminster Place and Opened A Home Daycare

by Dave Powell

My wife and I accidentally moved to Saint Louis just before Christmas 2019. We were simply visiting my parents in my hometown of Saint Louis for two weeks before flying back to our adopted home of Xiamen, China. But the premature birth of our lovely daughter Feronia coupled with the onset of covid-19 blocked our return to China.



The Powell Family

By the summer of 2022, we knew what we wanted to do, but not where. Given our experience in early childhood education and our desire to work from home until Nia reaches first grade, our goal was to find a house that would allow us to run a home daycare. We looked at dozens of homes and cities in the area before visiting the Skinker Debaliviere neighborhood. Our first visit to Westminster Place was fortuitous. We met a neighbor watering his lawn and chatted about the neighborhood and the house next door, which was up for sale. The couple was generous with their time and told us all about the neighborhood, dating back to their arrival more than 40 years ago. They explained how the area was at a fork in the road back then and that the area's residents joined together to preserve the neighborhood as a true community.

That was the point at which we fell in love with the Skinker Debaliviere neighborhood. But would the neighborhood love us back? We knew that opening a home daycare would require a conditional use permit from the city for a home business. In practice, that meant getting consent (or at least no objections) from as many neighbors as possible before we felt comfortable making a bid on the home. This was at the peak of last year's homebuying frenzy so it was a wild time as we spoke with multiple neighbors, so that we didn't surprise anyone with a home daycare proposal.

We explained that we wanted to provide home daycare as a service to the community that would bring the neighborhood together. Daycare is so important but also so hard to find and we simply hoped to add richness to this community's tapestry. We saw lots of optimism and no red flags, so we took the plunge and made the winning offer for our lovely home.

That was really just the start of our journey, however. Above and beyond the normal repairs that all the lovely older homes of our neighborhood regularly require, we also had to make a host of upgrades to the home in order to make it suitable for a home daycare. We installed a fire alarm system, security system, video cameras, sprinklers, artificial grass for the backyard, a swing set, better fencing, new air conditioning and so much more.

Simultaneously, we had to navigate the process of applying for a conditional use permit for a home business. The process was lengthy but, and this is shocking, it was actually enjoyable. We had the opportunity to engage with the Skinker Debaliviere Community Council and to canvas the neighborhood. Crucially, more than a dozen neighboring families offered formal support to our home daycare proposal.

That was the moment when we realized how blessed we are to live in this home. And we're even happier because our daughter now lives on a street where people care for and take care of each other. It really is a dream come true in terms of finding a community that will help Nia become an amazing person.

Now that we have our conditional use permit and our daycare license from the state of Missouri, we have officially opened Lion's Pride Academy, offering home daycare to up to nine friends of Nia.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about our home daycare, please feel free to reach out directly. We would love to know more of our neighbors and to share our home with your family. www.lionsprideacademy.com (314) 863-7080

Fountain Park *continued from page 4*

helping with community environmental impact fairs, and much more.

On the day of my 3-hour interview with these incredible women we stopped at the Skinker DeBaliviere office to pick up The Times to share with their fellow volunteers. I had the opportunity to introduce Katrude and Margaret to Mike Reid. The synergy between the three was instant and very exciting! It was a moment that reflected the possibilities within Ward 10. We can learn from and share with such leaders and neighborhoods! Learn more about Fountain Park on our website: <http://sdtimes.org>

KIDS CORNER

LEARN TO CODE (AT ALL AGES)

By Tracy Granneman

How often do you hear that screen time can be a great thing? Have you ever tried to learn to code? It can sound scary, but anyone at any age can do it!

Why learn to code?

1. Learn something new
2. Create games and apps that that you can share with friends and family.
3. Be creative and problem solve
4. Learn a "secret language"
5. Have Fun!

There are many websites with free courses to learn to code. One of my favorites is Code.org and their Hour of Code. The Hour of Code is a global movement reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries. Anyone (5+) can use this site start to learn to code in only an hour! You can do fun things like

- Program a Star Wars Droid
- Develop a new basketball game
- Draw pictures
- Create art for your poetry
- Build games with your favorite Disney Characters.

- Try more challenging activities with artificial Intelligence,

To find an activity that you love, start at: <https://code.org/hourofcode/overview> Code.org also offers many other resources for more advanced coders.

Kids - make sure to ask your parent or guardian before you play.
Parents and guardians - (from www.code.org) -

"Code.org® is an education innovation nonprofit dedicated to the vision that every student in every school has the opportunity to learn computer science as part of their core K-12 education. [They] expand access to computer science in schools, with a focus on increasing participation by young women and students from other underrepresented groups. The leading provider of K-12 computer science curriculum in the largest school districts in the United States, Code.org also organizes the annual Hour of Code campaign, which has engaged more than 15% of all students in the world. Code.org is supported by generous donors including Microsoft, Amazon, Google and many others."

Please save the date and join us for the Delmar – DeBaliviere Form Based District Neighborhood Meeting

When: Wednesday, September 28th at 7 PM

Where: This is a hybrid meeting, attend in-person or on Zoom.

In-person: Grace Methodist Church, 6199 Waterman at Skinker, St. Louis, MO 63112, parking available just north of the church at Skinker and McPherson. **Zoom Link:** Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83764453850?pwd=YnVJdHpWVktTaDR4bndRMDBraklYdz09>

Meeting ID: 837 6445 3850 Passcode: 277280

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 837 6445 3850 Passcode: 277280

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83764453850?pwd=YnVJdHpWVktTaDR4bndRMDBraklYdz09>

What: The City of St. Louis is working in partnership with the community to develop a new Form-Based District to guide future development along Delmar Boulevard and DeBaliviere Avenue. Please join your neighbors from the West End Neighborhood, DeBaliviere Place, and Skinker DeBaliviere for a community meeting with the Form-Based District planning consultant H3 Studio, Inc. to offer your input on the future of Delmar and DeBaliviere!

The purpose of the Form-Based District is to regulate the height, form, and character of new development in order to promote a vibrant, walkable, mixed-use corridor and edges of the surrounding neighborhoods. H3 Studio will present an introduction and overview of the history of the project, followed by a facilitated input session to collect community feedback.

We need you to participate and provide your input on the future of the Delmar Boulevard and DeBaliviere Avenue corridors to determine the vision for this important community asset.

Please join us and help determine the future of your community!

Form Based District Website: www.delmarfbd.com

Report from 28th Ward Alderman Mike Gras

I'm Mike Gras, the new Alderman for the 28th Ward. I hope you've made it through the summer relatively safe and dry. For those that don't know, the previous Alderperson for the 28th Ward, Heather Navarro, stepped down in January to take a job as director of the Midwest Climate Collaborative at Washington University. I was nominated by the St. Louis City Democratic Central Committee to run in a Special Election in April to serve out the rest of her term.


Meanwhile, the City's twenty-eight wards will be reduced to fourteen, and all alderpersons will run with the new boundaries next Spring. The current 28th Ward is split between the new 9th ward and the new 10th ward. Everywhere west of Union, including Skinker-DeBaliviere, will be in the new 10th Ward. I live east of Union so I will be in the new 9th ward. I am running for Alderman of the new 9th Ward, but I will unfortunately no longer represent this lovely neighborhood.

One of the more challenging issues I've faced in my time as Alderperson is responding to constituent frustration about the trash. The good news is I believe the problem is slowly getting better. The bad news is our options to respond are limited. I have recently learned that all the City's dumpsters are proprietary and custom made just for the City of St. Louis. These proprietary dumpsters also require a special, custom, proprietary truck to pick up and service. This means we can't easily contract extra trash service and we can't easily order new dumpsters or new trucks. In the meantime, the City is doing what they can to add extra shifts to service the trucks we do have to get them staffed and moving.

Please continue to report all trash issues to the Citizens Service Bureau, especially issues relating to damaged dumpsters that need to be replaced. There are many dumpsters that need to be replaced in the ward, but we don't know where they are unless they are reported. Also, the City is in the early stages of considering expanding roll cart service to help supplement or replace some of the dumpster service. These roll carts would still be in the alleys where possible. If you have thoughts on using roll carts vs dumpsters, please let me know.

Traffic safety is a top priority of mine. This has been a terrible summer for pedestrian traffic fatalities and each one breaks my heart. I am working with the City to make significant improvements to several intersections along Skinker and championing a project to redo Kingshighway from West Pine to MLK Blvd. That said, folks speeding on our neighborhood side streets continue to pose unacceptable danger. I will be filing a ward-wide speedhump bill when the Board resumes in September. If there are specific streets you'd like to be considered, please let me know.

Please signup for my mailing list at mike4stl.com to keep informed of the latest information from the Ward and City. It is truly an honor to represent each and every person in this wonderful neighborhood. If there is anything I can do for you, please don't hesitate to email me at grasm@stlouis-mo.gov or text/call me on my cell at 314-497-8373.



28th Ward Democrats 2022:
Meetings are on the 3rd Thursday each month
More info:
Facebook & <https://ward28stldems.org>

Report on SDCC *continued from page 3*

situations. It was suggested that there are not enough dumpsters and that some have rusted out bottoms. These problems can be reported to the CSB.

Beautification Committee chairman Andy Cross said that heat did not preclude fun at the recent Dog Show. Heat is a challenge for reseeded grass and plants at Greg Freeman Park. There are signs at Des Peres and Forest Park Parkway asking that surveys be filled out regarding a walking bridge there.

Security Committee co-chairman Grady Vaughan said their meeting was postponed due to technical issues.

Treasurer will present a financial report next meeting. There is a current deficit which upcoming income will cover. Mike Reid reported that air conditioning repair for the SDCC office cost \$395, covering a blower fan and capacitor.

No oral reports were given by the following committees: Historic District Review, Community Development, Commercial Districts, Residential Housing and Zoning.

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND: Pick Apples This Year!

The summer heat has started to wind down. Stores have signs for products with pumpkin spice flavor. And the U-Pick apple orchards are open for business. It is time to go apple picking. Apple picking around St. Louis can last from late July through early November. Most "U-Pick" orchards around the St. Louis areas have apples to pick starting in late August, but many have other fruits like blueberries or peaches earlier.



There are many places you can go to pick apples. In addition to Eckert's, Centennial Farms, Herman's Farm Orchard, and Braeutigam Orchards all have U-Pick locations. These four orchards are often rated highly, but there are other smaller orchards as well. Small orchards can be the best, because the person you pay may also be the person who has tended the trees. Whichever orchard you choose, it is always a good idea to check orchard web pages, or Facebook pages. For smaller orchards, you may have to call directly.

Depending on the orchard you visit, you can pick many different varieties of apples. Apples have a long and rich history and have been developed for many purposes. There are thousands of apple varieties. Many varieties found in stores have been developed for long storage. Some U-Pick orchards have different varieties that don't store well that have flavors or uses that make them spectacular. There are varieties better for fresh eating, pies, apple sauce, or even cider. Pie apples, for example, are often a little tart and hold together when cooked, more than fresh eating apples do. There are even heirloom varieties that develop great flavor by being stored. Make sure to ask the orchard, which varieties are ripe and what their best use is.

Generally, if you pick apples, you end up with more than you will eat in a day or two, so apple picking leads to other great activities. Preserving your apple harvest is not only fun, it is also important. Food processing is an element of our food security that many people know nothing about. It is not difficult to make your own applesauce or apple butter that often tastes better than store bought. Applesauce and apple butter can last a long time in the refrigerator and both freeze well, so storage is not a problem. Freezing is also a very safe way to process your own food for storage. It is also fun to dry your own apples. You can dry apples in the oven at the lowest setting, but there are also inexpensive food dehydrators that work well.

Many people like to can their own fruit harvests, because the flavor is often much better than store bought products. If you do decide to make something, like apple butter or jelly, it is important to use approved recipes for food safety. Two great starting places are the USDA Complete Guide to Home Canning and the Ball Blue Book. Following the instructions will mean you can safely put the harvest into your pantry and save room in your freezer or fridge.

However you decide to use your apple harvest, you will feel more closely connected to your food than you would if you just bought a bunch of apples at the store. Harvesting and preserving food yourself adds to the pleasure of eating it later, so go apple picking this year!



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My Merry Gogomobile

by Ruth Hyman

Our family was “way cool” in 1961 when we bought a yellow Gogomobile, a car smaller than a Volkswagen Beetle. Herb and I had three children by the time we lived on 5765 McPherson. He drove every day to his advertising business, Kentheon Arts, located on Branch and 11th Street. Herb’s brother Ted was always searching the classified ads for bargains. He called us one day with an exciting piece of news. A small auto dealer on DeBaliviere Blvd. had two brand new imported cars for sale at \$ 200. Herb suggested that I hurry there to see them.

That day while the kids were in school, I jumped on my balloon tire bike and raced over there to be the first in line. On the lot were two shiny Gogomobiles, one red and one yellow. Each had a sunroof, two front bucket seats and a back bench seat. It was perfect for Herb and me in the front and 3 small children in back. The engine was in back; the trunk, which was in front, had room for 4 bags of groceries. All that for only \$ 200. What a bargain for a brand new car! I fell in love with the bright yellow one.

But I needed a driving lesson first, because it had a 4 speed electric gearbox controlled by a small toggle switch on the dashboard. The salesman was skeptical about my ability to coordinate the clutch on the floor with the switch, but I was determined to learn. I had the process mastered after one time around the block. That evening Herb and I picked it up. That was the beginning of 3 years of adventure without going out of the City of St. Louis.

Today we would be arrested and fined for driving such a totally unsafe vehicle with



no seat belts and tiny tires. But in 1961, with no such restrictions, I had gained some independence and didn’t think we would be unsafe if I drove carefully and defensively. Our children attended Hamilton School, only two blocks from our house, but I needed to drive them to music lessons, doctor’s appointments and social events. Everywhere we went, people stared, made cat calls, and whistled. Our kids loved it. Even though we rode very close to the ground on the tiny tires, they could see best by standing up and sticking their heads out of the sunroof. They probably inhaled a lifetime quota of exhaust fumes that way. The only times I felt unsafe and claustrophobic was when we were caught between trucks front and aft. I was sure the drivers couldn’t see us, so I used the horn to make sure they could at least hear us.

Herb rarely got his hands on the “Go Go”. Everyone wanted to have a ride in it, and

I think I regressed to being a teenager in spirit. One afternoon I was asked to drive 2 cousins to a family party. The two women were large, each weighing close to 200 pounds, so it was not easy for them to squeeze in, but one sat in front and one sat sideways in back. All went well until we came to a steep hill. The party was in a house perched on top of the hill. The Gogomobile wouldn’t go. One of my cousins had to get out and walk up. Of course, we had no trouble going down the hill at a scary speed. It was an event we all laughed about for many years.

The little yellow car appealed to people like a toy and was always the center of attention wherever we went. People were curious about it and wanted to touch it. Each year on Halloween night, pranksters would pick up the car and place it, unhurt, on the sidewalk in front of our house on the 5700 block of McPherson near DeBaliviere.

Note: We are grateful to Ruth Hyman for contributing one of her own stories to our long-running neighborhood history series and look forward to another in our next issue. From Garavellis to “Evelyn West and her \$50,000 Treasure Chest”, you can read more on our website <http://sdtimes.org>. Click on DeBaliviere Stories. –Jo Ann Vatcha jvatcha@gmail.com



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IN YOUR EAR

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

Today, class, I want to talk a bit about life's transitions. Oh, I don't mean the big ones, those we note on Facebook, in scrapbooks, at the attorney's office, or by the gravesite. Those public transitions are anticipated and celebrated – well, the first two kinds, anyway. I'm thinking of the smaller transitions, the conscious or semi-conscious decisions that we each make in response to the fact that we continue to get older. Until we don't. As Socrates said, "Enjoy yourself. It's later than you think."

Many of my transitions centered around sports. As wannabe athlete, someone whose aspirations far exceeded his skills, FAR, throughout my youth and after-youth, I spent way more time in sports than was rational. Despite my consistent athletic failures, I exhibited grit before I knew it was anything other than a southern food. In college, for example, our intramural basketball games were played at noon, and I routinely skipped my 11:00 class to warm-up and my 1:00 class to cool down. Sadly, this is not an exaggeration. If you go to quotes.com and type in "Youth is wasted on the young," you'll see my photo. (OK, you won't, but you should.)

You might think that this misaimed dedication resulted in my becoming somewhat adept in sports, but that was not the case. The only possible way these choices had any merit comes from Winston Churchill's quote that "Success is the ability to go from one failure to another without a loss of enthusiasm." In fact, I was learning the virtue of enthusiasm.

One of my first conscious transitions – and the key word here is "conscious" because as you just read, up until then I navigated life in a state of semi-consciousness – occurred decades ago when I enrolled in graduate school to work on a master's degree. At the time, I played on two slow-pitch softball teams. More accurately, I played on two slow-pitch softball teams and I drank with these slow-pitch softball teams at the bars we visited after each game, win, lose, or rain-out. Unfortunately and not surprisingly, I was much better at the bar than I was at third base. Alas, misplaced enthusiasm is not a virtue.

But grad school would be a big step up for me. I figured correctly that I needed to focus and apply effort if I was going to succeed in a non-Churchill way. So after much wrenching thought, I stopped playing on my Friday night softball team. And I stopped going to the bar afterwards. And I started studying. I still miss those rain-out games.

My next transition didn't involve sports. It centered on my 1992 Miata. The small white

convertible was a terrific car: small, snazzy, speedy, and small. No, my repeated use of "small" is not a typo. It was really small! I felt like I needed a shoehorn to get in the seat, and the trunk was only large enough to hold my laptop and gym bag. Then one day I was stopped at a red light and a long-haul truck pulled up next to me. I realized that the top of my head – did I mention that the Miata was small? – was mid-way up the tire on the truck. The tire! One wrong turn, I thought, and I would be dust. A week later I sold the Miata and didn't even mourn the decision.

My most recent transition occurred yesterday. Rather, I made the decision yesterday. After more than 50 years of double-dribbles and missed layups, I've decided that I should no longer play basketball. Right now it's an abstract decision because I couldn't play even if I wanted to do so. You see (and of course, you cannot see it, so please imagine), right now I can neither stand nor walk because I tore my left hamstring last Thursday while, you guessed it, playing basketball. Beyond the difficulties arising from my total lack of mobility, the hamstring tear is the most painful injury I have ever experienced. The pain was worse than during my open-heart surgery (although the anesthesia may have helped a bit then).

You, logical reader that you are, may be thinking, "What in the world was a 76 year-old guy doing playing basketball?" Good question, and one also asked by my wife. As my torn hamstring now shouts, I am not as young as I used to be. From the grave, Socrates thinks, "I told you so."

So, another way to look at transitions is that they are simply small steps in the journey to maturity. They are the times when take the longer and wiser view and give up that immediate pleasure because we've done the calculation and considered the trade-offs. We can still enjoy, but it is getting later. So for me, no more dissecting the rain-out game that we didn't play at a bar, no more Miata, and no more playing basketball.

EPILOGUE: This column was written a couple of months before publication. Thankfully, since then progress has occurred. I am walking, still going to twice-weekly Physical Training sessions, and writing foolish things. But no more basketball ever. At least not yet.

How about you, dear reader? Can you quickly identify your life's transitions? A compilation of these might make a fun column, so please feel free to share one with me, your anonymity is guaranteed, at trhoerr@aol.com.

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