

The *TIMES* of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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November - December 2022

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

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A 10TH WARD NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE Dedication to Community Fueled by Personal Histories: Academy/Sherman Park Neighborhood

By Cecilia Nadal



Catherine Smith Morgan (Green Shirt) President of Academy/Sherman Park

John Watson, Former President with Irene Soll, Long-term Volunteer

Exploring who our new neighbors are in the 10th Ward continues to be an exciting journey. This time I would be reminded that important measures of a well-functioning community is the leadership, their history of engagement and their personal stories!

The Academy/Sherman Park neighborhood is defined by Dr. Martin Luther King Drive on the North, eastward to Kingshighway on the East, westward to Delmar Blvd. on the South, northward to Union Blvd. on the West, northward on Union Blvd. to Martin Luther King Drive. Like Lewis Place and Fountain Park there are a number of larger homes that were once exclusively for white residents before WW II. These homes became the property of middle class African Americans many of whom later moved to other regions. Unlike Fountain Park and Lewis Place there is more commercial interface with residents on Delmar and Kingshighway. The task of leaders in the Academy/Sherman Park area is to balance residential and commercial interests for the betterment of all involved.

I had the pleasure of meeting two of the leaders of this community including John Watson, a former Fire Captain, Pastor and past President of the Academy/Sherman Park Neighborhood Association (ASPNA) and Catherine Smith-Morgan, Auditor with Edward Jones and current President of the Association. Their personal stories were compelling and inspiring. John Watson's father Pastor John Watson Sr. of Maple Temple Church of God in Christ encouraged his son to be involved with his community and was given the task of

10th Ward Neighborhood Profile *continued on page 4*

New Plan Would Affect Neighborhood

By Marvin J. Nodiff

Increasing the number of residents on DeBaliviere and the city's portion of Delmar in the Loop is the focus of a new development plan seeking approval by the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council.

But many residents are unfamiliar with the plan, unaware of what "densification" means, what changes to anticipate, and how the residential community would be affected.

The draft "Delmar-DeBaliviere Form-Based District" (FBD) is based on the urban planning concept that a "transit-oriented district" – areas within walking distance to Metro Link stops at Wabash Station and Forest Park -- would be more effective and efficient with greater population density and fewer vehicles.

Overseeing the FBD planning process is H3 Studio, "an interdisciplinary urbanism, planning, design and research consultancy"

New Plan *continued on page 7*

St. Roch All Things New Listening Sessions

By Tracy and Paul Granneman

On November 7 and 9, St. Roch hosted listening sessions for the Archdiocese of St. Louis All Things New initiative. Under this initiative, 178 parishes in the region will consolidate to between 70 and 90 parishes. Regional Catholic schools will also be affected. In the St. Roch session five models for consolidation were presented. Four models have St. Roch Parish merging with the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. The fifth model would merge St. Roch, Christ the King, All Saints and St. Rita. This fifth model was offered because of St. Roch representatives lobbying for an alternative to merging with the Cathedral. At this time, there is no decision on where masses would be held or whether St. Roch Church would remain operational under any model.

Over 90 people attended the St. Roch listening sessions and attendees differed in their support of models to merge with the Cathedral or with the University City/Vinita Park parishes. Many argued that parish consolidations could not be evaluated without consideration of the impacts to St. Roch School. Universally, attendees agreed about the need for St. Roch School to remain open in some capacity.

Attendees in the listening session pointed St. Roch's high academic standards, location in the city and diverse population of students as reasons for the school to remain operational. Many argued that the St. Roch school model furthers the All Things New goals to reimagine the church service to community and outreach to non-Catholics. 45% of students at St. Roch are not Catholic. 63% of the students are not registered at the parish and 70% do not live within the parish

St. Roch *continued on page 4*

Wintermarkt



AN OUTDOOR CRAFTS SALE IN THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON



21ST ANNUAL WINTERMARKT Saturday December 3, 2022

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

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

If you wish to enjoy the festival as a volunteer or vendor contact Karen Kelsey at sdcc@skinker-debaliviere.com, call (314) 862-5122, or visit www.skinkerd.org.

Editor's Notes

By Linda Cross

As we go to press, the holidays are coming upon us. It is a time of turkey, jingle bells, hot cocoa, family, and stress! For those of us welcoming friends and family into our homes with open arms, it is a time when we look around and say, 'How on earth did I let my home get into this state?'. After the travesty of political commercials cease, we will be bombarded with everyone demonstrating how easy it is to make a Martha Stewart table arrangement for 30 from twigs and leftover car engine parts - which is the equivalent to me with my size 14-16 body looking at the Victoria's Secret underwear ads. That is not going to happen. Neither of those things are going to happen. When I start to really freak out, I sit on the front steps coming into the entryway and think about how lucky I am that I have this home to share. Quarter sawn zebra cut oak floors, high ceilings, wood beams, 52 windows (yes Andy had to count them when we got them reglazed). Andy and I looked for many, many months before Karleen Hoerr introduced us to this house. (Back then we were children and Karleen would not let us sign a contract until we had slept on it. She is very smart.) The neighborhood was already home to Andy having grown up here, but I loved this neighborhood from the start. Not just that I had instant connections, but the involvement, commitment, diversity, and passion of the people who chose to live here when the neighborhood was a chance, a risk, and would not be this great without their care.

I still see many neighbors devoted to those causes that will keep our neighborhood accessible, diverse, fun, and safe. But often I look around and see the same neighbors again, again, and again. I have had to step back from some volunteer positions myself, as have some of the long-term volunteers and columnists of the Times. Selfishly, I will mention that the paper is going to need a new 'News of Neighbors' writer in the new year, as well as a new 'Kid's Corner' writer. We also need some help continuing the great work of Marj Weir with our website making it more user friendly and keeping it up to date. If you would like to work with us on these columns or the website for the five issues a year, please let me know! Thank you so much to Rachel Boxdorfer for keeping up with our neighbors and Tracy Granneman for engaging our kids! We have loved your columns!

Please enjoy your upcoming holidays. Hug your friends and family. Do things that make you happy. Volunteer for a good cause. Keep in mind that almost no one sees your dust bunnies but you. 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.

Deadline for next issue: January 15, 2023 for our February-March 2023 Issue. Please send copy by e-mail to Linda Cross, lcross@sdtimes.org.

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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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR - The case against form based code

Form based code is an unusual "animal" for both the resident and the developer. On the one hand it is a great tool to work towards consistency in zoning— on the other hand it can be a real mess for a neighborhood that wants flexibility but not too much control in the hands of developers.

From my experience with FB code in the Grove it has had some unintended consequences. Firstly, it is heavy on allowing much larger stack developments next to residential areas. It doesn't take into account a "step down" effect so that you don't have a 10 story building on Delmar looking into the back yards of single family residences. I'm all for development but I also believe it should be layered into the fabric of a neighborhood- and that the neighborhood should have some say in how that pans out. If you enact FBC it's baked in and it doesn't allow for other voices.

Another issue is existing restrictions get wiped away. Remember you are enacting a whole new code. In the Grove we had a SUD - much like the one enacted for the benefit of Delmar and Skinker Debaliviere in the 90's. It kept out predatory businesses like pawn shops, pay day loans and drive through fast food and liquor. What was not made clear to us was that when FBC came into the Grove those protections went away. What also went away were the SUD's rules on liquor license applications, good neighbor agreements and a host of other things that protected the neighborhood. It's had the unintended consequence of allowing a lot of uses we never intended to allow.

Also, it allows zero flexibility in use. So for example, we are not allowed to have offices in the retail spaces along Manchester. This seemed to make sense back when it was put into place, but now some offices along that main drag would have helped with all our vacancies post pandemic. The problem is it's nearly impossible to modify once it's in place — it takes as much effort to make small changes as it did to enact it in the first place.

Form Based code is a fad with zoning people in my opinion. The issues with it- especially in areas protected by a SUD leave a neighborhood open to the wrong kinds of development — and no real say in what that development is. If we had to do it all over again in the Grove - even for those of us who supported it- we wouldn't.

Amy Gill

Halloween contest winners 2022 - St. Roch's school



The winners are: Dan Hudspeth is on the left . Pokemon - L. Ogiore, Mermaid - L Weiss., Lego - C, Granneman, Olaf - J. Hooley, Zombie Cheerleader - A. Jones, Witch - C. Armstrong, Minecraft - L. Hacke, Jasmine - P. Perkins, Jack Skelington - B. Gatewood. Not pictured Sushi - E. Wright and L. Wright



Thank you to all who flatten their boxes!

It saves space in the Blue Bin and leaves room for more recyclables.

News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Hello Neighbors,

The following news about some neighborhood graduates was sent to me a while ago and I'm thrilled to share it. However the timing of it, following (as I write this), a shooting in a local high school; Central Visual and Performing Arts and it's connecting school Collegiate, has also had an effect on some of our neighborhood students. Before we move on to our normal News of Neighbors and as we approach Thanksgiving and the holidays, and St Louis deals with this tragedy, please remember to include the teachers, students, administrators, first responders, and families of all involved in this, in your thoughts, keep them and their families in your hearts. The tragic events will have a lasting impact on them. They need healing and the world needs kindness and understanding.

Moving on to our news, we want to celebrate the accomplishments of some of our local youth. Did you know that the top public high school in the state of Missouri is located just two miles from our neighborhood? Metro Academic and Classical High School is a magnet school in the St. Louis Public School (SLPS) district. It has an International Baccalaureate (IB) program as well as AP courses to prepare students for college. And the school also has dozens of clubs and athletics. Go panthers!

The Metro class of 2022 included FIVE kids from the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood! We want to congratulate them and share with you where they have moved on to in their continuation of their education.

Penelope Peck of Kingsbury Square is now a freshman at University of Pittsburgh. She's majoring in Bioengineering. Kyle Blank of Waterman Boulevard is attending Mizzou. He plans to major in computer science. Junnie Bae of Nina Place is attending Columbia University in New York City. He is interested in economics and film and is very excited to further his passions in college. Eve Rosenblum of Kingsbury Avenue is attending University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA. She plans to study philosophy and then possibly head to law school to study environmental law. And Ella Sophia Dyer of Washington Boulevard is attending St. Louis University. She will major in Anthropology with a minor in Art.

Congrats to these young students and best wishes as they pursue their new adventures! If any neighborhood parent is interested in learning more about Metro or any of the SLPS school options, please let the parents of these kids know. They are happy to share their experiences and answer any questions you might have.

Congratulations to Mary Zabriskie, our neighbor on the 6000 block of McPherson on her new position with Grand River Solutions as a Senior Solutions Specialist. Mary will be working as a consultant with schools across the country on Title IX, ADA/504 and other civil rights issues.



Bill Yonkers

We also have some sad news to report this issue about a longtime neighbor, Bill Yonkers (William Morris Yonkers), of the 6100 block of Westminster. Bill passed away on August 8th at the age of 75.

With a sense of humor and story-telling ability like no other, Bill was always the life of the party and loved to be surrounded by friends and laughter. Bill was an incredible artist and shared his creative mind with his students at MICDS for over 40 years. As a lover of art, history, travel, teaching, golf, cooking, reading, fishing, and watching sports and Jeopardy, he filled his life with the things he cherished most. Bill was a loyal friend. He will be missed by many, and never forgotten.

He is survived by partner of 35 years Renee Flanders, sister Sally Fitzgerald (Richard), his daughters Elizabeth Fassler (Nicholas) and Emily Yonker, grandchild Mary Alice Fassler, granddog Alice, nieces, nephews, and many friends. Our condolences go out to his family and friends.

Do you enjoy reading News of Neighbors? Have you ever thought about writing the column? Your chance could be coming. Please reach out to our editor, Linda Cross, to discuss. The time is approaching that after doing this for a dozen or more years, I retire from the post. Time constraints in my life make it difficult and you, the readers, deserve a fresh take on it all! Who's interested?

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!



Penelope



Kyle



Eve and Junnie



Ella Sophia

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council (SDCC)

September 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Molly Rater (President), Tracy Granneman (Vice President), Yvette Kell (Treasurer), Jim Holzer, David Mastin, JoAnna Schooler, Jeff Stokes, Arline Webb, Kathryn Bulard

Not Present: Carl Merritt, Mike Stephens, Rachelle L'Ecuyer, Tim Woodcock, Kim Freter

Visitors: Ald. Shameem Clark-Hubbard, Andy Cross, Dan Schesch

Executive Director: Michael Reid

Meeting was called to Order at 7:02 via Zoom

President Molly Rater related who the attendees and visitors were and that we had a quorum. July minutes were already approved by email after July meeting so not done tonight.

Aldermanic report: Ald. Clark-Hubbard reported that frequent vandal in neighborhood had been arrested. She encouraged all to submit a police report if any more vandalism. Special election for aldermanic board is tomorrow. Plans are being put together for the Hamilton Bridge. She had no updates on Sink hole. Dave Mastin reported that the derelict car on Hamilton was still there.

Committee Reports

Security: Grady Vaughn not present so Mike reported in his place. Crime is up 30% and car clotting is still a problem. Lindenwood college piloting a security program #check your car. Security walks starting that identify dark spots. New police captain is very engaged according to Alderman Hubbard. Arline reported that she called police about wheelchair soliciter again.

Housing and Zoning: Marv Nodiff is the new chair and he thanked Linda Cross for her 4+ years of service. Main goals of committee is to monitor properties-apartments and homes. They are also updating demographic data.

Commercial District: Rachelle will be resigning from her job in the Delmar loop and a search is underway to replace her. Her replacement will hopefully also take her place on the SDCC board. JoAnna reminded everyone about the Form-Based Code community meeting on Sept 28th. It will be on Zoom and in person at Grace Methodist Church. This is the time for resident's input and questions to be answered.

Beautification: Andy reported that two recent events were successful: Rags to Riches (32 houses + several lot vendors participated) and the concert series on September 2nd. He gave a thank you to all the volunteers and especially Phil Ludholz for barbecuing all day for the concert. There is a new apartment building with 12 new residents at McPherson and Rosedale and not enough dumpsters for their trash. Mary Lou Green from Operation Brightside has provided instructive stickers to put on dumpsters and recycling bins (also available in Chinese).

Treasurer's Report – Marnita Spight has resigned from the Treasurer's position due to personal reasons and we are seeking someone for that position. Mike went over the financials in general. We should be receiving a 5000 dollar grant from CARES funds. Some large contributions including 16,000 dollars from Wash U are still coming. He is hoping Porchfest will bring in additional fundraising revenue when it returns to the fall. We already have 6000 dollars in sponsorships. Dave Mastin expressed concern about the budget deficit but Yvette Kells said that we were on target for the first quarter of the year. The air conditioner is getting fixed this weekend. The treasurer's report was approved

Report on SDCC continued on page 4

Report on SDCC *continued from page 3*

Executive Director's Report – ED Mike Reid reported that he has applied for The City of St Louis Small Business Grant Fund (\$5000) and that he is busy working on Porchfest. It should be our largest fundraising event of the year and we hope to surpass last year's income.

Demolition of Delmar Property. Rachelle reported that there were two joint meetings. One was on April 5th with the Historic Committee and the chairs of the commercial Districts committees, Community Development and Historic District with Wash U presenting the information. The second joint meeting was May 3rd with the Commercial Districts Committee and the Community Development Committee with Wash U again presenting the information. The committees supported the demolition permit. Reps from Wash U Real Estate were present to explain the demolition of the property due to safety concerns. Mary Campbell reported that the spirit of the building will be preserved and architectural treasures preserved. Steve Condrin shared photos of the property. He reported that the 6032-6040 Delmar property was purchased in January 2020. KPFF recommended demolishing the building due to safety concerns and the entrance was blocked off a month later. Process was then delayed by Covid restrictions. Squatters on the property have been a concern. There are no plans for the property at this time. Immediately after demolition the 2 story underground space will be filled and fenced off. Dave Mastin, board member, architect and former neighbor concurred with the safety concerns about the property. His company has looked at the property in the past. Some guests wanted to express opinions/questions and had concern that there had not been enough notice about the demolition. Mike said our board meeting was not the correct forum for community questions and comments. Kim Freter added that this should have happened at the committee level and meetings are open to the public. There will still be steps required with the city so there is still opportunity for community input. Tracy Granneman expressed that voices should be heard and Exec committee had received emails prior to the meeting. Kim Freter made a motion for the SDCC to support the demolition. Dave Mastin, Rachelle L'Ecuyer and Joanna Schooler abstained from this vote. Rater, Webb, Woodcock, Stokes, Spight, Bulard, Freter, Granneman, Holzer and Kells voted in support of the motion. The motion carried.

New Business: Molly reported that the Exec committee was planning a board retreat to refresh the Strategic plan. Mike will send out a doodle poll to assess availability.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.
Minutes submitted by Molly Rater

These are the official minutes of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council taken from their website <https://skinkerdebaliviere.wordpress.com/sdcc-board-meeting-minutes/>

St. Roch *continued from page 1*

boundaries. The school serves students from over 20 zip codes in the area and represents many different backgrounds, religions, and races.

The All Things New initiative was launched to address declining/shifting Catholic populations, attendance in Mass, parish engagement, priest populations and school registrations. Planning for All Things New kicked off in July 2021 and was launched publicly in January 2021. Parish consolidation announcements are planned for May 2023. As of November 8th, school decisions have been delayed so that new parish communities can address school needs. The archdiocese is conducting over 300 listening sessions in the region to present options for parish consolidations and solicit feedback on what options best suit every parish community.

Enclosed with this issue you should find a giving envelope to continue the publication of our neighborhood paper.



We take the small but mighty paper very seriously and hope that you always find out new information about what is going on in our neighborhood and how you can get involved with our neighbors. It currently costs over \$1,000.00 per issue to produce the paper and we rely specifically on support from you. If you have the means, please donate to the Times to continue the 'oldest neighborhood paper in St. Louis'

If you don't see an envelope, you can still donate to the TIMES OF SKINKER DEBALIVIERE at 6229 Washington 63130. Thank you!

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10th Ward Neighborhood Profile

continued from page 1

organizing events to engage neighbors. The Fire Captain would eventually become the President of the neighborhood association in 1998 and lead the group until June 2019 when Catherine Smith-Morgan became the newly elected President of ASPNA.

We met at John's church at 5195 Maple and Page, the same church his father ran, he proudly brought out a 3-ring binder that had to be 5 inches thick with every possible official document over 20 years. He was immensely proud of the many projects and resources which came to his community including expansion of the Blood Bank on Delmar, Places for People, Third Degree Glass Factory and work in demolishing some vacant buildings. John was also candid about the challenges of keeping up homes between 2500-3500 sq. ft. in transitional neighborhoods. He boasted about the determination of some residents to create a community where there would be those coming back to the neighborhood with the resources to rehab the buildings and improve the quality of life. He was cautious and optimistic! John mentioned people like Irene Soll to illustrate the determination and positive outlook of neighbors. Irene, 85 years old and a retired administrative assistant for the Department of Agriculture has lived in the neighborhood since 1950 in a house that is 180 years old. She has been the continuous secretary for the neighborhood association since 1998. John pointed out "it is people like Irene that keep the community going!"

The new ASPNA President Catherine Smith-Morgan is an auditor for Edward D. Jones and moved to the area rehabbing her home over a period of eight years. She is committed to the City of St. Louis and has roots that provide her with vision and an eye for the long game in community development.

Catherine shared her personal story with me over lunch-a true story better than fiction! She talked about growing up in the Pruitt Igoe projects downtown and not being sure how she would navigate expenses for college. Encouraged by her teachers she took a leap of faith and soon learned that the Citibank Credit Cards generously given to most college students upon arrival could pay the bills. She knew nothing about credit cards until she got to college. Catherine graduated from Webster University and ironically eventually got a job at Citibank!

As Catherine spoke about her earlier years, a gentleman sitting next to us asked her about living in Pruitt Igoe and here is what she said.

"We learned to live together by knowing our neighbors well and what families they belonged to. If there was someone who had a drug problem, we knew who in that family could keep things in control. I did not experience trauma there but learned to get to know the people around me."

Since Catherine became President of Academy/Sherman Park Association she has started nine working committees, videos all association meetings on Facebook and she led the charge to ensure that a proposed pawn shop was not installed in their neighborhood. When they fought to keep the pawn shop out of the neighborhood there were 60 residents on the call with the city. Catherine is a hands-on leader who volunteers in activities such as food distribution to the elderly and needy in her community. She identifies a number of assets in her community including the Magic House and the association's relationship with Park Central Development. She is especially proud of the fact that neighbors are increasingly talking to each other and working hand in hand. Catherine knows that strategic vision is important but knows it requires the embrace and support of a united community.

KIDS CORNER

Winter Holidays

Find these holidays that take place in November 2022, December 2022 and January 2023.



- ALL SOULS DAY
- BOXING DAY
- CHINESE NEW YEAR
- CHRISTMAS
- CHRISTMAS
- ELECTIONDAY
- FESTIVUS
- HANUKKAH
- KWANZAA
- MAKAR SANKRANTI
- MARINECORPSBIRTHDAY
- MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
- NEW YEARS DAY
- ROHATSU
- ST NICHOLAS DAY
- THANKSGIVING
- THREE KINGS DAY
- VETERANS DAY
- WINTER SOLSTICE



Magic Mini Golf on Delmar

The miniature golf facility proposed for the Delmar Loop is in now under construction. Magic Mini Golf, a project from Loop developer Joe Edwards, will be built at 6160 Delmar Blvd.

The project was first proposed in 2018, and will have an indoor, year-round 18-hole mini golf course, two lanes of shuffleboard and a 16-foot Ferris wheel acquired from The Muny. The venue will also have a kitchen, bar, basketball, amusement games and display cases with interesting golf and art memorabilia. Edwards said the plans remain the same as originally proposed.

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Accessible living being built in Skinker DeBaliviere

Dan Schesch, a long time resident of Skinker DeBaliviere, is beginning construction of a condominium building on 6000 Washington in a currently vacant lot. The units will be fully accessible via an elevator to all floors. The current design of the building has two floors with three units, but if more people are interested in the housing, an additional third floor can be added. The two first floor units are approximately 1,200 sq feet with two beds and two baths with a 2,500 sq ft unit on the top floor.

Current amenities for the building include, in-unit space for full size washer/dryer, 5 feet tall windows, hardwood floors, gas fireplace, quality sound and temperature insulation, fire suppression sprinkler system, designated roof space and connections for each unit to be solar ready, outside decks and backyard, electric vehicle ready garage, basement storage, exercise room, and tornado shelter.

This building will serve the high need for accessible living in the neighborhood so that more of our neighbors can age without having to leave our neighborhood.

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND: All About Leaves!

By Mark Banaszak and Katrina Stierholz

For many people, fall signals the return of pumpkin spice flavoring to pretty much any food in stores, but for others, it is the time when they start noticing leaves. People notice leaves because they start to change color. Usually, late October and early November is the peak of fall color in the St. Louis area. This is the time when you can take a walk and see a spectrum of leaf colors – yellows, oranges, red and browns along with many shades of green.



Most of us remember from 5th grade science that leaves are green because of chlorophyll, and also that chlorophyll is part of the process of photosynthesis that turns sunlight and water into sugars and oxygen. This is extraordinary, because it means that plants produce their food within their bodies. Most of this photosynthesis takes place near the top surface of leaves.



As the length of nights grows longer and temperatures grow colder, the metabolism of trees slows down, which means producing less chlorophyll. As photosynthesis slows and chlorophyll disappears, other colors are revealed, the most spectacular being the reds and oranges of tree species like maple or sweetgum. All of these changes prepare trees for the dormancy of winter, when they live off the sugars they have created and stored in their root system.

Most trees with leaves that change color also drop their leaves for the winter. As the leaves decompose under trees, they supply the soil with useful nutrients. They compost quickly and contribute to tree and soil health. Dead leaves can even help fertilize grass, especially if they have been mulched or composted.


Many garden professionals recommend using a mower to mulch leaves right on your lawn. Just run your mower over them a few times and make sure they are evenly spread. The leaves will decompose quickly and add nutrients to the soil that will help all plants. You can also rake the mulched leaves up and spread them on flower beds and around the base of shrubs and trees. These leaves will help prevent weeds, help keep the soil damp and eventually add to soil fertility.

There is one small thing to guard against if you use fall leaves to fertilize. If leaves are left in a thick layer, moisture can glue the leaves together in a mat. Matted leaves can occasionally cause fungal problems for lawn grass, and they can also prevent grass from growing in the fall before it goes dormant. This makes it a good idea to mulch your leaves by grinding them with a mower.

You can also use fallen leaves to create leaf mold, a useful natural fertilizer. Leaf mold is just compost made solely from leaves. The process of making it is simple, but can take some time. Use a wooden or wire bin to collect leaves. When you have a big pile, make sure to wet them. Cover the pile with a tarp to keep the pile damp and warm. If it dries out, wet it again. Flipping or mixing the pile with a garden fork can speed up the process of composting.

The leaf mold is ready to use in your garden, when it is soft and crumbles easily. As it gets older, it gets an even finer texture. At this stage, you can use it to fertilize, as a seed starting medium, or to create your own potting soil.

After you enjoy the changing leaf colors this fall, don't let the fallen leaves go to waste! Use the bounty of the season to help maintain the health of your soil, trees and lawn!



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New Plan *continued from page 1*

for public and private sectors, according to its website. The plan is funded by the city of St. Louis with guidance from a 30-member Steering Committee composed of representatives from the city’s planning and zoning agencies, developers, Washington University, nonprofits, and residents.

The initial 124-page document, published in 2015, has been presented at three public meetings over the ensuing seven years. The most recent meeting was held September 28 at Grace Methodist church.

The draft FBD would foster greater density of residential units by increasing the maximum building height along Delmar and DeBaliviere to eight stories from the current zoning limit of three stories. Citing Delmar and Skinker as important city boulevards, the draft initially would have allowed twelve story buildings at this intersection; however, after neighbor opposition to OPUS’s fourteen story apartment proposal, the FBD was revised to set the maximum height at eight stories.

The draft FBD would also reduce onsite parking requirements for properties on Delmar and DeBaliviere based on the twofold rationale that transit riders will not have cars and land development costs would decline. The current zoning ratio calls for one parking space for each residential unit. The FBD would lower this ratio to .5 parking space per unit for buildings with more than six units; buildings with six and fewer units would be exempt from any parking ratio.

Also included are guidelines about the “form” of buildings along the Delmar-DeBaliviere corridor; in short, how they should look. Exterior elements such as the types and quality of materials, facades, setbacks, and windows are proposed.

However, members of the Housing & Zoning Committee (HZC), devoted to the quality of the residential experience, are concerned that both process and information are lacking. After reviewing the FBD and participating at public meetings, HZC submitted a resolution to SDCC stating approval would be premature.

With respect to process, HZC notes that composition of the Steering Committee is tilted toward development interests, with insufficient representation from neighbors. Communications from H3 have discarded neighbors’ questions; for example, replying to concerns about 8-story buildings, H3 responded with revisions to façade, fenestrations and setbacks, and mischaracterized the meeting as broad consensus support for FBD.

The HZC resolution calls for more data crucial to decision-making. It is difficult to measure how to achieve greater density in the absence

of a database depicting current conditions in the corridor. How many properties? How many businesses? How many residential units? How many employees come to the Loop to work? How many business and residential vacancies? How many utilize Metro and for what purposes? How many parking spaces? What incentives would foster greater density of existing structures and reduce parking spaces?

The FBD does not address how demand for off-campus housing by Washington University students affects the neighborhood. This was reflected in the OPUS proposal to build a 14-story student-centered apartment building last year. Despite walking distance to the campus and a shuttle bus, students continue to own and park cars in the neighborhood. Would adoption of FBD reverse this fact? Does densification rely on attracting students or workers? Impacts on housing and parking?

HZC is also concerned with gentrification: higher rental rates and housing costs are forcing neighbors to relocate. What type of housing does FBD anticipate for 8-story buildings? Rental apartments or condominiums? What rates and prices are anticipated? How would this affect neighborhood housing price and supply?

Further, it is unclear whether the FBD would be an “overlay” district or would override current zoning. The plan provides that any parcel which becomes subject to the FBD “shall no longer be subject to the Zoning Code.” How would this affect liquor licenses, package liquor stores, noise control, private dormitories?

SDCC’s blessing would be the first step in the FBD approval process. The draft then would be reviewed by the city’s planning and zoning staff, then be introduced as a proposed ordinance in the Board of Aldermen. FBD is on agenda for SDCC’s November 14 meeting.

Marvin J. Nodiff, long-time resident, is chair of the HZC Committee.



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IN YOUR EAR

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

A message from 2061: We are not alone.

There have been a couple of occasions when a discovery changed how we viewed ourselves and the world. That includes Galileo challenging the geocentric theory of the solar system and Columbus returning to Spain after arriving in North America. But each of these pales in comparison to what happened when the James Webb Space Telescope began sending back photos of life in other solar systems. Thanks to the booster lens mounted on the James Webb Space Telescope in 2038, we were able to identify a range of species on three exo-planets located about 30 light years away. We could tell these inhabitants – I avoid saying “humans” or “people” because they are neither – were alive.

No surprise, the discovery of life on these planets, shook everyone on earth. Big shock. Initially, there was a period of deniability and claims that the photos were fake, but increasing evidence showed that this was not the case. Even the anti-vaxers accepted the word of scientists. For weeks, the speculations about this news dominated the media, social and otherwise, and there was a great deal of panic and paranoia. People retreated into their homes. Major league sports teams stopped playing, movie theaters were empty, and there was a renewed interest in building backyard bomb shelters.

Leaders of every religion were without explanation. At first, some maintained that these entities were also children of God, but that didn't gain any traction although some prayed for “our brothers.” Formal religious support, measured by people who attend a religious institution, had been diminishing for decades, and this news exacerbated the decline. Some folks suggested that religious institutions should be converted into bomb shelters.

The quest to know more about what was living on these planets was overwhelming, so the successor to the James Webb Space Telescope, the Mother Teresa Space Telescope, was launched a few years ago in 2052, and was designed to provide more detail about the inhabitants of these planets. From the Mother Teresa Space Telescope's highly amplified view, it became very clear that while each planet was different - Alios 3422 was far from its sun and quite cold, Benikk 100567 rotated every four earth-hours, and Nlaav 39824 had very little water – there were some commonalities among the planets' occupants. The inhabitants of each planet seemed to come together to form what we would term families, and occasionally those families collaborated to achieve common goals. On Nlaav 39824, huge circular structures were built, and most of its occupants live near one of the planet's few lakes; none is large enough to be considered an ocean. The life on Alios 3422

is sparse and concentrated near its equator. Benikk is covered in yellow vegetation with patterns of what appears to be steady fires with intermittent higher and lower flames.

While it was clear that life existed on these planets, the Mother Teresa Space Telescope was not strong enough to allow us to see details; we could only guess about their appearance and behaviors. We did that by speculating on how humans might have evolved under the conditions on these planets, but that was flawed reasoning because there is nothing to suggest that the occupants of those planets began with a DNA like that in living things on earth. While we can assume that “survival of the fittest” applies everywhere, we do not know enough about their environments to speculate on what they would support.

As I write in 2061, the launch date for the Nelson Mandela Space Telescope is less than year away. It costs as much as all of the predecessor space telescopes combined, and the Space Force leaders say that it will provide images of whatever is living there that are equivalent to those taken by an iPhone LMIX. The possibility of seeing the entities from the three exo-planets encouraged the world-wide fund-raising effort to pay for the Mandela. While I am just as curious as the next person about the appearance of these things and how they live, I was stunned that so much money was raised. Candidly, I didn't donate to the cause. I worry more about global warming – I miss Venice and Florida - and I think it would have been wiser to invest in higher dams and better irrigation.

Research from the last two space telescopes helped us understand the worm-route qualities of stellar black holes, so once the Mandela is in orbit, we will not be limited by the speed of light. We will have the capacity to see what is happening on these planets as it happens and to send an instant message to the planets' occupants. Soon we will be able to see these others and communicate with them in real time! That is an exciting and sobering prospect.

As you might imagine, there has been a fierce debate about whether we should contact the occupants of Alios 3422 (it's the closest) once we see them. The strongest opinion is “Of course, why wouldn't we?” But what we might say, who should say it, and how to say it? Some people feel that we should be cautious in contacting an alien civilization. What if Alios 3422 is occupied by our doppelgangers, and there is a body-double for each of us? Could there be a Skinker DeBaliviere there? What if their response is “It's about time, we've been waiting for you?” What if they respond by trying to sell us a Car Shield subscription? Or perhaps we should be optimistic: Maybe there's a Ted Drewes there!



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