

The *TIMES* of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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A 10TH WARD NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE West End and Visitation Park Collaborate on Resident-Led “Blueprint” for Community Planning

By Cecilia Nadal



Over the past few issues of THE TIMES, we’ve introduced some of the leaders and influencers in the neighborhood associations of Lewis Place, Fountain Park, and Academy/Sherman Park. These



WE COLLAB resident meetings including West End and Visitation Park

articles have profiled the personal stories of community leaders with bits of history and described the services provided. For this issue, I will cover both the West End and Visitation Park since both communities are so closely aligned on a major resident-led “blueprint” for community planning called WE COLLAB. (www.wecollabstl.com/draftplan) To get a sense of place, note that the West End and Visitation Park combined are bordered by Delmar to the south, Union to the east, Page to the north, and Skinker to the west. Visitation Park is nestled near the southeast corner of this area. For years, the close proximity of the two neighborhoods has resulted in a rich shared history, culture and set of common goals leading to this precedent-setting plan.

Though Visitation Park is a smaller neighborhood it is rich in history. Pilgrim Congregational Church built around the 1904 World’s Fair was one of the first white churches to welcome blacks in 1953. Windemere Place was once home to Chuck Berry, Ntozake Shange, author of “For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide” and Sydney Redman, NAACP attorney and first Black member of the St. Louis City Board of Alderman. St. Paul AME Church in the West End is the oldest African Methodist congregation west of the Mississippi started during slavery in 1841. Tullia Hamilton, a Visitation Park resident likes keeping up with the history of the area and wisely noted “It is important that our residents self-identify with our community.” No doubt, knowing the history of a neighborhood is a significant tool in building that community and goes a long way in creating identity. Tullia, Walter Bonner, President of West End Neighbors, and Gordon Carlson, one of the first White residents on Etzel believe strongly in the notion that history can help community building. As a team they wrote a book called Cabanne Neighborhood.

The writers of Cabanne Neighborhood have been among hundreds of residents from the community involved in a dynamic resident-led process meant to define for developers and the city what their community vision is for the next 20 years. WE COLLAB became a reality because of the sponsorship of the Cornerstone Corp. and funding from Invest STL. Very capable residents moved the needle from idea to execution securing funding from Invest STL to develop the plan. Keaira Anderson, former Executive Director of Cornerstone Corp., Lisa Potts, Director of Prevention Partnerships at the Mental Health Board and a board member of Cornerstone and Trenea Thompson, Program Officer with the Lutheran Foundation skilled in grantsmanship and program development. To know these dedicated leaders, you would only have to hear their comments. Trenea talked about economic diversity and engagement, “Our planning group has

10th Ward Neighborhood Profile *continued on page 4*

To All Our TIMES Friends

Thank you for reading the TIMES! We rely on our volunteers to write our news and deliver it to you at your door. To pay for printing, we rely on donations. So far this season, we have received \$ 1,660 in donations!

If you did not receive an envelope in the last issue and would like to send a contribution, you can mail it to TIMES OF SKINKER DEBALIVIERE, % Business Manager Mark Jacobs, 6229 Washington, STL 63130.

We will be thrilled to add your name to the list of these friends and

To All Our TIMES Friends *continued on page 8*

The Delmar DeBaliviere Form Based District Moves Forward

By Nicole Blumner

As anyone who passes by the corner of Forest Park Parkway and DeBaliviere can see, the Expo development has completed construction. Apartments are occupied and Fields Foods grocery is set to open in February. With this project, the urban design vision of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Plan and Form Based District is starting to take shape. Transit-oriented development, architecture that prioritizes the pedestrian experience and building forms that connect to and complement the existing neighborhood fabric: these key features of the Expo were designed with the draft Form Based District in mind.

Unlike traditional zoning, which primarily focuses on property use, Form-Based Districts prioritize physical form (rather than separation of uses) and promotes a vibrant, pedestrian friendly, mixed-use, and transit-oriented neighborhood. According to the City of St. Louis’s website, “a Form-Based District (FBD) is a zoning overlay district... intended to enhance the vibrancy and atmosphere of a...commercial corridor by providing a cohesive urban form and character.”

The Delmar DeBaliviere FBD supports several aspects of the SDCC mission statement and Strategic Plan, including: Preserve and improve the physical condition of the community...while maintaining the standards required by designation as a Local Historic District. The FBD also supports increased public safety by fostering new residences and businesses along Delmar and DeBaliviere. The FBD builds off prior planning studies and reports that identified the need for high-quality transit-oriented development on Delmar and DeBaliviere.

The FBD provides for retail uses in the ground level spaces in new buildings on the 6000 and 6100 blocks of Delmar, to encourage street-level vibrancy. It does not eliminate any rules regarding package liquor or late night bars. Any changes to the FBD must be passed via City ordinance.

FBD plan funders include SDCC and surrounding neighborhoods (West End, DeBaliviere Place), Washington University and the Missouri Department of Conservation. The City Planning Department. is providing in-kind support. The steering committee includes representatives from each sponsoring organization, plus city staff with zoning and planning expertise, and 26th and 28th ward alders.

Why have an FBD? There are many reasons, including rebuilding our population base (S-D has lost 30% of its residents since 1990), replacing vacant lots with quality new buildings, increasing housing supply and reducing housing costs, bridging the Delmar Divide, and creating enough density to support retail goods and services that residents can walk to. The FBD provides a framework for the community to shape development in a positive way.

Brooks Goedeker, current Executive Director of the St. Louis Midtown Redevelopment Corporation, who previously led the establishment and administration of the Central West End and Forest Park Southeast Form Based Districts, sums it up this way: “I wholeheartedly believe in the power and usefulness of FBDs for

Delmar DeBaliviere Form Based *continued on page 3*

Editor's Notes

By Linda Cross

I recently lost someone that I was close with to a heart attack. Because he was a friend at the dog park, we spent an hour every day talking about our dogs, of course, but also about our families, our careers, the city, politics, and a myriad of other topics. He was a kind man who loved his wife and kids, had many adventures, and was very smart. The weird thing was, because he was a friend from the dog park, I didn't even know his last name for months, we never exchanged phone numbers, I didn't know where he lived. It took a couple of weeks to even find out what really happened when he just stopped coming to the park. I knew he was ill; I knew he had a heart scan scheduled for the following week, and frankly I told him he needed to go to the doctor immediately the last day that I saw him. I spent more time with him than I do with some members of my own family, yet I didn't even know the basics, and I really miss seeing him and having these great conversations. This was a curious situation that caused me to think, what really is a friend? I previously thought that a friend was someone that you knew everything about, that had keys to your house, and knew where your dead were buried. Miriam Webster defines a friend as 'one attached to another by affection or esteem'. With that definition, I have a lot more friends than I thought. There are so many people that I am attached to by affection and esteem. I know that sometimes it is tricky to take my circuitous thoughts back to our neighborhood, but that is what brought Andy and I to live here, and that is why we continue to work on the cohesiveness of the neighborhood. Events like creating a dog park in our own neighborhood, having concerts where we all gather, keeping a community garden, building a playground, having food drives to help those less fortunate, joining like minded people to pass legislation, and having porch cocktail parties are things that make our neighborhood special even if it is not unique. These are the things that turn mere neighbors into friends. I am so lucky that so many of my neighbors I can list as true friends. (and truth be told, I think many of you do have a key to my house!)

I look forward to seeing everyone more as the weather improves. Get active, get involved, and say hello to your friends.

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: March 15, 2023
for our April - May 2023 Issue. Please send copy by e-mail to Linda Cross, lcross@sdtimes.org.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Managing Editor: Linda Cross	Business Manager: Mark Jacobs
Editorial Team: Linda Cross	Jo Ann Vatcha
Contributors: Tracy Granneman	Cecelia Nadal
Richard Bose	Jo Ann Vatcha
Andy Cross	Lana Stein
King Schoenfeld	Mark Banaszak
Marvin Nodiff	Tom Hoerr
	Katy Gordon

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ALDERMANIC REPORT

"Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle." - Martin Luther King Jr.

Happy New Year Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood from your "AlderLady" Shameem Clark Hubbard. I pray this update finds you and your families well. As the City of St.Louis continues to navigate through the many changes, successes, as well as struggles in our respective neighborhoods, I want to encourage you all that your St.Louis City Board Of Aldermen continues to serve collectively in efforts to carry out the roles and responsibilities we are elected to do. Under the leadership of our new President Meagan Green we have been transitioning back into in-person full Board Of Alderman meetings as we work through the 2022-2023 legislative session.



Shameem Clark Hubbard

Please remember you can always view all of our full board meetings and committee hearings LIVE on the STL TV St.Louis City Government Youtube Channel <https://youtube.com/@CityofStLouisMissouri>. You can follow all legislation through our website <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/aldermen/index.cfm>. If you ever have any specific questions, needs, as well as concerns I am always a phone call away on my cell phone at 3143931393 or feel free to email me at clark-hubbards@stlouis-mo.gov. I hope you all are continuing to fully utilize our Citizens Service Bureau <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/csb/index.cfm>. We have been blessed with an amazing neighborhood advocate and champion in Ms.Karen Clifford <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/public-safety/neighborhood-stabilization-office/profiles/karen-clifford.cfm>. Ms.Clifford and I work together to respond and meet our constituents needs with solutions and resources and are sure to follow up. We are aware of the struggles our neighborhood faces daily from security to city services and we are fully committed to work door to door for the residents along with the Skinker Debaliviere Community Council toward the "Beloved Community" Dr. Martin Luther King affectionately spoke about.

SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOARD UPDATES:

By Tracy Granneman

Happy New Year! The SDCC Board has been busy as we wrapped up 2022 and moved into 2023.

December 2022 Special Session:

In a special December Session, the Board voted to support the Draft Form-Based District Recommendations (dated October 31, 2022) that were published by Delmar DeBaliviere Form Based District Steering Committee and H3 consultants. The vote was 8 to 4 in support of the motion. There were two abstentions and one member absent.

As background, Form-Based Districts are a type of zoning overlay. FBD promotes a vibrant, pedestrian friendly, mixed-use, and transit-oriented neighborhood. These recommendations are the capstone of city and neighborhood planning that started in 2012 with the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Plan (pub 2013) and was further promoted in the in the Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood Urban Design and Development Plan (often referred to as the "Master Plan"). The first FBD Steering Committee meeting was held in February of 2020 with public feedback sessions held in March 2021, July 2021, and September 2022.

Neighbors have opportunity for further comment throughout the city approval processes. The next steps for the recommendations are:

Review of the proposed FBD document by the Zoning Division

Endorsement of the FBD document by the Planning Commission

Introduction of a board bill by the Board of Alderman to pass the zoning legislation.

January 2023 Board Meeting Highlights

The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board of Directors kicked off the year with our Annual Meeting to welcome, confirm and elect board members and committee chairs. The Board voted in and welcomes Linda Cross and AnnaMarie Bliss. A few positions have not been filled. If you are interested in joining the board and live in the boundaries of the open neighborhood positions, please reach out to the SDCC Office.

Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council Board *continued from page 2*

THE 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Neighborhood Representatives:

Neighborhood	Boundaries	Representatives
Catlin Tract (1)		Vacant
East Loop (1)	Bounded by Lindell, Skinker, Forest Park Parkway and DeBaliviere	Vacant
Parkview (1)	Generally bounded by the City Limits, Olive, Hodiamont, the north Delmar alley, DeBaliviere and the south Delmar alley	Mike Stephens
Rosedale (4)	Skinker, Forest Park Parkway, Ackert Walkway, Melville and the south Delmar alley.	James Holzier, Tim Woodcock Tracy Granneman Linda Cross*
Washington Heights and Kingsbury Square (4 including one KS)	bounded by Skinker, the south Delmar alley, Des Peres, and Forest Park Parkway	Molly Rater Yvette Kell Vacant Vacant

Institution Representatives:

New Cote Brilliante Church of God:
Pastor Carl Merrit
Parkview Agents: John Wright
St. Roch Roman Catholic Church:
Kim Freter
Grace United Methodist Church:
Karen and Jeff Stokes
Washington University:
Joanna Schooler
East Loop CID: Vacant

Business Representatives:
Busey Bank: Kathryn Bulard
At-Large Representatives:
AnnaMarie Bliss
David Mastin
2023 Executive Board
President: Tracy Granneman
Vice President: Vacant
Treasurer: Yvette Kell
Secretary: Molly Rater

2023 Standing Committee Chairs:

Security: Grady Vaughn
Financial: Yvette Kell
Historic District: AnnaMarie Bliss

Housing and Zoning: Marvin Nodiff
Commercial Districts: TBD
Community Development:
Nicole Blummer

2023 Ad-Hoc and Special Committee Chairs:

Fundraising and Marketing: Board President
Dog Park: Kaitlin Daniels

Beautification (ad hoc): Andy Cross
PorchFest: TBD
Community Engagement: June Vaughn

Thank you for your service

The board would like to recognize and thank the following individuals for their years of contributions to the neighborhood. While you are moving out of the positions below, we know you are not going far and deeply appreciate your support.
Arline Webb (Rosedale Neighbors Representative)
Rachelle L'Ecuyer (East Loop CID Rep and Commercial Districts Chair)
Molly Rater (Stepping down after four years as President and volunteering for the Secretary role)
Marnita Spight (Washington Terrace Representative)
Josh Peck (Chair, Community Engagement Committee)
Nancy Hohmann (Chair, Historic District Committee)

COMING UP IN 2023:

Moving to In-Person Meetings: After multiple years of zoom meetings, the Board moves back to in-person sessions starting in February! Board meetings are open to the community and there is a public comments section on the agenda. Should anyone have public comment, you are asked to submit your comments/request to the SDCC Executive Director at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Time allocated will be based on the number of speakers and the agenda for the day.

Board Meetings are held at 7:00 on the second Monday of the month at the SDCC Office.

Strategic Planning: In January, the Board kicked off strategic planning for 2023-2026 (revamping the 2018-2020 Strategic Plan). The planning session will be held in concert with the February Board meeting with the goal for a draft to be presented in the April Neighborhood Meeting for public comment.

Fundraising and Events: The Friends campaign is underway! We appreciate the support of our neighbors as we plan for 2023. Additionally, the PorchFest committee will kickoff planning this winter. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to The SDCC Office. This is a major event for the neighborhood and depends highly on volunteer participation!

For more information about the SDCC, SDCC Board, committees or initiatives mentioned above, please visit the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council Website at: <https://skinkerdebaliviere.wordpress.com/>

Through the website, you may contact the SDCC and also sign up for the weekly newsletter.

Updates on previous initiatives brought in front of the board:

Imo's informed the Commercial Districts committee chair that they do not plan to pursue their developing the site on Delmar and DeGiverville that was presented to the SDCC board last year.

Fields Foods will hold their Grand Opening of the DeBaliviere site on February 9th! We are excited to welcome this locally owned and operated grocery store the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood.

The Expo has reported that 81 of their units are occupied. There are 287 total units and all vacancies are now available for rent.

News of Neighbors

Congratulations to Marvin Nodiff, the 2023 Don Buck Lifetime Award Recipient. The Board of Governors is pleased to honor Marvin Nodiff of Saint Louis, Mo., with the Don Buck Lifetime Contribution Award. This award recognizes an outstanding attorney for their sustained and positive work with common interest communities, including significant drafting, lecturing, and scholarly contributions to the community association industry; service in local, regional, and/or national organizations working with common interest developments; a demonstrated commitment to the local community; and exhibiting a strong mentoring spirit.



Marvin Nodiff

Marvin exemplifies each of these qualities and characteristics. He is a most worthy recipient of CCAL's highest distinction to honor the memory of Gurdon "Don" Buck, a community association law leader, mentor, friend, and innovator. We look forward to sharing some of Marvin's achievements and contributions on behalf of the community association industry when we present him with the award at the 2023 Community Association Law Seminar.

Congratulations to Sydney Norton PhD for her upcoming anthology *Fighting for a Free Missouri: German Immigrants, African Americans and the Issue of Slavery* due to be published this year by the University of Missouri Press.



Sydney Norton

Do you have news to share? Please send your submissions via email with the subject line News of Neighbors to lcross@sdtimes.org. Be sure to mark it "News of Neighbors". We love to hear about neighbors accomplishments, awards, travels, weddings, anniversaries, births, and more!

Delmar DeBaliviere Form Based *continued from page 1*

St. Louis neighborhoods. In my opinion they are the number one tool that allows neighborhoods to build consensus and create prescriptive guidelines to inform investors/developers what can and cannot be built in a specific community. From my experience, I have seen and heard that investors/developers very much appreciate FBDs because they no longer have to spend precious time and money to find out what the community wants to see and what they are allowed to build. Likewise, because of FBDs, communities can rest assured that their neighborhood's building form and integrity will be protected."

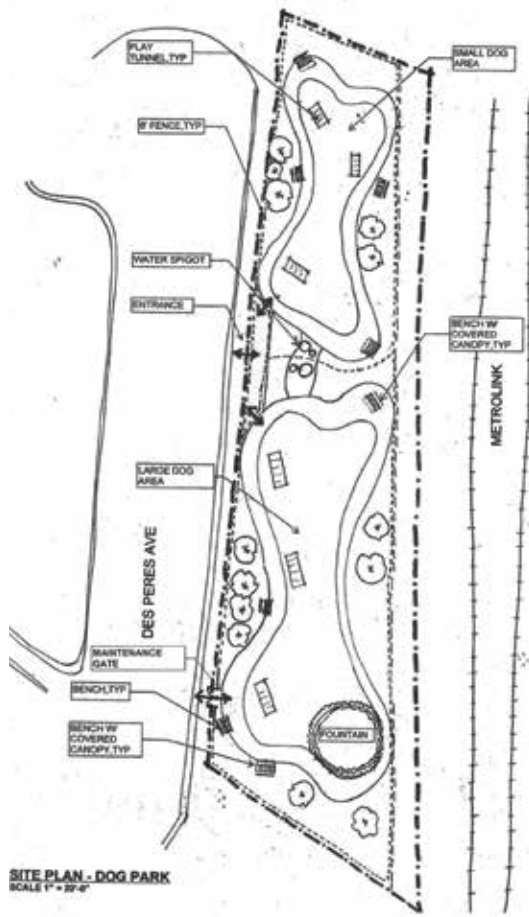
The Delmar-DeBaliviere draft FBD Plan was endorsed by the SDCC board in December, and now will be taken up by the City of St. Louis for further review. More information on the FBD can be found here: <https://skinkerdebaliviere.wordpress.com/2020/02/11/form-based-code/>

Dog Park Reboot

This year, the SDCC is restarting its effort to build a dog park at 520-532 Des Peres Ave. This plot of land is owned by the Skinker-Debaliviere Community Housing Corporation, which has agreed to allow SDCC to build and maintain a dog park there. SDCC's plan includes two separately fenced areas, one for large dogs and one for small dogs. This year, we are focusing on building the large dog park, which will occupy approximately two thirds of the lot's area.

The main obstacle to making the SDCC dog park a reality is that SDCC must build a fence that meets city requirements – the fence must be at least five feet tall and conform to the standards set forth by the historical preservation board. The historical preservation standards rule out the most economical fencing options, and we estimate that enclosing the large dog park will cost \$17,000, including labor and materials.

To date, the dog park has raised \$2,500 – thank you to all who have contributed so far! The SDCC Dog Park Committee would love your help closing this gap. Donations can be made at the Community Council website (<https://skinkerdebaliviere.wordpress.com/2018/03/01/dog-park-project/>) or at the SDCC Dog Park website (<https://sdccdogpark.wixsite.com/home>, or follow QR code). To get involved in planning and fundraising, please contact Kaitlin Daniels (6155 Washington) at sdccdogpark@gmail.com or sign up on the dog park website. The Dog Park Committee's next planning meeting is Saturday, January 28 at 11am. Finally, please keep an eye out for dog park fundraising events beginning this spring!



10th Ward Neighborhood Profile *continued from page 1*

been intentional about economic diversity and representation. We have had to rethink what engagement looks like ...learn how to pivot and overcome mistrust with strategies that fit the lives of our neighbors.” Lisa Potts excited about residents being involved in an upcoming presentation of the WE COLLAB plan to the City and the Board of Alderman said “We want to demonstrate what resident-led planning looks like not just say resident-led. It’s important to develop leaders within the neighborhood so that the plan is implemented with success in the long-term.” Keaira Anderson added, “My hope is that we will have residents that will become leaders and their children will come to this neighborhood ten to fifteen years from now!” Through carefully crafted organizational structuring the WE COLLAB initiative quickly transformed from a small team to a much larger set of teams. Their goal was to dig deeply into the community starting with setting up a Steering Committee of residents overseeing the planning process, a neighborhood Ambassadors program for outreach, and conducting a series of events that included listening sessions, group discussions, review of plans, and door-to-door campaigns.

From the start, this group has been committed to racial and economic equity. This meant that a) families who were poor, long-term residents, or elderly would not be displaced, b) initiatives would be developed to create building blocks from rental to homeownership for Black families that might not be able to afford rising housing prices, and c) ensure development efforts in the West End and Visitation Park will not adversely affect their neighbors to the south and north.

It is too early to measure the success of this plan, but we can say with certainty that the dedicated and smart start-up efforts of the WE COLLAB constellation of residents, advisors, and stakeholders give them a foundation for great success. Steering committee members like Celeste Metcalf and Gordon Carlson and Monique Thomas, current ED of Cornerstone want residents and their children to say we started with resident-led collaboration and we continue with resident-led accountability and growth. The entire Ward and the City will benefit if they are successful!





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THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND Explore our parks!

By Mark Banaszak and Katrina Stierholz

Exploring our natural surroundings on foot is a great activity, and not just for health reasons. Almost any walk is a mindful activity, gives us time and space to think, and helps us be happier. For thousands of years, thinkers from Aristotle to Thoreau have detected an essential link between walking in nature and physical and mental health. This is also supported by recent scientific study. Walking in parks is one way to do that. We are lucky to be located next to Forest Park, likely the best US city park.

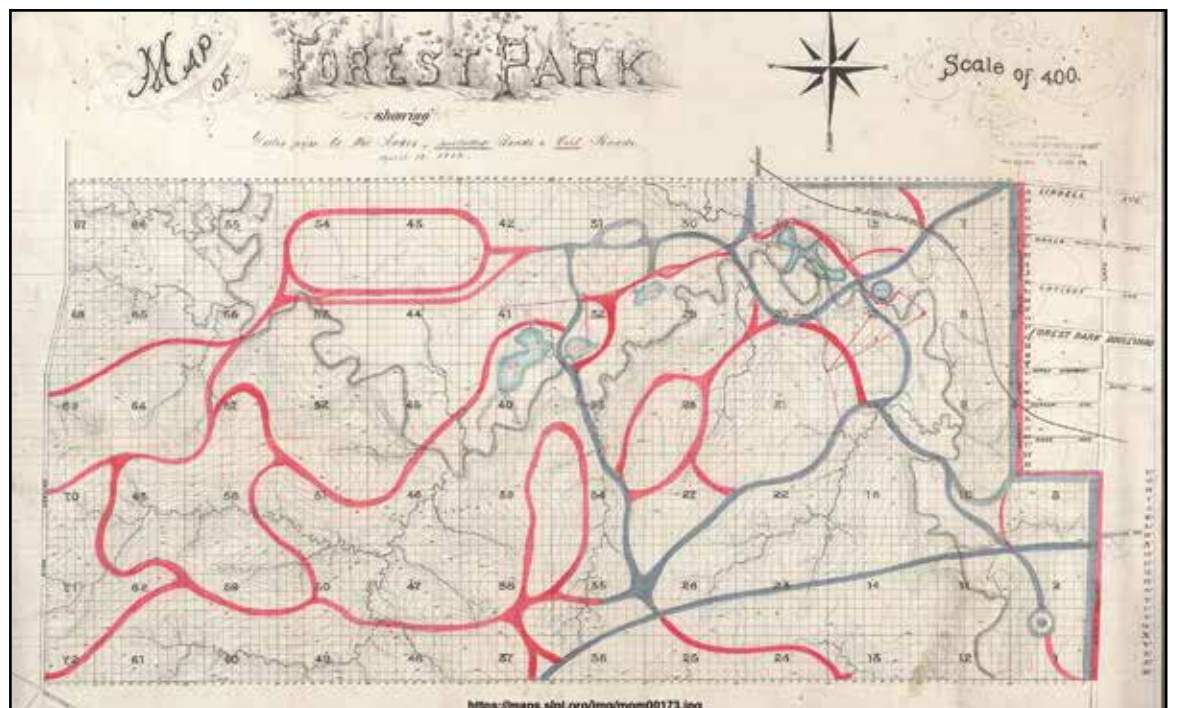
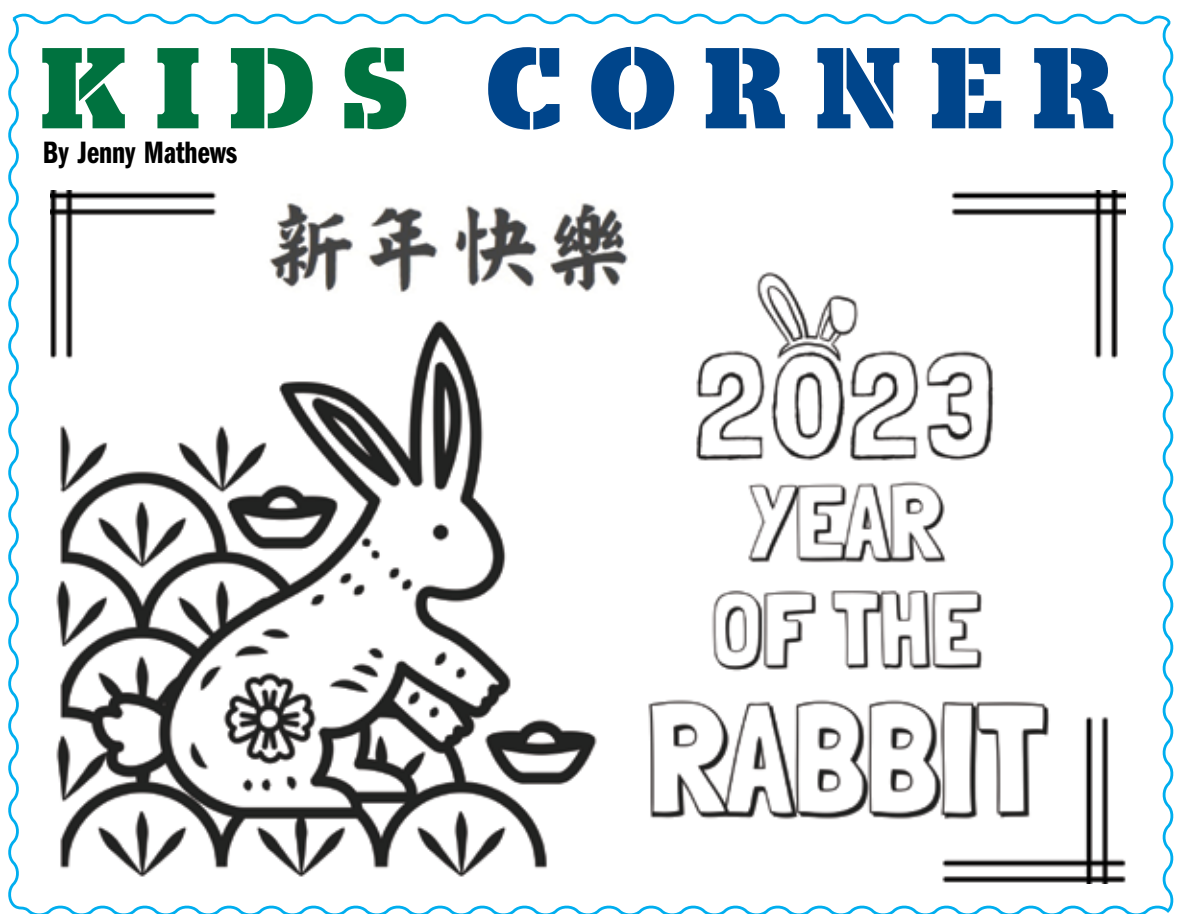
Forest Park has a long history. Plans for the park began in the 1860s and the park first opened in 1876. Citizens and public representatives had realized that the population growth of the city was quickly closing in all the natural areas, and an effort had to be made to preserve some space where “the rich and poor, the merchant and mechanic, the professional man and the day laborer, each with his family and lunch basket, can come and enjoy his own . . . all without stint or hindrance . . . and there will be no notice put up to, ‘Keep off the grass.’”

True to its name, Forest Park contains many natural areas; including more than 60 acres of mature forest in the southwest corner of the park, dedicated as the Kennedy Forest in the 1960s. This part of the park alone has more than 3 miles of trails that include seasonal wetlands that support a great variety of birds and frogs. A benefit of the way this area is maintained is wildlife; old trees are left standing as habitat for wildlife like birds of prey. Another beautiful natural area is Deer Lake Savannah across from the Muny to the north and east. This 24 acre area has several miles of trails, which pass through prairie, woodland and wetland areas. It is a common place to spot large fishing birds, like herons and egrets.

At times, however, walkers and wanderers want to get further afield. For this purpose, parks exist on a spectrum from municipal parks to state parks to national parks. Municipal parks tend to focus on recreation that involves equipment and amenities, but often not natural ones. Local parks are very often oriented to the enjoyment of sports and play; state and national parks focus on preserving and protecting areas of unique scenic, historic or natural value.

Although Missouri has a respectable number of nationally designated sites that are part of the national park system, most of them exist on the basis of their historic significance. Only the Ozark National Scenic Riverways is established for the value of the natural resources it preserves. The Missouri state park system makes up for that absence. The Missouri state parks not only preserve and protect our state’s natural areas for future generations, but also create opportunities for the recreational use of those areas. Like Forest Park, Missouri’s state parks have been established with the express purpose of conserving and providing access to areas of interest and value.

Big Springs is a great example. It was one of Missouri’s earliest state parks, established in 1924. It conserves one of the biggest natural springs in the United States. Big Springs has an average daily flow of 286 million gallons of fresh water. By comparison, the Water Division of the City of St. Louis produces an average of 150 million gallons of fresh water every day. Big Springs is no longer part of the Missouri state parks system because it was donated by the citizens of Missouri to the National Park Service in order to establish the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. However, it still represents an effort by the citizens of Missouri to conserve and provide access to one of the natural wonders of our state.



Some Missouri state parks preserve sites of scenic or historic value, others preserve Missouri’s natural wonders. In the materials for any state park, visitors find extensive interpretive information carefully constructed to help visitors learn the scientific meaning of what is preserved by the park. Visitors can learn about plant and animal life, geology and most other natural features from experts. This educational element informs our use of natural resources and provides a long-term benefit to the citizens and the environment. It comes at a moderate cost, but one that Missouri has always been willing to pay.



Since 1984, Missouri’s voters have supported the state park system with an annual sales tax of one tenth of one percent. This tax is renewed every ten years by voter approval and never has attracted less than a two thirds majority. Missouri voters support our parks. This sales tax was reapproved last in 2016 by the highest majority ever, with about eighty percent of voters in favor of continuing the tax. It is recognized by a host of organizations around the state as taxpayer money well spent.

Both close by or a few hours away, there are so many places of scenic, historic and natural value that have been conserved for you, so get out and explore our parks!



Karlen Hoerr 314.283.7003 &
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INTERSECTION INTERVENTION: DeBaliviere & Pershing

By Richard Bose

With all the new development at DeBaliviere and Pershing bridging the Skinker DeBaliviere and DeBaliviere Place neighborhoods, it's becoming even more clear that the intersection needs an intervention. We're patting ourselves on the back for building Transit-Oriented Development here by the Forest Park DeBaliviere Metrolink station, on the Loop Trolley line, and on the #1 and #90 bus lines, but we then need to follow through on infrastructure that prioritizes the movement of people.

The St. Vincent Greenway should be a raised crosswalk/bike lane across Pershing, shown in blue. The continuity of the greenway for those outside of vehicles helps communicate to those operating vehicles that it is a space which likely has people in it and thus more caution is demanded. Curb bump outs would narrow the crossing to just the width of the travel lanes, shown in black. The shortened crossing length reduces people's exposure to conflict with vehicles and prevents drivers from using the parking area to go around other vehicles. Perhaps they should be extended east along Pershing to provide space for the bus stops including a shelter. Finally, a return of the crosswalk on the north side of the intersection, shown in yellow.

I contacted the Loop Trolley Company in 2016 to find out if the crosswalk was included in the designs.

Although there was a crosswalk marked on the pavement on the north side of Pershing/DeBaliviere, the crossing was not ADA compliant and did not have a receiving curb ramp of any type on the northwest side.

The trolley trackway enters into the "greenway" area in the northeast corner of this intersection. Since the curb in this quadrant of the intersection will not be able to be constructed (to allow the trolley to enter into the dedicated track zone), it decided by the designer that there would not be a safe way to delineate a pathway for vision impaired users (there was concern that pedestrians may end up on the trackway instead of the sidewalk) at this location.

Also, even if a crossing path could be able to be clarified, the crossing would be approximately 20% longer on the north side of the intersection compared to the south side due to the trackway construction.

Lastly, the pedestrian movements in the area for the most part is from the Metrolink Stop to the strip mall, and back. This movement is covered in the current design of the Pershing intersection.

Due to these facts, it was decided to place the crossing of DeBaliviere on the south side of the intersection. -Loop Trolley Company

Alderman Krewson offered to use 28th Ward capital funds to pay for the crosswalk. And -

Our designer is working to develop the best solution as we speak. We hope to have a proposed design next week. -Chris Poehler

I don't believe there is an answer yet, as we are still in discussions.

As we know, you might as well provide a crossing seeing as you can't keep pedestrians from going that way. Your design needs to accommodate all corners. -Deanna Venker, P.E.

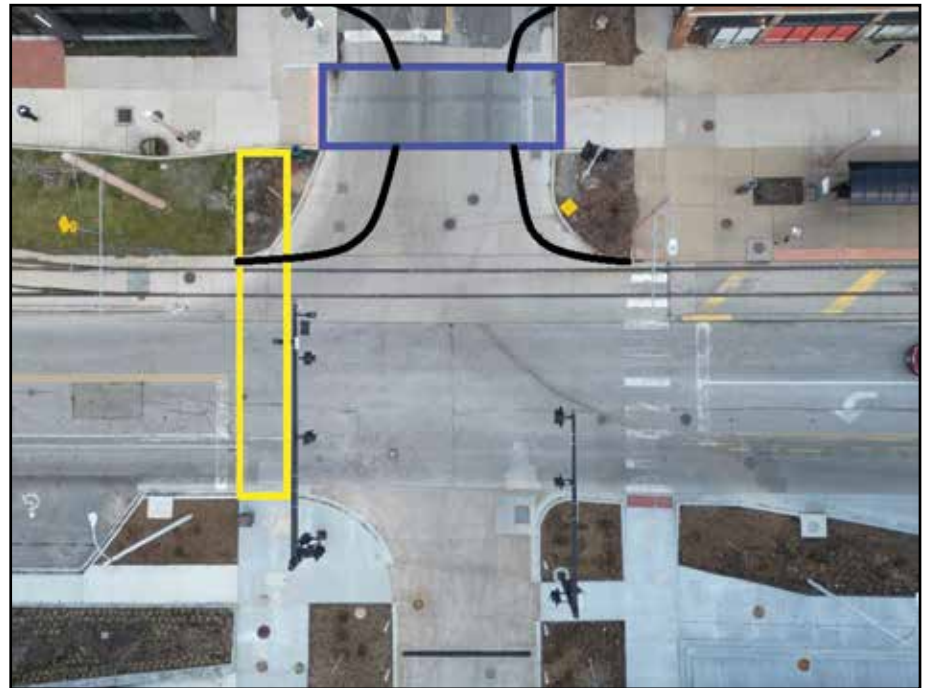
Commissioner of Traffic
City of St. Louis

Alas it did not happen.

The Federal Highway Administration agrees with Commissioner of Traffic Deanna Venker. Expecting people to cross three segments of the intersection, with the additional conflict points and wasted time, is fool-hardy. With the addition of the Fields Foods at the northwest corner of the intersection, many residents of DeBaliviere Place will want to cross on the north side of the intersection. And they will whether there's a crosswalk or not.

How to pay for this? The Expo at Forest Park development got both a TIF and CID (\$14.1M total) to help pay for it. Much of the TIF money went to pay for parking for Metrolink patrons (all the structured parking was estimated to cost \$10.8M). The TIF takes 50% of the sales taxes generated on site though. The CID adds a sales tax to purchases too. The CID funds raised can be spent "to assist in remediating blight in the District, assisting in funding certain public improvements within the District, and for the operation, administration and maintenance of the District." With some shoppers crossing the intersection and paying the CID sales tax, it's a good use of the CID money. Perhaps Great Rivers Greenways can chip in some, as well as the Alderperson via ward capital and the DeBaliviere Place SBD.

A better time to do these obvious things was when all the construction was happening, but better late than never. It's obvious there's a problem here, and it would be negligent to do nothing. The cost of these improvements is nothing compared to the cost of someone being injured or killed by a driver.



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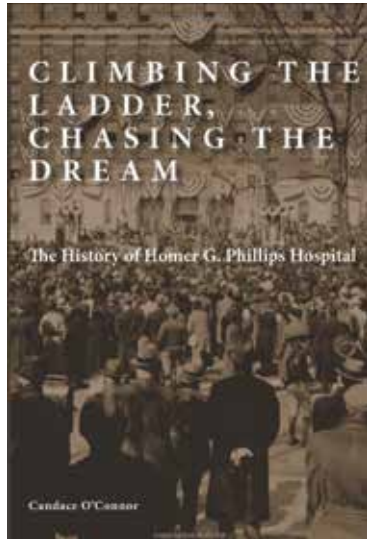
Rachel Boxdorfer
c: 314-691-0538 | o: 314-872-6641
rboxdorfer@bhhsall.com

Will Springer
c: 314.817.6620 | o: 314.872.6673
wspringer@bhhsall.com

BOOK REVIEW

By Katy Gordon

In her most recent book, *Climbing the Ladder, Chasing the Dream: The History of Homer G. Phillips Hospital* (University of Missouri Press), Candace O'Connor crafts a compelling narrative of perseverance. The book tells the life story of St. Louis' Homer G. Phillips Hospital through the eyes of its nurses, doctors, staff, and former patients. Located in the Ville, "Homer G." – as many refer to it – was built in 1937 as a public hospital to serve the African American population of St. Louis. From its inception until its closure in 1979, it gained acclaim for its groundbreaking medical training programs and the compassionate care it offered. Readers gain insight into not just the hospital's history, however; O'Connor also explores the lasting positive impact a determined group of individuals has made upon St. Louis' economic development and the medical profession at large.



As O'Connor's book shows, the hospital faced enormous odds from the beginning. O'Connor explores the city's deep, persistent racial divisions and the political machinations that have fostered these divisions, indicating their impact on the hospital's growth and development.

Chronically underfunded and faced with enormous and varying patient needs, the hospital and its training programs nevertheless produced impressive results. At its outset, its rigorous training program educated a majority of African American doctors in the US. Its nursing program, similarly, radically expanded the population of African American nurses. Amanda Luckett Murphy, who trained as a nurse there in the late 1950s, described it this way: "The Homer G. Phillips training was the most rigorous I ever had... What did you learn? Stamina. Perseverance. Toughness. How to think on your feet.... Tough skinned-ness is not something all people have, but if you came out of Phillips, you really had it."

In vivid prose, O'Connor highlights the tenacity of hospital staff as they juggled immense workloads and minimal pay. The book is meticulously researched; O'Connor conducted hours of interviews with former staff – including some of the first to be employed by and trained at the hospital; the stories she includes showcase not just their labor but also their pride in serving others. The interviewees

speak candidly of the hardships they faced in treating thousands of patients for everything from asthma to violent trauma. As Dr. Earle U. Robinson, Jr., a Homer G. physician recalled, "Homer Phillips took care of all the shootings, the stabbings, the accidents in the city. If there was any type of trauma, it was brought in, because we were equipped to take care of it..."

Most significantly, O'Connor's book draws attention to how the hospital became a "ladder" out of poverty for many of the nurses who trained there. Interviewees tell in poignant detail the financial sacrifices young nursing students and their families made to pay their tuition. The payoff, however, was immense – and not just for the nurses themselves. The book celebrates how the hard-won education offered financial stability and educational opportunities for entire families. Nurse Georgia Anderson describes this powerfully: "My grandfather Smith went through third grade, my mom finished eighth grade, and I was the first in the Smith family to go past high school. Now I am a nurse; I have a son who is a physician and a daughter who is a nurse. My granddaughter finished college last year and is expected to go to law school in September. So Homer G. Phillips has brought many, many, many, many people from here to there."

O'Connor's writing is clear and evocative, and the stories of fortitude she includes inspire readers to a deeper appreciation of the men and women who made helping others at Homer G. their life's work. In a time where "Heroes Work Here" signs are ubiquitous in hospitals and medical facilities, readers can see that the women and men interviewed in O'Connor's book are superheroes; readers are privileged to spend time in their presence.

Candace O'Connor is the author of numerous articles and books, including *Renaissance: A History of the Central West End*. She and her husband Bob have lived in the Skinker-Debaliviere neighborhood since 1982.

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IN YOUR EAR

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

Where did you put your keys? And what's the name of your cousin's third wife? Or is she his fourth wife? If you're like me, your quick recall of facts is neither as quick nor as accurate as it used to be. It's good to get older, it sure beats the alternative, but along with that comes, let me see, where was I going with that thought? Oh yeah, my hairline, eyesight, and memory are all fading. Thank goodness my plaid, bell-bottom pants remain a vibrant shade of green. Does this experience ring a bell with you? Do you even know where you placed your bell!?! (Hint: It's near the clapper, next to your keys.)

Now some of you may be thinking, "What has gotten into Hawkeye? What a downer topic for his column! Where's the mirth?" Good point, Hazel. But my other choice was to write about the state of the Republican party, and I figure this topic is less painful. As always, Hawkeye writes as a public service.

As noted, I note notably, sooner or later, hopefully later, our once-sharp memory will begin to cross the road with the chicken. But relax and stop looking for those keys. We're not helpless, folks. Here are six steps to push against the inexorable grasp of Mother Time. Hawkeye guarantees that these strategies will keep you mentally b-lert, and just maybe you'll do even better and become mentally a-lert. (Get it?) Yes, he guarantees! If you try these tactics and still feel you are forgetting too much, or even forgetting one much, email his cousin at trhoerr@aol.com, and he will refund twice the cost of this newspaper.

Put on your thinking caps (or thinking small letters, if you prefer) and begin to cogitate these ideas to keep your straying memory in the back yard.

Too much sleep can hurt! Researchers found that sleeping more than eight hours increases memory, um, er, oh yeah, memory loss by 69%. Wow. That's a lot of missing keys. This finding runs against conventional wisdom and conventional pillows. So, the message is stay up later than late. After you watch Stephen Colbert, stay awake for Dancing With the Stars and its sequel, Dancing With the Galaxies, and then watch a tear-jerker on the Hallmark channel before you tune in to re-runs of Friends.

Don't wear a helmet. There's a sure remedy for failing to remember what you remembered because you are getting older. Gulp a few high alcohol drinks, hop on a motorcycle, and zip down Delmar without wearing a helmet. Statistically it's only a matter of time before the issue of your fading memory will be moot.

Eat baloney sandwiches for breakfast. Truly, I know this works because several good friends of mine, good old friends, did this when we, I mean they, were kids, and today they are still as sharp as they were then. Of course, all things are relative (and these were not my relatives!) so sharpness is a value judgment. Back then they thought the Earth was flat and today they think Trump won the election. Oh well. And to make that baloney sandwich even tastier, add hunks of ketchup and then put potato chips between the bread and "meat" (note those quotes) and press before munching. Adding a Hershey bar dipped in marshmallow sauce would complete the meal.

Stay physically active. Or maybe it should be Get physically active. A valid study (I read it on the Internet) shows that working out, choosing to sweat and hurt, keeps people sharp. That idea is foreign to me as I sit on my couch and eat potatoes, but there must be a positive relationship between high pain and deep memory. Maybe it's the grimacing? But all is not lost! Get this, the study also says that doing common housework also helps keep your memory strong. No, it's not as good as arduously working out but the grimaces aren't as deep either. Vacuuming sucks but it's the better of these two options.

Read away right away. Reading is often cited as a habit that good for the brain because it keeps those brain circuits a-firing. KA-POW! But let's be creative and increase the firing rate. Instead of merely reading, close one eye so that the other eye works double-time. Sure, it may slow your reading pace, but if my math is correct, you'll get twice the brain activity. Or use both eyes but read while standing on your head with The Kingston Trio as background music. Any of these actions will tax your brain and it will become stronger in responding to the cacophony of stimuli. As an alternative, read aloud George W. Bush's book, Lofty Thoughts From An Ex-President; that, too, will tax your brain. A lot.

Make a point of. I mean, try to. Geez, I forget where I was heading, what was my last point, anyway? Quick, will someone fix a baloney sandwich for me? Where's my clapper?

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