

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 46, No. 2

Summer, 2016

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

FREE

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

Annual Breakfast Garden Tour

Saturday June 4, 8:30am-Noon

By Andy Cross



Last year's tour on McPherson featured families like Bob and Tami Holder in their lovely back yards.

The Breakfast Garden Tour is a treat for everyone. Join us and spend a wonderful morning with your great neighbors. Enjoy a fine breakfast in the McPherson Community Garden, 5941 McPherson Ave., then take a morning stroll to tour gardens in your fair neighborhood, meet your neighbors, and discover hidden treasures. Really, what could be a better way to spend your Saturday morning! Proceeds benefit the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council.

2016 Summer BBQ Concert Series



The Outliers were a popular event last summer. Kids enjoyed the playground while music and food lovers enjoyed the great BBQ and bands!

Two Venues!

July and September -
Greg Freeman Park
6000 Kingsbury Ave. at Des Peres Ave.

August - Lucier Park
at Hamilton and Westminster

Bring your friends or the whole family
to the FREE SD concert series!
BBQ & beverages will be for sale.
All proceeds help support the
concert series.

Saturday July 16, 6-9pm
Greg Freeman Park: BBQ Concert
Tuesday August 2, 6-9pm Lucier Park:
National Night Out BBQ Concert
Saturday September 17, 6-9pm
Greg Freeman Park:
BBQ Concert & Anniversary Celebration
This concert series is presented with
support from the Regional
Arts Commission.

Master Plan Refresher

By Richard Bose

The Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood Plan, under consideration for the past five years, will be reviewed in a community meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m. on June 23, at Grace United Methodist Church, Skinker and Waterman.

Beginning in 2012 the neighborhood undertook the Urban Design and Development Plan For The Skinker DeBaliviere Community effort to chart a course for the next few decades. Guided by H3 Studio, a national award-winning, St. Louis-based interdisciplinary design and planning firm, the plan was adopted by the SD Community Council in 2014. It had been 25 years since the last neighborhood plan was written. Given the stabilization and improvement since then, the planning and development projects in and around the neighborhood, it was an opportunity to position and envision how the community will continue to evolve over the long-term and identify steps to make that vision a reality. The goal of the June 23 meeting is to inform and remind the

neighborhood the contents of the plan and where we go from here. The plan is meant to be a guide to help understand where the neighborhood is and where it would like to go. Details aren't set in stone.

In addition the Delmar Loop Area Retail Plan and Development Strategy and Transit Oriented Development Plans for the Delmar Loop and Forest Park-DeBaliviere MetroLink Stations plans were undertaken around that time. The planning documents and presentations are available on the SD website at <https://skinkerdebaliviere.wordpress.com/neighborhood-planning-initiatives/>

Comments on the plan are welcomed. The future isn't written. How to balance housing development and green amenities along Des Peres, accommodating cyclists on Skinker, how to make Lucier Park function better, etc will be resolved with input from the neighborhood.

Exerpts from the plan document are included here, on pages 4-6 of the TIMES, for everyone to review. Contact SDCC Executive Director Brandon Sterling or any of the SDCC Board of Directors with your questions or comments.

Proposal for Pershing and Des Peres

By Lana Stein

Since the 1970s the northwest corner of Pershing at Des Peres has been passive space. The previous structure at that site had not survived the eroding nature of the underground River Des Peres. People have walked their dogs there; children occasionally played there; and Andy Cross planted fruit trees.

On Wednesday, May 11, the Historic District Committee met to consider how proposed new housing for that site conformed to the Historic District Ordinance. Following this discussion, Nicole Blummer, chair of the Residential Committee, led a discussion of whether that site should be developed.

Nancy Hohmann, Historic District Chair, opened the meeting by saying that Mike Daniels and his wife, Ursula Thatch, have proposed to acquire the site from the city and build 3 homes there, one for themselves. Daniels and Thatch have resided in a Nina Pl. condo for 25 years. Brent Crittenden of UIC spoke about the plans. His company builds between 15-20 homes per year and has worked in Botanical Heights. He wants to use brick on the proposed homes and have them fit into the lines of existing dwellings. The site consists of 3 lots, each zoned for 3 units. The city of St. Louis owns the land and it would be bought from the city. There is the River Des Peres issue: The house will have to be pierced. They are working with

Proposal for Pershing continued on page 4

FLOWERS
for

50 YEARS

SDCC's 50th Anniversary will be celebrated in September, and to prepare for that, the 50th Anniversary Committee is encouraging neighbors to plant any type of flowers in yellow and/or purple, the "official 50th anniversary colors" on your front porch, in containers, or sidewalk entries. Operation Brightside has offered free marigolds! There will be some commemorative stickers to display as well, so look for news of those very soon.

The SDCC 50th Anniversary event will take place on September 17, 2016, at the final 2016 BBQ Concert, held at the Four Corners, Des Peres and Kingsbury. Founded in 1966 by neighborhood residents to promote neighborhood unity, SDCC continues to foster all the best aspects of city living.

More Summer Music

The Ivory Perry concert series is held annually at the Ivory Perry Park on the fourth Sunday evening in June, July and August, from 6-8 p.m. Ivory Perry Park is on Belt between Cabanne and Clemens, just north of Delmar.

The 2016 Concert Series features the Infrared Rockers, a renown reggae band, on June 26, the Soulard Blues Band on July 24, and famed vocalist Cheryl Brown on August 28. This is a family affair, and you can bring a picnic or purchase from a food vendor, let the kids play in the bounce house or get a face painting. For more information, go to www.uccministries.com.

Editor's Notebook

By Lana Stein

There are some good signs on the horizon. Word about upcoming meetings is being more widely distributed, by flyers, in NextDoor, by Facebook and the SDCC email listserve. This should continue. We all lead busy lives—even those of us who are retired--and notice/reminders make it more likely that we could attend meetings and give our input. Given the controversy over Snarf's, the Clayco building and proposed new housing for Pershing and DesPeres, it is essential that these issues be addressed by the Council and essential that residents have the maximum opportunity to query, complain, protest, or support. In the early years of the Council, there were greater threats to person and property, and involvement was far more common. Even though Skinker DeBaliviere has been through so much, it is not the time to rest on our laurels. We have to be vigilant. Outsiders still have their doubts about where we live. The recent contretemps over a Webster Groves church kindergarten team playing one from Lourdes in U City in a park north of the Loop should tell us something.

We are not always going to agree on problems or on solutions but a healthy dialogue is necessary at all times. Information should be provided in a timely manner to residents and residents should try to keep abreast. There are problems that we should all be aware of: There are properties that have been vacant for years and too many outsiders have bought single family homes which they rent to students, frequently contrary to ordinance. Crime does not appear out of hand but nonetheless occurs. Block units and watch groups have often atrophied. The grass roots need tending.

We are having another nice concert series and celebration of the Council's 50th anniversary. There is a lot of fine work to celebrate but that work must continue.

Introducing the New SDCC President, Jim Holzer

By Lana Stein

Jim Holzer assumed the reins of president earlier this year. He is relatively new to the neighborhood. He and his wife, daughter, dog and two cats moved here in May of 2013. They reside on 61xx Westminster Pl. Jim resembles a number of us in the neighborhood who have moved around a good deal before finding a real home in St. Louis in Skinker DeBaliviere.



Jim had a childhood of moving around because his father worked in defense-related projects. Jim was born in Phoenix and lived in California and Wisconsin. Milwaukee was his principal location. He first went to college in Florida, attending St. Petersburg College in Clearwater for two years. He studied history and art history there. He eventually returned to Milwaukee to complete his education, receiving a Bachelor in Fine Arts from the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design. Art, specifically photography, has been his avocation. His vocation has basically involved jobs in the retail sector.

His pursuits brought him to Hannibal where he worked to encourage artists to revivify the downtown area. He and his first wife owned an art gallery there and additional property. The Red Hat Gallery was on Center St. near Main Street. His wife was also an artist and exhibited her work there. Guest artists were featured and his photographs were displayed as well. They also started a Co-Op which became the Gallery of Fine Art. His wife died suddenly and his life changed again. For awhile he kept the gallery and worked in insurance, which required a lot of travelling.

Jim decided to relocate to St. Louis and worked for an agency here. He continued to support his art by working in sales. He showed work in the Grove and became part of Gallery D on Cherokee St., a community gallery. He creates fine art photography and installations of considerable size. He is now married to Elizabeth Krasnoff, whom he met at a benefit for Stray Rescue.

Jim believes in civic life and in our cities. That influenced his efforts in Hannibal and his growing involvement in Skinker DeBaliviere. Before finding a home here, he had attended concerts and knew Joe's Cafe. Karleen Hoerr toured the couple around the neighborhood and helped them locate their home. This neighborhood has many residents who have been here for much of their lives; that adds to stability. He would like to see more people participate in the council and its activities from all sections of the neighborhood. The Council can be a great asset by serving as a conduit and channeling ideas to fruition. The events the Council sponsors support civic life. He enjoys the hospitality of the neighborhood. It is a vibrant community, close to Forest Park and the Loop.

Senator Joe Keaveny

By Lana Stein

Senator Joe Keaveny, who has been State Senator for the past six years, will be resigning before his final term expires. He is under consideration by Gov. Nixon for nomination as an administrative judge in the Missouri Department of Labor. There is a nomination process that Keaveny must go through and we will learn more in the coming weeks. Keaveny has served ably as the minority floor leader. He says that, despite the Democrats' minority status in the Missouri Legislature, he has enjoyed being senator and looks forward to new challenges.



Karen and Joe Keaveny

Keaveny fought for local control of our police, to maintain workers' collective rights, and to affirm equal protection under the law for all citizens. It was difficult to be in such a small minority but he tried to work across the aisle. He also raised questions about the death penalty.

We have also learned that the longtime alderman of the 28th ward, Lyda Krewson, is considering seeking the mayor's office. The election will be in March 2017. Mayor Slay has decided not to seek another term. The times may be a changing.

Want to learn about our community's history?

Check out our website at sdtimes.org



The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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The writer is responsible for the accuracy of the data, including times, dates, location, and particularly the spelling of names. The editor retains the right to omit or alter any material. Opinions expressed in Commentaries are the opinion of the author.
Deadline for next issue: August 15, 2016. Please send copy by e-mail to jvatcha@gmail.com or by disc to 6117 Westminster, St. Louis, MO 63112.

News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

While we enjoy a beautiful and busy spring, we are looking to a busy summer here in the neighborhood too. Let this serve as a reminder to watch for many wonderful events like the Garden Tour, the concerts at Greg Freeman Park, and festivities for the 50th anniversary of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. And don't forget about beautiful Forest Park, our adventurous backyard! We are truly blessed to live in such a wonderful, active, and vital neighborhood with neighbors who care for one another and for the place we call home.



In celebration of Earth Day 2016, Great Rivers Greenway led a volunteer blitz along five greenways on Friday, April 22, in an effort to clean up, beautify and maintain our region's greenways, rivers and creeks. Approximately 100 volunteers from the St. Louis region; including students from Crossroads College Preparatory School; joined Great Rivers Greenway, Open Space Council, the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District and AmeriCorps to complete various conservation projects at five different locations in St. Louis City, Great Rivers Greenway, MSD and students from Crossroads College Prep spent last Friday morning April 22 painting storm water inlets in Porter Park, near Maple Avenue, as a visible reminder that anything poured into them (motor oil, herbicides etc.) drains untreated into area waterways and pollutes our watershed. The project was part of a region-wide volunteer effort, led by Great Rivers Greenway, in honor of Earth Day.

Staying true to the Girl Scout Promise and Law, the St. Roch 8th Grade Girl Scout Troop decided to donate a new washing machine to the Little Bit Foundation with money raised through Girl Scout cookie sales. When Home Depot learned they were donating the machine they were kind enough to donate the dryer so the Girl Scouts could provide a matching set! Little Bit Foundation is an organization that helps St. Louis City and North County school age kids get a fresh start each day with school supplies, food and even clean socks and underwear. The Mission of the Little Bit Foundation is helping disadvantaged school children by creating a positive impact for personal growth, increasing self-esteem and encouraging a more focused and active learning environment. We do this by building strong relationships and partnering closely with St. Louis schools.

We have such talented neighbors and here is an update on another one! On April 1st Cece Younger published her new book of an epic fantasy, "The Seekers: The Secret of the Turtles" (published by Archway Publishing). It is a mystical tale of a Caribbean princess who sets off on a journey with her best friend and a prince of Barbados to save the sea turtles and calm an active underwater volcano. Along the way, she learns she has an extraordinary future unlike any she ever imagined for herself. "When my daughter



was 2 years old and wanted to put the Disney Princesses on her wall she turned to me asked 'why do all the princesses look like you? Why don't they look like me?'" Cece says. "It broke my heart and from that point I wanted to create kid's products that reflect diversity of people." With a diverse cast of characters, many of whom have mixed heritages, and set in a fantastical setting, young readers will find an array of characters to relate to as the group travels on their mystical adventure. Cece and her family live in the 5900 block of Nina Place. More information is available at <http://bydwyr.com/>

Former Parkview resident (6200 block of Washington) Madeleine Marie Laury, beloved wife of the late Stephan Laury; and mother of Domenic, Marianne and Stephan Laury; passed away on April 11. Madeleine possessed a generous heart and a wicked sense of humor. An accomplished artist, gardener and teacher to many, she lived her life with joy. Our deepest condolences go out to the family, especially Madeleine and Stephan's children who have now lost both parents.



Ann Hogan Stapenhorst passed away on Saturday March 26th. Her funeral was celebrated at St. Roch. Ann had worked for the St. Louis Development Corporation before her retirement, and both she and her late sister Dorothy were great neighborhood boosters. Their family had lived on McPherson over 70 years. At a memorable TIMES fundraiser held at the Rennard's home in the 90's, they graciously shared memories of their childhood in the neighborhood, including the following "special memories" they wrote down for us:

Ann and Dorothy's Special Memories:

- My mother and father (Hogans) moved from a North St. Louis Neighborhood to 6164 McPherson in July, 1945. We especially remember:
- As a teenager in the 50's and 60's, meeting outside St. Roch's Church after 11:00 a.m. mass. Half of the kids in the area were on the corners of Rosedale and Waterman at noon.
- Walking to the Tivoli and Varsity shows with friends
- Having the Parkview Food Basket grocery store and Sherman Drugstore, later Feldberg's, at our corner of McPherson and Skinker, where the soda fountain was a great place to meet and have fun.
- More sweet memories--the Busy Bee Candy Shop on DeBaliviere and the Greenlea Ice Cream Store at DeGiverville and DeBaliviere
- Another fond memory: talking with "Madison" when I'd bring my car into the Sinclair Gas Station at our corner. Madison had been there forever. Everyone knew him and he knew everybody. He was one of the nicest persons I've ever met.
- Playing in Forest Park and calling it "our backyard"

Congratulations to Monsignor Sal Polizzi, who was feted at the April 17 dinner at the Chase Park Plaza for St. Roch Parish and School. The event, called "Building the Future," also celebrated Polizzi's 60 years as a priest, 35 years as pastor of St. Roch parish, and his 85th birthday!



Lana Stein joined the greater Meara clan at 9 yr old Olive's dance recital at Central Studio. Olive also appeared in a recent youth production at the JCCA.

Another great reason to celebrate our neighborhood's history: Elaine Atkinson, who, with husband Bill, moved to the 6100 block of Westminster 50 years ago this summer, likely the first African-American family to purchase a home on this block. Elaine was interviewed for the neighborhood's centennial book, **CELEBRATING SKINKER DEBALIVIERE**. Congratulations to Elaine and family, who have been mainstays on Westminster for so long.



The United Methodist Women held their spring luncheon at the church on April 16. A large and diverse group of women were served a tasty lunch by UM Men. Mariann Baker is the chair of the group, and introduced Grace's new minister, Rev. Robin Roderick. Beverly Schuetz of "History Talks" spoke of the remarkable career of Harry Truman.

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! Have a great summer everyone!

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28th Ward Democrats 2016:

2016 Meetings: June 16, July 21, September 15, October 20, and November 17

For up to date info on programs & other news of politics, go to the 28th Ward website:
<http://ward28.citywestend.org/index.html>

Alderman Lyda Krewson
367-9765
lyda.krewson@pgav.com



SKINKER DEBALIVIERE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN REFRESHER

Beginning in 2012 the neighborhood undertook the Urban Design and Development Plan For The Skinker DeBaliviere Community effort to chart a course for the next few decades. Guided by H3 Studio, a national award-winning, St. Louis-based interdisciplinary design and planning firm, the plan was adopted by the SD Community Council in 2014. It had been 25 years since the last neighborhood plan was written. Given the stabilization and improvement since then, the planning and development projects in and around the neighborhood, it was an opportunity to position and envision how the community will continue to evolve over the long-term and identify steps to make that vision a reality. On June 23rd SDCC will host a refresher meeting at 6:30 pm at Grace United Methodist Church. The goal of the meeting is to inform and remind the neighborhood the contents of the plan and where we go from here. In addition the Delmar Loop Area Retail Plan and Development Strategy and Transit Oriented Development Plans for the Delmar Loop and Forest Park-DeBaliviere MetroLink Stations plans were undertaken around that time. The planning documents and presentations are available on the SD website at <https://skinkerdebaliviere.wordpress.com/neighborhood-planning-initiatives/>

RECAP OF PROJECT SCHEDULE:

PHASE 1.0: SITE INVESTIGATION (October 9, 2012 to November 17, 2012) included Field Surveys & Base Maps and Stakeholder Focus Group Interviews with the following “Stakeholder focus groups”:

- Saint Louis Public Schools
- Marketing & Real Estate Group
- Delmar Commercial Group
- Residential & Developers Group
- Parks, Gardens, and Open Space Group
- Aldermen of 26th & 28th Ward
- West End Neighbors
- Metro Saint Louis Transit
- DeBaliviere Place Group
- Washington University in St. Louis

PHASE 2.0: GUIDING VISION & LIVABILITY PRINCIPLES were developed through a Steering Committee and Vision & Livability Principles Public Workshop-Charrette held on Nov. 13, 2012.

PHASE 3.0: SKINKER DEBALIVIERE NEIGHBORHOOD OPTIONS were explored in meetings of the steering committee and a second public workshop-charrette held on Feb.13, 2013. Additionally, there was a Walk/Bike Audit.

PHASE 4.0: SKINKER DEBALIVIERE PLAN PREFERRED OPTION was developed through additional steering committee meetings in 2013 and a public workshop-charrette on November 19, 2013.

PHASE 5.0: FINAL URBAN DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT PLAN was completed and a final public presentation made on February 25, 2014.



ISSUES

Issues that were identified and described by participants:

1. Historical physical divisions create a Fragmented neighborhood still present today.
2. Poor internal communication and Communication, Engagement & Inclusiveness & lack of coordination with surrounding neighborhoods.
3. Major streets and MetroLink create Barriers on edges and within neighborhood.
4. Limited entrances and exits cause poor Connectivity.
5. One way streets, dead ends, and alleys inhibit cut-through traffic but result in Poor Circulation, cause speeding, and traffic flow issues.
6. Main Intersections Are Dangerous for pedestrians.
7. Edges create negative image, perceived as unsafe, do not support daily community activities.
8. Lack of diverse and viable Businesses.
9. Lack of Grocery Store.
10. Negative perception of DeBaliviere Avenue.
11. Parks and open spaces lack amenities, have poor access, and are under used.
12. Parking congestion in southwest corner. Concerns about trolley parking.
13. Hamilton School has limited interaction with residents and students in neighborhood.
14. Crime & Safety in neighborhood, Lucier park, and at MetroLink stations is an ongoing issue. Safety on Delmar is a concern.
15. Address neighborhood vacancies.

Proposal for Pershing

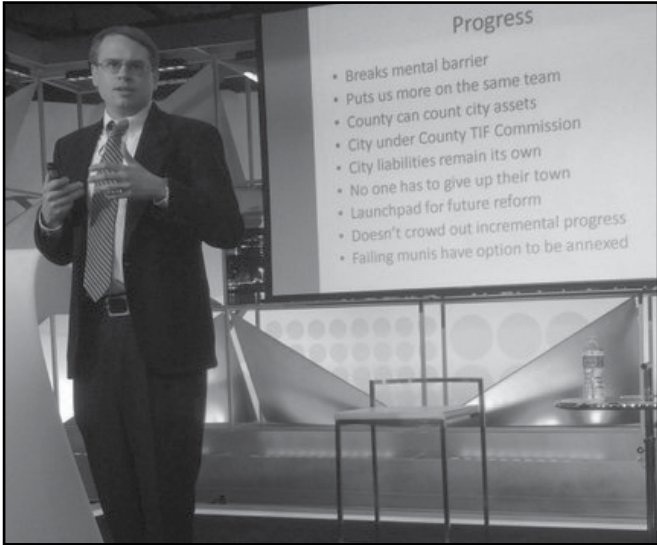
continued from page 1

SCI engineering. Mary Campbell of Wash U spoke of the very extensive work needed to renovate 6000 Waterman because of the River Des Peres. She said Daniels had used a very reputable firm and they agreed to share their findings.

Neighbors had design comments. There will be a larger house at the corner and two smaller houses to its west. The design of the smaller houses seemed generally acceptable but there were a number of comments regarding the steps, porch, overhang and windows in the corner houses. Mr. Crittenden and Mr. Daniels said that will be reworked. Each unit will have a garage.

Nicole Blumner took over to discuss the use of the site. Several people remarked that that area was supposed to stay as green space according to the recently completed master plan (that has not yet been adopted by the city). Some said it was the east side of DesPeres that was to be green space. Mr. Daniels noted that Chapter 7 of the plan calls for infill housing at the site. Hitch Powell noted that the plan called for buildings on the site of the McPherson Community Garden and why was that there. Ald. Krewson (D=28) said there were quite a few such inconsistencies in the plan. There will be a meeting in June to review the plan and address this.

Brandon Sterling, SDCC director, said that residents should e-mail him as to how they feel about this housing proposal. The Council will address the matter and make its views known. His email is brandon.sterling@skinker-debaliviere.com.



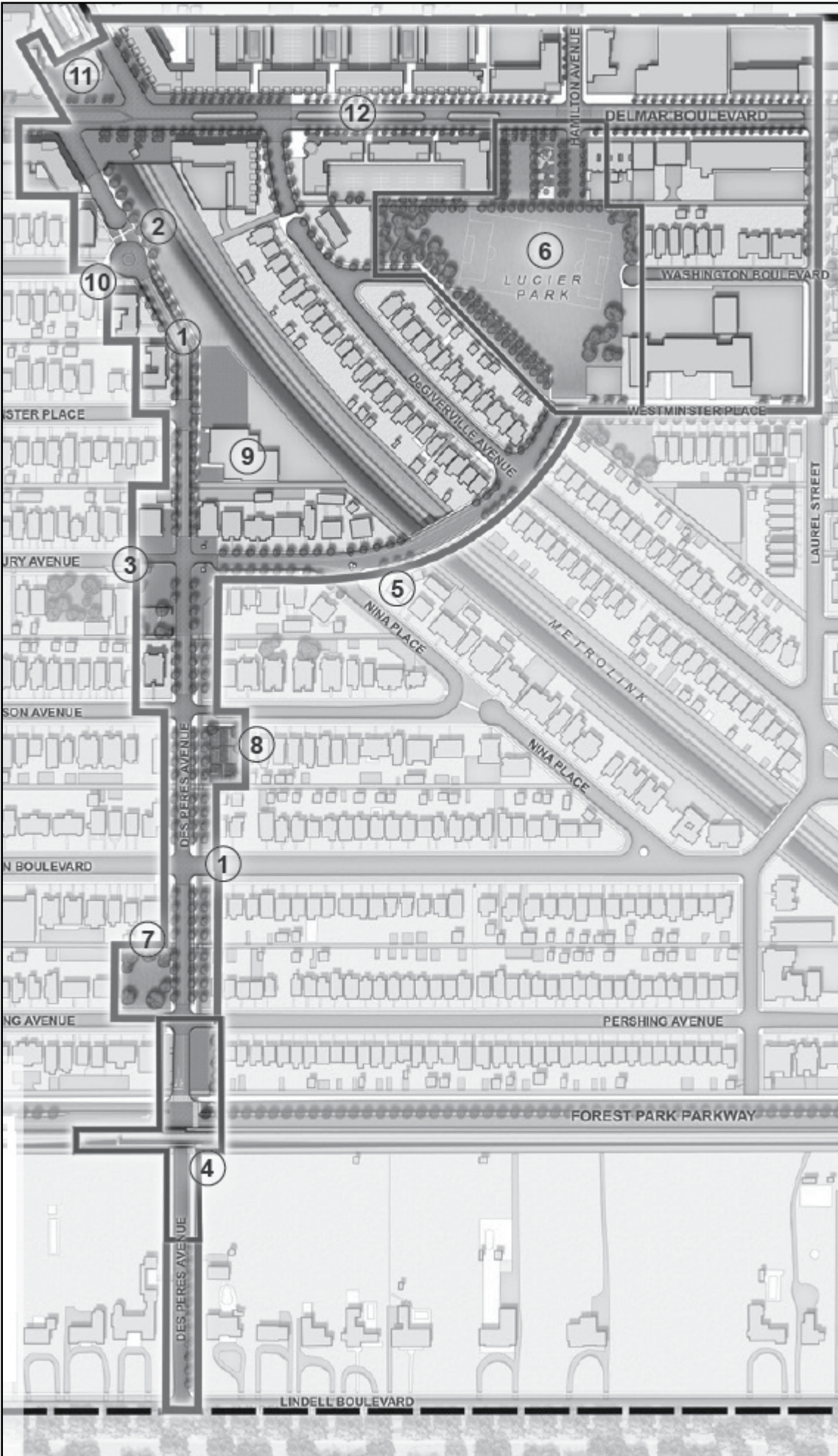
Richard Bose of the 5800 block of DeGiverville presented "Unite St. Louis" on behalf of St. Louis Strong (www.stlstrong1764.org) May 11. Hosted by Better Together, Bose outlined how our fragmented region isn't working, why it can't work, and some structural reforms to consider.

FOCUS AREAS (see map)

1. Des Peres Avenue Greenway
2. Intersection at Des Peres Avenue and Delmar Boulevard
3. Four Corners
4. Intersection of Des Peres Avenue and Forest Park Parkway
5. Kingsbury Avenue
6. Lucier Park
7. Dog Park
8. Community Garden
9. The Collegiate School of Medicine & Bioscience
10. Infill residential development on the west side of Des Peres Avenue
11. Redeveloped Delmar Loop Metro-Link station
12. Redevelopment of East Loop

IDEAS

1. Create TOD at Delmar and DeBaliviere Stations
 2. Bring diverse and viable Businesses to Delmar
 3. Green Des Peres and open it to Delmar.
 4. Add Bike Lanes on Skinker
 5. Bring viable Businesses to DeBaliviere. Create pedestrian connection to MetroLink station.
 6. Improve timing and Pedestrian Safety at Intersections.
 7. Organize to create an Identifiable Street Character for Eastern Delmar Corridor.
 8. Create Parking Standards for neighborhood and Delmar that align with future development goals.
 9. Create a Dog Park, Improve Lucier Park, Improve Connection to Forest Park.
 10. Create Green Streets, rain gardens, energy efficiency.
 11. Improve Internal Communication.
 12. Infill vacant lots, Rehab deteriorating homes.
 13. Create accessible Senior Housing
 14. Improve Security with cameras on Delmar.
 15. Work block by block to Improve McPherson/ Laurel Area on east side of MetroLink right of way.
 16. Expand the Trolley south on Skinker, connect to CWE and Downtown.
 17. Create Parks and Programs for Youth and Seniors.
 18. Promote Owner Occupancy of single family homes and responsible management of rental properties
 19. Establish funding/maintenance Partnerships for neighborhood parks and greenways
 20. Establish Development Partnerships for infill of vacant lots and rehabs of deteriorating buildings.





*Proud to be a
Skinker DeBaliviere Resident!*

Rachel Boxdorfer

www.RachelBoxdorfer.com

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COMMUNITY GOALS

Forming a basis for the vision, the following principles are intended to guide decision making and uphold the vision for the area, as the unforeseen challenges of implementation unfold:



1. Continue the ongoing revitalization of Delmar Boulevard and DeBaliviere Avenue as a mixed use, urban, multi-modal corridor.
2. Improve Forest Park Parkway and Skinker Boulevard for visual quality, safety, and connectivity.
3. Envision Des Peres Avenue, the 4 Corners, and Lucier Park as the ‘heart’ of the neighborhood.
4. Incentivize and create new neighborhood businesses and services to achieve a mixed-use, complete community.
5. Improve parks, community gardens, and open space amenities.
6. Improve safety and visual quality of streets with healthy trees, robust native landscapes, improved sidewalks.
7. Promote owner occupancy of single family homes and responsible management of rental properties.
8. Enhance neighborhood integration, circulation, safety, and connectivity for all residents —pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, and transit riders.
9. Create a multi-generational neighborhood that supports active and independent lifestyle choices for all ages.
10. Retain and continue to attract a diversity of residents to ensure an inclusive community.
11. Promote community health, safety, and environmental sustainability.
12. Organize for implementation success and community empowerment and leadership

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HIGH PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS: YEARS 0-5

The short term projects scheduled to be implemented within 5 years are smaller scale attainable projects that will create significant momentum and positive change in the neighborhood. They are projects, programs, and policies that the community has indicated are high priority.

1. Stabilize & Improve Housing & Property Values.
2. Create a comprehensive neighborhood reforestation plan with supportive events and programs to build commitment, ongoing interest, participation, and dedication.
3. Create a rain barrel supply and education program supported by water conservation and reuse education.
4. Support, attract, and develop programs that assist with home and yard maintenance with particular attention to aging and lower-income residents.
5. Continue and expand home weatherization education and assistance programs.
6. Create more programs to increase household, business, and overall neighborhood recycling and composting.
7. Grow partnerships between neighborhood schools, students, Washington University students and residents to advance arts and cultural events and installations in the neighborhood.
8. Expand neighborhood arts and cultural events.
9. Provide Housing, Transportation and Social Programs for Seniors & Youth
10. Increase safety and security at MetroLink stations.



DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS:

Development Projects in Neighborhood Core

11. Improve all neighborhood entrances and 4 Corners to create signature gateways that embody and showcase the identity of Skinker DeBaliviere.
12. Preserve, Maintain & Diversify a Sustainable Streetscape.
13. Redevelop vacant residential properties with new housing and promote new housing choices and typologies.

Development Projects in Neighborhood Center

14. Create a Greenway on Des Peres Avenue connecting Delmar Loop and Forest Park.
15. Improve Pedestrian & Cyclist Connection of Des Peres Avenue to Delmar Boulevard.
16. Improve 4 Corners as the Central Gathering Space of the Neighborhood
17. Enhance Pedestrian & Bicycle Comfort & Safety.
18. Preserve & Enhance Existing Street Trees & Landscape.
19. Preserve Vehicular Flow & Access to the Neighborhood.
20. Improve Operations of Traffic Signals & Crosswalks.



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Kids Corner

By Susanne Knese

Are you looking for some fun kid activities and camps around our neighborhood? Here are just a few ideas that touch on just about every interest . . .

St. Louis Science Center's Summer Science Blast: We offer the cure for the "common camp" with our Summer Science Blast program. The summer line-up includes a variety of stimulating science sessions for everyone from preschoolers to teenagers, sure to keep kids excited about learning all summer long. For details on 2016 camps, - See more at: <http://www.slsc.org/summer-camps#sthash.5qx50z7p.dpuf>

St. Louis Chess Club: Chess Summer Camps are the perfect way to introduce the game of chess to new students, deepen understanding of the game for established players, or offer intensive instruction for aspiring chess masters. Grandmaster instructors provide daily lessons, puzzles, and play to help guide students through each session. Instruction offers a solid, basic foundation, emphasizing the fundamental skills needed to begin a lifetime of learning in chess. www.saintlouischessclub.org

Dwight Davis Tennis Center Nike Tennis Camps: Come join the fun and get better this summer at Dwight Davis Memorial Tennis Center. Our newest Nike camp location, this is a day camp offering both full-day and half-day options for kids ages 5-18 of all ability levels. In addition, we offer programs for wheelchair and adaptive athletes. Our camps combine a technical tennis training program and drilling from a top notch coaching staff, supervised match play, and a variety of fun activities. www.ussportscamps.com

Upper Limits Rock Gym: Walking distance from Unions Station's Metro link stop! Give your children the active learning experience they will never forget! Choose Upper Limits Summer Youth Climbing Clinics this year! Youth ages 7-15 learn the importance of trust and communication while acquiring and growing basic rock climbing skills. www.upperlimits.com

Contemporary Arts Museum Summer Camps: The Contemporary Art Museum in St. Louis is proud to offer two creative camp opportunities this summer: Stop-Motion Madness: Campers learn stop-motion animation, including how to create collage, claymation, and live action animation videos. They'll make their own short film to take home at the end of the week. Crazy Comics: Campers invent characters, create illustrations, and learn to tell a visual story as they craft a comic book from start to finish. www.camstl.org/camp

Little Medical School Summer Camps: Let your child come and experience Little Medical School, where we inspire tomorrow's doctors, nurses, dentists and veterinarians today! Our educational enrichment programs provide a fun, innovative and engaging curriculum. At Little Medical School we create an opportunity to experience role playing using tools that real doctors use. www.littlemedicalschool.com

Craft Alliance: Staenberg Summer Camps! Each camper will have a unique arts experience, from learning clay, glass and metal art techniques to writing and creating books, wearable art, puppets and more. There are one-week half-day camps from June 6-August 12. www.craftalliance.org

St. Louis Zoo: Whether your child is in Camp Joey, Camp KangaZoo, Teen Camp or Teen Camp II: Into the Wild they will enjoy educational programs in all things outdoor and animal related. Learning and observing the Zoo animals while meeting and playing with new friends is a great opportunity for some summer fun. www.stlzoo.org/education

St. Louis Art Museum: Summer Art Classes are a creative way for 6-12 year-olds to explore different cultures, media, time periods, & art! www.slam.org/education/classes

COCA (Center of Creative Arts): At COCA, we pride ourselves on offering some of the most creative summer arts camps for kids and teens. Our campers have the opportunity to learn and experience new things, build their skills, and - most importantly - have fun! They'll find ways to express themselves in various disciplines - through dance, drama, poetry, sculpture, songwriting, videography, and much, much more. June 6 - August 19. www.cocastl.org



2016 Dog Show

Once again, Sarah Cross, aided by dad Andy, is presenting the popular Skinker DeBaliviere Dog Show, this year on Tuesday, June 14, at the Greg Freeman Park at the 4 Corners, next to the playground. Free refreshments, and a bounty of prizes for fluffiest dog, biggest muzzle, waggiest tail, smallest and biggest ears, most colorful dog, curliest tail, and maybe more! Even if you don't have a dog...come

Peoples Health Expands

By Derek Knight

For those of us that use the Delmar/DeBaliviere junction frequently, the Loop Trolley work is often our primary concern. Will the lanes have been altered, will there be any construction trucks moving dirt or equipment around, these are the items at the top of our minds as we take the turn. But as I wait at the lights, I can't help but notice an area that has been empty for years is now showing signs of development, what is happening? The answer is that the Betty Jean Kerr Peoples Health Center (PHC) is expanding. Groundbreaking on the site was back in February, and already we have seen a lot of ground clearance and the foundations appear to be nearing completion.

I know of the PHC as one of the facilities in our neighbourhood, but it was interesting to find out that the very first location back in 1972 is a place many of us now know as the home of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, at the corner of Kingsbury and Des Peres. From this small beginning, PHC now has the facility we are all aware of along Delmar, clinics in Florissant and Lindell, as well as a dedicated Women Infants and Children location in Maplewood. PHC has always sought to be a complete family health provider, and this commitment is shown in the new building, which is going to be a \$6 million Children's and Adolescents health facility.

The development - which bears the name "Project Hope" - will provide an additional 20,000 square feet for PHC. Its primary focus will be on delivering clinical and counselling support to children and young people. Funding for the project came in part from the City of St Louis with \$3 million in Community Development Block Grants. At the groundbreaking ceremony, Mayor Slay said. "It's a much-needed resource for families in crisis to be able to receive high-quality treatment for their children." Mayor Slay was joined at the groundbreaking by Betty Jean Kerr, Congressman Lacy Clay, and many other dignitaries.

For those of us in the neighbourhood, it's one more positive sign in the building of stronger community.



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IN YOUR EAR

By Hawkeye Z. Hoerr, Commentary in the TIMES for more than 33 years.

I'm trying to determine the focus for this column, and I feel a bit like a guy standing in an all-you-can-eat buffet line with really good food, as much as you want of calamari, chocolate-chip cookies, and ice cream. With Hostess Cupcakes for dessert! That's my kind of buffet. Sign me up!

You see, that's how it feel when I am contemplating what I'll write about in this month's issue, dear reader. There are many, many thundering topics booming on the horizon. How can I pick just one?

First, and let's get it out of the way, is The Donald. Yep, Mr. Trump. I'm a bit of a political junkie, so I am fascinated by his candidacy. It's sort of like when I am driving on the highway and see a terrible auto accident; I'm fascinated by it too.

On a much more local front, there's news of the derailing of a topless sports bar on Delmar in University City. OK, to be fair, the women weren't topless; their tops were painted. Yeah, that's painted, like with paint. No, I am not making this up.

I was a bit surprised at the push-back against this. I mean, for centuries paintings of naked women were put on canvas and the artists became famous. I'm not making that up either. You can look at painting after painting while walking through a museum and wonder if anyone wore clothes! (This also helps me understand why more people were living near the equator than in Iceland.)

Anyway, if it was OK for these women's bodies to be painted without clothes and it was considered high art, why it less OK for the paint to actually go on the women's bodies? And why not men's bodies or on dogs? I'd love to see a paisley Airedale.

Part of Delmar's attraction is that it's hip and a bit edgy, but we don't want edgy to be in capital letters. Back in the

1950's Gaslight Square was EDGY and look what happened to it.

And speaking of escapes, sorry, but the whole Donald Trump phenomenon escapes me. Wise political prognosticating perspicacious pontificating pundit that I am, a year ago I predicted that Donald Trump could never be taken seriously and would gain no, zero, traction as a presidential candidate. I also predicted that the Rams would stay in St. Louis.

So here we are seriously contemplating the possibility of Trump being the Republican candidate for president. Holy Cow! He appeals to people who think government doesn't work and, you know what, they're right. It doesn't work. But viewing The Donald as the solution to poor government is a bit like solving global warming by painting your body instead of wearing clothes.

Now there's a thought – painted bodies everywhere instead of clothing. Think about the possibilities that offers. Wearing paint instead of clothing would be cheaper, and if your budget is really tight, you could forget paint and go the magic-marker route. It would be much easier to stay in style; just new brush-strokes instead of going to the store. And you can probably get a job working at the sports bar of your choice.

Eureka, I've done it again. It seemed like I would have a hard time choosing a topic for this month but it's jumped on my chest. Forget all of this hub-bub about requiring voter IDs at the polling place. What if we simply said that to vote, you had to come dressed in paint rather than clothing! I guarantee you that we'd have long lines at the polling booths. You know, it would feel a bit like an all-you-can-eat line at a buffet! Pass me a slice of Hostess Cupcake, please.

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