

The Pacer

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Cates Garden Apts

*Neighborhood's newest
development*

The garden apartment buildings at 6321 Cates Ave. will not be taking shape for at least eight months, developer Nels Rosvall told the *Pacer*. The old bungalow has been demolished and the site has been graded, but he is waiting for permits from University City to begin construction. The City Council approved the site plan in June. There will be two buildings facing east on the lot that goes through to Vernon Ave. The 21 units will be mostly one-bedrooms and studios.

included River des Peres and alley cleanup. Volunteers gather at Heman Park Community Center, starting at 8 am. Go to ucitymo.org for more information.



Heman Avenue garden

Pitch In!

Community cleanup

Make a Difference Day is Saturday, Oct. 27. The national community volunteerism event is strong here. For the fifth straight year, U City will be mounting a citywide effort. Past projects have

Soldiers Memorial Re-opens

With pomp and ceremony
Veterans Day is Sunday, Nov. 11. (U City public library will be closed Nov. 12.) This is an especially significant observance, marking 100 years since the end of World War 1. In downtown St.

Louis, the grand opening of the Soldiers Memorial, under renovation for the last several years, will begin at 9 am Nov. 3. A concert and flag raising will be followed by a ceremony and speeches by veterans and civic leaders. The new museum in the memorial will open to the public at 11 am. The

musical *All Is Calm*, about the Christmas truce of 1914, will be performed Nov. 5, 6, 7. The American Legion will lay a wreath at 10:55 am Nov. 11. The Memorial is at Thirteenth St. and Chestnut. More information on these and other events is at mo-history.org.

Fall Back

Evenings darken
Daylight Saving Time ends 2 am Sunday,

Nov. 4. Traditionalists, set your clocks and watches back an hour. Cell phones and computers will probably figure it out on their own. Darkness will come earlier in the evenings, so this is a good time to check on the lights in public areas of your building. Doors, stairwells, rear areas--if you notice burned out bulbs, notify the building owner. (If it's Quadrangle Housing, call (314) 935-9511.) If a streetlight

has gone out, call Ameren Missouri at (314) 224-1199 and give them the location or pole number. Bicycle commuters, you may be riding home in the dark, so check if you need new batteries for your lights

This twice-yearly routine may change. Daylight Saving Time in the U.S. is a century old and has always been controversial. It was imposed during World War I as an unpopular wartime fuel conservation law. D.S.T. came and went; some states imposed it, others didn't. It wasn't established nationally until 1967, when the federal Uniform Time Act went into effect. The most popular argument in favor of D.S.T. is that it gives people an extra hour of daylight in the summer months. In August, the European Union announced that it will recommend the abandonment of D.S.T. to its member nations. Eighty percent of EU citizens support the recommendation. Many Europeans think the bi-annual time change is bad for their health.

Arts Events

Music & film

Winter Opera opens its twelfth season with Johann Strauss' *Die Fledermaus* Nov. 9 and 11 at Chaminade. Ticket info: (314) 865-0038. The Whitaker St. Louis International Film Festival takes place Nov. 1-11 at the Tivoli Theatre and other venues, featuring nearly 400 films from more than 60 countries. There will be an awards ceremony and special events. More info at cinemast-

louis.org.

VOTE?

Electoral integrity doubts

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 6. In the past, the Pacer has headlined its election stories VOTE! But changing times call for different punctuation. In September, an NPR poll found that 38% of Americans think elections are unfair. Partisanship plays a role, with Democrats far more likely to express dissatisfaction than Republicans. But the findings of special prosecutor Robert Mueller and other investigators that Russia interfered in the 2016 election are also undermining Americans' faith in the system. Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats has testified that the Russians are meddling in the current election campaign, saying "the digital infrastructure that serves this country is literally under attack." He and other senior officials of the Trump administration warned on Aug. 2 that the threat is serious. The President has expressed inconsistent opinions. The website Politico said that most states have not shored up weaknesses in their voting systems and are vulnerable to attack. Senator Claire McCaskill (D-Mo) said that Russian hackers had tried unsuccessfully to break into her email account. But the *New York Times*, in an August report, said that voting machines are more secure than many think. Four out of five create a paper trail. Many states have shored up the security of their voter registration databases. The *Times*, unlike Politico, found purposeful activity among state election officials, as they establish a data-sharing center and coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security against foreign threats.

Some hopeful commentators speculate that the Russians will limit their meddling in November's elections and wait until 2020 for their all-out effort to sabotage American democracy.

In sum, things aren't that bad yet, and I think it's worthwhile to vote. Assuming that Americans accept the results as legitimate, this will be a decisive election, because it will set the course for not just one but two branches of government. We have the word of President Trump himself that if the Democrats win a majority in the House, they will impeach him. The Senate is likely to remain in Republican hands, but the race between McCaskill and Josh Hawley is one of the closest and most crucial in the nation. Missourians will also vote on measures to legalize marijuana for medical uses.

Columbus

How bad was he?

Columbus Day will be celebrated in lackluster fashion Oct. 8, with business mostly continuing as usual. The explorer has fallen out of favor lately. In fact, a commission has been formed to explore removing his monument from Tower Grove Park, where it has stood since 1886. On its base is inscribed, "Discoverer of a New World."

When I was a boy, we admired Columbus, and we talked a lot about the New World. In those days America seemed younger than Europe, fresher, not mired in ancient sins and mistakes. English teachers routinely assigned us papers contrasting the innocent Americans and corrupt Europeans in the works of Henry James and F. Scott Fitzgerald. My genera-

tion's image of American innocence was shattered by Vietnam and Watergate--or so I thought, until I started reading about the Columbus controversy. One of the activists who want the monument out of Tower Grove said that Columbus "brought with him this legacy of racism and colonialism and frankly genocide for Native American people." It seems to me that here we have a believer in American innocence, still living in Trump's America. He just thinks the innocence was corrupted a lot earlier than my generation did--as soon as the first non-native Americans arrived. If pre-Columbian America wasn't exactly Arcadia, it was certainly morally superior to Europe.

Is that true, though? In my youth, many wrongly thought of Indians as "noble savages" living a primitive, idyllic life. Now we know that the pre-Columbian Americas were filled with a variety of Indian societies, many of them rich and complex. The Mississippians, for instance, were city-dwellers, traders and builders. But their society wasn't egalitarian. It was rigidly stratified and centrally controlled. Moving closer to Columbus's stomping grounds brings us to the Aztecs, fierce warriors who subjugated neighboring peoples, exploiting them so harshly that they allied with Cortez when he invaded. If the Aztecs weren't practicing racism, colonialism and genocide on a European scale, it wasn't for lack of trying.

No American can read the history of the United States' treachery against Indians without shame. But we've got to stop thinking of America pre-white people as Eden, and of Columbus as the man who caused its Fall. No Columbus=No

USA. We don't want to find ourselves in the anomalous position of wishing that the country we enjoy living in had never come into existence.

Wildflowers in the City

End of season blooms

Late summer and early autumn has been a great time to observe butterflies and other pollinators in the PGA flower beds. Their attraction is the fall-blooming flowers such as grey-headed coneflowers, goldenrods, asters, and calamint. Loop gardener Kelcye McDonough plants out the PGA gardens with an eye to seasonal bloom--plants such as tulips and daffodils in the Spring, then others with bloom times in the following seasons. During the growing period you will not only see traditional annuals and tropicals such as zinnias and cannas as in the Heman Ave. entrance garden, but also the "native" plants of the Ackert Park borders and small memorial garden across from All Saints' Church. Defining natives can get involved, but a basic explanation is that these are plants whose ancestors were growing in this region before European settlers arrived and cultivated the landscape with species from elsewhere.

Groups such as "Grow Native!", the Missouri Prairie Foundation, and the Missouri Department of Conservation have popularized the planting of natives for many good reasons. They tend to grow well in the local soil and weather conditions (drought tolerance is a plus with the grasses and prairie species). And they attract a variety of pollinators as well as create a habitat for songbirds,

hummingbirds, and other beneficial wildlife as well as insects. Some provide food for the larval stages. We are fortunate in this area to have growers such as Missouri Wildflower Nursery in Jefferson City who specialize in propagating just these plants as well as local nurseries such as Bowood Farms in the Central West End and Garden Heights in Richmond Heights that sell them. There are numerous native flowers, shrubs, and trees. The "wildflowers" can sometimes be distinguished by having a "freer" habit than zinnias or other more familiar bedding plants, which may grow tall yet still look "tidy." Many natives are small, but many others really stretch out. McDonough finds that big borders are perfect for natives because there is enough room for those that do get big and need the space. The effect is exuberant.

Recently growing native flowers, sedges, and grasses in containers has gained popularity, because they can be pretty as well as attract desired creatures such as hummingbirds and butterflies. If you tend containers on your balcony or fire escape, you might want to consider this option for next year. Nursery sales staff can help with choosing the right plants, and there are plenty of on-line resources. Meanwhile, enjoy the end-of-season displays in the neighborhood gardens.

PGA Meets

What's next for neighborhood?

The semi-annual meeting of the Parkview Gardens Association and its associated special business district will begin at 6 pm Tuesday

Oct. 16, upstairs at University City Library. Michael Donovan is up for re-election as a community representative on the board of directors for both the PGA and the SBD. Steve Condrin is up for re-election as a property owner representative on the PGA board of directors. After a review of last year, activities will be planned for the coming year. If you live, work or own property in Parkview Gardens or the East Loop, you're invited to attend, meet the officers of the association, and take part in a lively discussion of the area's present and future.

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News of the Neighborhood

Inside:

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