

# The Pacer

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## Holiday Race

*PGA co-sponsors run*

Registration is open online ([ucitymemorialdayrun.org](http://ucitymemorialdayrun.org)) for the 45th annual Memorial Day Run. The Parkview Gardens Association SBD has long been a major sponsor of the event. Individual adult entry is \$35. Packet pickup will be at the library Sunday afternoon May 26. The 10 K and 5 K events begin on Delmar at 7:30 am Monday, May 27. The Family Fun Run is at 9:20. Full event information is on the website. Proceeds benefit the Green Center, U City in Bloom and the library.

Also on Memorial Day, the library and City Hall will be closed. Refuse collection will be postponed to Tuesday. Heman Park Pool re-opens May 25. Seasonal swim passes can be purchased at Centennial Commons. Day passes are sold at

the pool entrance. Flag and remembrance ceremony is at 10 am May 27 at the Soldiers Memorial downtown.

## City Council Meets

*Calm before the storm*



*Start/finish line of the Memorial Day Run, as last year's race got going*

It was a quiet, routine City Council meeting April 22, but the final battle over the Olive/I-170 redevelopment impended. Mayor Terry Crow opened the session by saying that he remembered what it was like to be kept in the dark about coun-

cil business in the previous administration, and that he wanted citizens to feel confident that they were being fully informed. Council approval of Olive/I-170 will take the form of an ordinance.

It will be scheduled on the agenda for a first reading at one meeting. Then it will receive second and third readings at another meeting, followed by discussion and, eventually, a vote. During citizen participation, Don Fitz said that the rise of online shopping would cause many stores to close in the near future, and Olive/I-170 amounted to "replacing family-owned businesses with a

concrete wasteland." The council did not have a mandate; none of its members ran on Olive/I-170. Councilmember Jeff Hales (First Ward) responded that he had run on redeveloping Olive/I-170, as had others. He applauded the streaming of council meetings, which makes it easy for anyone to

verify facts.

In other citizen comment, one resident said it would be a positive step if public work crews reflected the racial composition of the neighborhood they were working in, as an encouragement to minority youth to seek construction jobs. A proponent of Olive/I-170 was worried that the city might miss the opportunity to stabilize neighborhoods of the Third Ward. But she praised the council because "free speech is not threatened now," the way it was in the previous administration. Another speaker said the redevelopment would cause property values and taxes to rise, "a double-edged sword," enriching some and shutting others out of the housing market. A St. Louis resident recounted some of the city's problems with TIFs like Olive/I-170. An opponent of Better Together, the initiative to reunite St. Louis city and county, characterized it as a bad financial deal.

City Manager Gregory Rose presented the budget for fiscal year 2020. It will be on [ucitymo.org](http://ucitymo.org). He will provide an overview May 9. No community meetings are scheduled at this time, but he doesn't oppose them. Results of the April 2 election were certified and Hales was sworn in to the council. Bwayne Smotherson (Third Ward) announced a Washington University/Arts and Letters commission event in Mooney Park April 27. Stacy Clay (Third Ward) announced a May 5 in-

formational event for seniors. Tim Cusick (Second Ward) announced the U City in Bloom Plant Sale April 26. Hales said the restaurant Taco Buddha, closed by fire damage, would reopen May 25. Paulette Carr (Second Ward) queried Rose about spraying for mosquitoes. He said U City has contracted with the county for spraying.



*Sunday evening drum circle returns to Market in the Loop Plaza.*

### Forest Park Fun

*Summer events abound*

Twilight Tuesdays concerts are held from 6-8 pm outside the Missouri History Museum. May 14: "Dreamgirls" with Willena Vaughn. May 21: R&B and Jazz with Love Jones The Band

The annual event for dog owners returns to the park. Bark in the Park is 8 am-1 pm Satur-

day, May 18 on the Cricket Field. Registration is \$25. Info: [hsmo.org](http://hsmo.org). The event is a benefit for the Humane Society of Missouri.

Shakespeare Festival St. Louis runs May 31-June 23 with *Love's Labor's Lost*. Green Show begins at 6:30 PM, the play at 8 in Shakespeare Glen near the art museum. No show on Tuesday. Free, but they'll make you feel very guilty if you don't make a donation. Info: [sfstl.com](http://sfstl.com).

The African Arts Festival is May 25-27 at the World's Fair Pavilion. Activities running from the morning into the evening include African marketplace, arts and crafts, cultural demonstrations, children's activities, music and dance performances, and food booths. Admission free. [africanartsfest.com](http://africanartsfest.com)

### U City Events

*Fair returns*

Fair U City 2019 is scheduled for June 7-9 in Herman Park. Friday evening and all afternoon and evening Saturday-Sunday. Carnival rides, community booths, food and music. ([fairucity.org](http://fairucity.org))

Midtown Farmers Market opened April 20 and will continue on Saturday mornings in Market in the Loop. For special events announcements, check their Facebook page.

Area Events and News  
Pulitzer's paper wins Pulitzer

National Bike to Work Day is Friday May 17. It's locally sponsored by Trailnet. Nearest "refueling" stations with coffee and baked goods will be at Missouri History Museum and Kaldi's on DeMun in Clayton. Workers are encouraged to give bike commuting a try and encourage coworkers to, as well.

The Bach Society of St. Louis presents Bach's Mass in B Minor at 3 pm Sunday May 19, at First Presbyterian Church in Kirkwood. Ticket info: bachsociety.org

Tony Messenger, columnist for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, won a Pulitzer Prize for commentary. The Post was founded by Joseph Pulitzer, creator of the prizes. Its most recent win was in 2015.

## Library Events

At University City Public Library, 6701 Delmar

May 15 Michael Don reads from his short story collection *Partners and Strangers*, 7 pm

May 18 Free Health Screenings, 9 am

May 18 Friends of the Library Trivia Night. Doors open at 6:30. Individual tickets \$20

June 9 Steve Pick and Amanda Doyle discuss their book *St. Louis Sound: an Illustrated Timeline*, 3 pm

## 1919

*A century ago in U City*

**March 12** A delegation from Wellston came to a meeting of the Board of Aldermen of U City to protest the city's plan to annex Wellston. The U City

school district was promoting this plan, but Mayor August Heman said he was against it. Another alderman joined Heman, saying Wellston was an industrial area and U City was residential. Several days later, at a meeting, Wellston residents voted to re-incorporate to prevent becoming part of U City.

**May 15** Investors in the enterprises of U City founder and publisher E.G. Lewis lost more than \$7 million dollars between 1902 and 1911. The final figure was announced at the closing of receivership proceedings. Lewis's only remaining asset was a \$500 account being held by a federal court.

**Sept. 3** A Curtiss biplane made a crash landing in a field at 7400 Delmar. James Gifin, army pilot turned entrepreneur, was operating the plane as an "air taxi" at a rate of \$1 per minute. It developed engine trouble, and on landing flipped over. Gifin and the one passenger aboard were not injured.

**Sept. 6** President and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson came to town. Wilson, a former president of Princeton, spent an hour and half touring Washington University. The presidential party then took a drive around the Central West End and Tower Grove Park.

## Myth Debunked

*Too bad, it was a good one*

The population of U City has dropped from 51,249 in 1960 to 35,115 in 2014. That's a substantial loss. But U City boosters say it's not as bad as

it looks. We don't have a lot of houses standing empty. What's happened is that average household size has shrunk across the nation. American families have fewer children now than they did in the 1950s.

That's comforting, but is it true? I investigated, with the help of the excellent research librarians at the library, who can navigate the complicated US census website. In 1960, U City households averaged 3.13 persons. In 2010--the most recent census--the average household size was 2.27. Households are 27.5 % smaller. But the population between 1960 and 2010 dropped 41.3%. These figures indicate that smaller families are only a partial explanation for U. City's population loss.

The "smaller families" story may have begun with city officials in 1970. This was the first time the census found a population drop, and a city publication theorized that aging parents were staying in their houses after their children grew up and departed, so fewer young families with small children could move in.

That sounds dubious in 2019. I think we can partially lift the onus from stay-put empty-nesters. But we're going to have find another explanation for population loss, and it may be unwelcome.

On a more optimistic note, the 2020 census may bring us better numbers. The 2010 census found a total population of 30,084, so, ac-

According to the 2014 city hall estimate quoted earlier, U City has added more than 5,000 people in four years. Let's hope next year's census shows continued growth.

## **School's Out**

*Academic year winds up*

At Washington University, Commencement is May 17. At University of Missouri-St. Louis, Commencement is May 18-19. At the School District of University City, May 29 is the last day of school.

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News of the Neighborhood:  
\*PGA Sponsors Memorial Day Run  
\*City Council Meets  
\*Outdoor Events in Forest Park