

# The Pacer

Published by the Parkview Gardens Association and the  
PGA Special Business District

## Welcome to the Neighborhood

### *Introducing ourselves*

Just moved in? The Parkview Gardens Association welcomes you, and offers some helpful information on our website, [parkviewgardens.org](http://parkviewgardens.org). The PGA is also responsible for the light-pole banners, the extra-bright streetlights, the flower and vegetable gardens and other amenities. This neighborhood improvement group, consisting of landlords, businesspeople and residents, was founded in 1980. You'll be welcome at our annual meeting in October. Membership is \$25 a year.

## More Time for Fun & Learning

### *Programs at Flynn Park School*

Unleashing Potential (formerly Neighborhood Houses) is holding before- and after-school programs

at University City elementary schools including Flynn Park. The programs offer fun and supportive activities including math, literacy, a meal or snack, fitness and con-

program. The balance of the weekly fee will be paid for by PGA-SBD.



*The Farmers Market offers fresh produce every Saturday morning in Market in the Loop.*

scious discipline. Applications are available online at [upstl.org](http://upstl.org). The Parkview Gardens Association will provide scholarships for children who live in this neighborhood. Participants in the program will need to pay the designated fee "per week" depending on the

tanical Garden holds its Japanese Festival Aug. 31-Sept. 2. The Labor Day parade begins at 9 am Sept. 2 at 15th St. and Olive Blvd. USA Cycling Pro Road Tour Gateway Cup races will be taking place at various locations throughout the weekend ([gatewaycup.com](http://gatewaycup.com)).

## Back to School

### *First day of classes*

Washington University  
Aug. 26

University of Missouri-St.  
Louis Aug. 19

University City schools  
Aug. 13

## Labor Day

### *Closings and events*

Monday Sept. 2 is Labor Day. The library and City Hall will be closed. Heman Park pool closes for the season at the end of the day. Trash pickup will be postponed to Tues. The Big Muddy Blues Festival runs Aug. 30-Sept. 1 on Laclede's Landing. The Botanical Garden holds its Japanese Festival Aug. 31-Sept. 2. The Labor Day parade begins at 9 am Sept. 2 at 15th St. and Olive Blvd. USA Cycling Pro Road Tour Gateway Cup races will be taking place at various locations throughout the weekend ([gatewaycup.com](http://gatewaycup.com)).

## U City Events

### *Big splash*

The Annual Puppy Pool Party is usually held at Heman Park pool the weekend after Labor Day. Check the Facebook page of U City People for Dogs for this year's date.

Dogs must be with an owner 18 or older. Owners must bring written proof that the dog's rabies shot is up to date.

The Community Resource Fair will be held from Sept. 14 from 8 am-2 pm. Yard sale booths, information on UC resources and organizations, free document shredding. At Heman Park pool parking lot

It's Harvest time at the Farmers Market, which continues every Saturday morning at Market in the Loop until November.

## Library Events

*All at University City*

*Public Library, 6701 Delmar*

Aug. 17 Free health screenings at 9 am

Aug. 28 Big Book Club discussion of *Moby Dick* and *The Bluest Eye* at 7 pm.

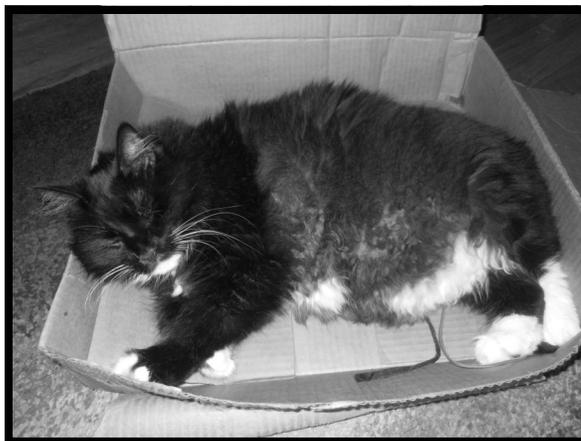
Sept. 9 Orcs and Aliens Book Club discusses *The Sky Is Yours* by Chandler Klang Smith at 7 p.m

## Keep Cats Inside

*And keep them alive*

The Humane Society of the U.S. and most veterinarians encourage cat owners to keep their pets inside. To judge from the number of "Kitty Lost" signs you see on telephone poles, it's a message people

need to hear. The starkest statistic provided by the Humane Society is that indoor cats have a lifespan of 12-18 years, but outdoor cats live only 2-3 years. Wandering cats are exposed to the dangers of traffic, poisons, wild and domestic animals, and sub-human beings. They also have a much-increased risk of catching such diseases as feline leukemia and rabies. Some reach the safety of an animal shelter, but for two-thirds of them, it's a one-way trip.



*A typical Parkview Gardens cat enjoys the good life indoors.*

Roaming cats also cause troubles for other creatures, including humans. Even well-fed cats are instinctive predators that kill many songbirds. They spread diseases and make unwanted kittens. Cats dig up flowers, spray walls, yowl during mating season and find other ways to make themselves and their owners unpopular with neighbors.

Although cats get in the habit if they're put out every night, they don't really need to roam. They can get plenty of diversion and exercise at home--and provide the same to their owners. Just walk past your

cat trailing a piece of string and you'll see. You don't want to be the one tacking "Kitty Lost" signs to telephone poles, because you'll have only a 5 % change of seeing your pet again.

## Area Events

### *Downtown and Forest Park*

The 55th annual Moonlight Ramble will take place Aug. 17, starting at the Soldiers Memorial downtown. The festival opens at 7 pm and the ride begins at 10 pm. Long and short rides are available. Registration starts at \$40. View the options at [trailnet.org](http://trailnet.org)

A show of Pulitzer-Prize winning photographs is at the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park until Jan. 3. More than 1,000 still pictures and 15 hours of video and audio interviews with photographers, including 75 pictures from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Admission free. Info (314) 746-4599.

## 5, 10 & 15 Years Ago

### *In the Pacer*

Aug. 2014

An information meeting was held on Loop Trolley construction, which was to be begin in October. Gateway Greening, co-sponsor with the PGA-SBD of the neighborhood's community gardens, used a drone to photograph all three for a fundraising film.

Aug. 2009

U City was celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Lion Gates by placing life-sized painted fiberglass lions around town. One was sponsored by the PGA-SBD. The library asked for donations to buy their

lion. The lion continues to inhabit the library.

Aug. 2004

Construction of Loop Living, the condo building at Westgate and Vernon avenues, was announced. The U City House Tour was scheduled for Sept. 26. All Saints Church held an ice cream social to welcome new residents to the neighborhood on Aug. 21.

## History Trivia

### *UC tie to crime classic*

In the classic mystery *The Maltese Falcon*, private eye Sam Spade asks homicide cop Tom Polhaus for information about the villainous Floyd Thursby. Polhaus says: "He was a St. Louis gunman the first we hear of him. He was picked up a lot of times for this and that, but he belonged to the Egan mob, so nothing much was ever done about any of it." Author Dashiell Hammett, a veteran Pinkerton operative, knew the ways of the underworld, circa 1930.

Egan's Rats was a very real Irish-American criminal gang. Their territory included U City. 7211 Olive Boulevard, built in 1909 and still standing, was once a tavern where gang members used to hang out, and where one of them was shot, though not fatally, according to Landmarks and Historic Places of University City. Both the book and the classic Bogart movie of *The Maltese Falcon* are available at the library, but you'll search in vain for any further reference to U City.

## U City News

### *More trouble with River des Peres*

A heavy rainfall on July 22-23 brought welcome relief from a heat wave, but also caused flash flooding in U City. KMOV and other local media reported that the River Des Peres rose quickly, causing four feet of standing water in the Westover Court apartment complex. U City



Sections of sidewalk on Syracuse Avenue were replaced in early August. . .

police and firefighters evacuated residents. No injuries were reported.

Construction is ongoing in the stretch of formerly vacant ground along Skinker in front of Washington University North Campus. It will become a parking lot for the CVS in the retail/office building being built at the corner of Skinker and Delmar.

## Bug Vs. Bug

### *Insect assassins*

In recent weeks you may have noticed large (half-inch to two-inch)

insects flying around Parkview Gardens. They are *Sphecius speciosus*, a type of solitary wasp commonly known as cicada killers. They're hunting their prey, which are abundant in the neighborhood. The females paralyze cicadas and bury them in a small burrow they've dug in the ground. Then they lay an egg. The larva hatches and devours the cicada. Obviously there's good reason for cicadas to beware these insects, but they're

not dangerous to humans. Females don't sting unless threatened, and males can't sting. Cicada killers will be around until September.

## Equal Status for Mental Health

### *Oregon schools take a step*

The state of Oregon announced July 21 that public schools will allow students to take "mental health days," just as they are now allowed to stay home

with a bodily ailment. The initiative championed by students is meant to decrease the stigma concerning mental illness. I'm all for that, although I do hope that teachers will be allowed to take Mental Health days, too. They need them.

## In Defense of Pronouns

### *A useful tool*

In late July, a *New York Times* columnist called Farhad Manjoo caused a fuss when he announced that pronouns were sexist and we

should use "they" for everybody from now on. I'm surprised that even ideological fervor could move a professional writer to make such an impractical suggestion. Pronouns have one job, to stand in for nouns, and they do it much better when they have some differentiation as to gender and number. Say you're writing about a conversation between Abelard and Heloise. Thanks to pronouns, you don't have to weary yourself and your reader by writing over and over again, "Abelard said" or "Heloise said." You can use "he" and "she." Then, when the Sorbonne Faculty of Theologians joins in the conversation, you can use "They said." Eliminate "he" and "she" and use "they" exclusively, and readers won't be able to tell who's talking. Mr. Manjoo, trying to reform pronouns, would render them practically useless.

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