

The Pacer

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Library Renewed

First look at plans

Last spring, the voters approved funds for the renovation of University City Public Library. At a Sept. 24 meeting, Bond Architects announced some specifics of the plan. The main improvements will be upgrades to electricity, telephone, heating, air conditioning, and plumbing systems as well as new carpeting and bathrooms. Changes to the main floor layout are also under consideration. The plan would move the reference desk eastward, to a more central position on the main floor. Three study rooms and a quiet reading area with comfortable armchairs would be added. On the second floor, walls may be taken down to make the art gallery more visible. The children's section may be expanded, with a protected area for toddlers and crawlers and another area for teens with plenty of laptop

plug-ins. The circulation desk may be centralized for better views of patron areas. Some adult book shelving would be lost from the second floor. A compact shelving storage area would be added in the basement. No changes are planned



University City Public Library

for the central stairway area, the meeting rooms, or adult CD/audiobook area. The exterior of the building will see tuck pointing and cleaning, but will stay unchanged except for the windows. The "picture windows" of this 1969 building do not meet current safety

or energy conservation standards. Replacing them would be prohibitively expensive. A "mullioned" window design is being considered. A facsimile of such a window has been prepared on the second floor, to your left as you come up the stairs. The change has not yet been approved by the Historic Preservation Commission. Library director Patrick Wall said that the building currently holds many more books than it was designed for; it will continue to do so. He hopes to keep the library partially open during all phases of construction. No schedule has been set. Work will probably begin sometime in the spring.

Council Meets

Cracking down on code violations

New software for the Community Development Department was the main business at the City Council meeting Sept. 23. Clifford Cross of department staff explained



Kingsland Walk

that the software is used to keep track of property maintenance inspections for occupancy permits. Since 2011 the department has used MyGov software. Sometimes inspectors in the field cannot log in to file their reports. Costs have gone up. The software has faults in tracking violations over time and notifying inspectors of dates for reinspection. Employees have limited ability to update the software in-house. A recommended alternative is SmartGov, which offers better compliance management. It would be easier to file reports and keep track of them. The cost of \$40 thousand per year would not be a significant increase, but there would be a substantial set-up cost. City Manager Gregory Rose said new software would make it easier to generate reports on violations of the property maintenance code for the council or the public. He also said it would help inspectors stay on top of nuisance properties, following up on violations. The city's court system is considering adding a second housing docket for improved

enforcement. Councilmember Stacy Clay (Third Ward) said that some properties have been problems for years and stricter enforcement was needed. Cross said the department hoped to have new software in place by early 2020.

In other business, Councilmember Steve McMahon (First Ward) nominated Susan Greenwald for a second term on the CALOP Commission. A resolution fixing property tax rates to provide for general revenue, police and firefighter retirement plan was unanimously approved. An ordinance terminating the Commission on Human Relations received its first reading. Councilmember Tim Cusick (Second Ward) said that the U City in Bloom House Tour Sept. 22 had been successful. Clay noted that this meeting was being held in the Community Center because the elevator in City Hall was out of service. This was a reminder that the council should take a comprehensive view of maintenance across the many buildings of the Civic Plaza.

Construction Update

Completion in sight
Three new buildings are under construction in and around Parkview Gardens. Kingsland

Walk, at the corner of Kingsland and Vernon, is scheduled for completion in spring 2020. Offering assisted living and memory care facilities, the four-story, 68-unit building will be managed by Arrow Senior Living. Link in the Loop, at the corner of Skinner and Delmar, is estimated to be completed March 1, 2020. CVS Pharmacy, the ground-floor retail tenant, is expected to open for business in early summer. The upper floors will hold offices. The two buildings at 6405 Cates Avenue have 21 rental apartments. Tenants should be starting to move in by the end of the month.

Fall Back

Evenings darken
Daylight Saving Time ends 2 am Sunday, Nov. 3. 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



Link in the Loop

-9511. If a streetlight has gone out, go to ameren.com 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

U City Events

Halloween fun for kids

A flea market and rummage sale will be held in the Loop at 6655 Delmar from 8 am- 4 pm Oct. 13 hosted by Welcome Neighbor. Free admission

Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse, the oldest building in University City, holds a free open house on the following Sundays, 2-4 pm: Oct. 20, Nov. 3, Nov. 17. 6826 Chamberlain Ct.

Make a Difference Day is Saturday, Oct. 26. The national community volunteerism event is strongly supported in U City. Past projects include River des Peres and alley cleanup. Go to ucitymo.org for more information.

Halloween Happenings Trunk or Treat Event for families is 5-7 pm Oct. 25 at Cent Comm. Prizes will be given for Best Trunk, Spookiest Trunk, and Most Creative Trunk. Info: (314) 505-8613

Area Events

Talks and performances

Dan Zettwoch of Washington University talks about Illustrated Cartography at 12:15 pm Oct. 21 at Gallery 210 on the UMSL campus. Zettwoch

worked on the murals in the Missouri History Museum exhibition "A Walk in 1875 St. Louis." His talk is part of the Monday Noon series and free.

Winter Opera opens its season with *The Pirates of Penzance* by Gilbert and Sullivan, Nov. 8 and 10 at Chaminade. Ticket info: (314) 865-0038.

The 28th annual Whitaker St. Louis International Film Fes-



6405 Cates Avenue

tival will be held Nov. 7-17 at the Tivoli and other theaters. The full schedule of movies and other events will be posted at cinemastlouis.org in October.

Library Events

At U City public library, 6701 Delmar

Oct. 16 The Board of Directors of the Parkview Gardens Association and its associated Special Business District meet at 6 pm Oct 16. The meeting is open to the public. Oct 19 Free health screenings starting at 9 am.

Oct. 28 Award-winning local sci-fi author Ann Leckie discusses her new book *The Raven Tower* at 7 pm

Nov. 11 Closed for Veterans Day

Free Video

Barry Lyndon

From the DVD shelves of U City library. After the success of *2001: A Space Odyssey*, Stanley Kubrick tackled his most ambitious project: a Napoleon biopic. In preparation,

he did his usual exhaustive research into the historical epoch, only to have the film's financing fall through. Being immersed in the period by this point, he considered adapting William Makepeace Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*, which is set in the Napoleonic era. Finally he settled on a less-known Thackeray novel set in the 1770s and '80s, about

an Irish adventurer who rises to the top of society only to tumble back to the bottom. The locations, sets, and costumes are gorgeous, and Kubrick's staging, framing, and lighting are up to this meticulous and innovative filmmaker's usual standard. Oddly, though, he didn't trust the images to speak for themselves. The film is narrated all the way through. Even more oddly, the narration does not come from Thackeray's novel. The master ironist had Barry tell his own story, and much of the humor arises from his

self-serving falsehoods and inflated self-image. The film narration is third-person and has the effect of distancing the viewer from the characters and events. Barry is played by Ryan O'Neal, a burly actor with an incongruously small and plaintive voice. He is placed in so many dire predicaments in the first half of the film that he holds your sympathy. Once Barry marries a Countess and moves into her castle, he behaves so meanly and stupidly that you get thoroughly tired of him. The Countess is played by Marisa Berenson. Charming and touching in *Cabaret*, she's given little to say or do here, other than have outlandish wigs and hats piled atop her head. Long as it is, the film lacks any of those indelible Kubrick moments, like Colonel Kong riding the nuclear bomb in *Dr. Strangelove* or the elevator pouring blood in *The Shining*. "Slow and cold" was the verdict when it came out in 1975, but since then die-hard Kubrick fans have found much to admire about it. Watching it again, I found it as beautiful and inert as ever. Instead, I recommend Kubrick's other historical epic, *Spartacus*. He disowned it because he didn't have complete control, but it's a much more enjoyable movie.

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News of the Neighborhood:
*Local construction update
*City Council: code enforcement
*Library renovation