

The Pacer

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

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 Wednesday October 16, upstairs at University City Public Library, 6701 Delmar. After a review of last year, activities will be planned for the coming year. Election of officers will be held. Samudra Haddad, one of the community representatives, and Dan Wald, one of the property owners representatives, are running for new three-year terms. 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. The PGA is responsible for the light pole

banners, extra-bright street-lights, flower and vegetable gardens, and other amenities. The neighborhood improvement group, consisting of landlords, businesspeople and residents, was founded in 1980. Membership is \$25 a year.



The U. City Fire Department station on Westgate Ave. north of Vernon.

You don't have to be a member to attend the meeting.

Ambo Insourced

And other U City news

The University City Fire Department is running the ambu-

lance service again. In 2015, then-Mayor Shelley Welsch and a majority of the city council made the controversial decision to outsource emergency medical services to Gateway, a private company, arguing that it would save money. Residents got used to seeing Gateway's homeless ambulances moping about disconsolately at the corner of Westgate and Delmar or in a Heman Park parking lot. Now the emergency vehicles will be at home at the Fire Station off Vernon Avenue in Parkview Gardens. At a ceremony there on Aug. 3, Mayor Terry Crow praised the "five-year-long struggle" by citizens to "insource" EMS. The city used a FEMA grant to hire 12 paramedic/firefighters and rehab an ambulance.

The city has approved the new Costco shopping center at Olive/I-170, but no date for the beginning of construction has been set yet, city manager

Gregory Rose announced at the Aug. 12 city council meeting. The developer, Novus, is still acquiring property and arranging financing. Rose thought it would be two years before the city started seeing revenue from the project.

University City Landmarks and Historic Places, which was out of stock for the last year, is again available at the library for \$15. The book describes U City's special buildings and includes photos and fold-out maps. It was researched and written by Judy Little, one of the founders of the Historical Society of University City, and Esley Hamilton, former preservation historian of St. Louis County. It was published by the Historic Preservation Commission and University City, which paid for the printing costs of the new edition. Several buildings in Parkview Gardens are featured, including Donaldson Court, All Saints Church, and 6311 Clemens.

U City Events

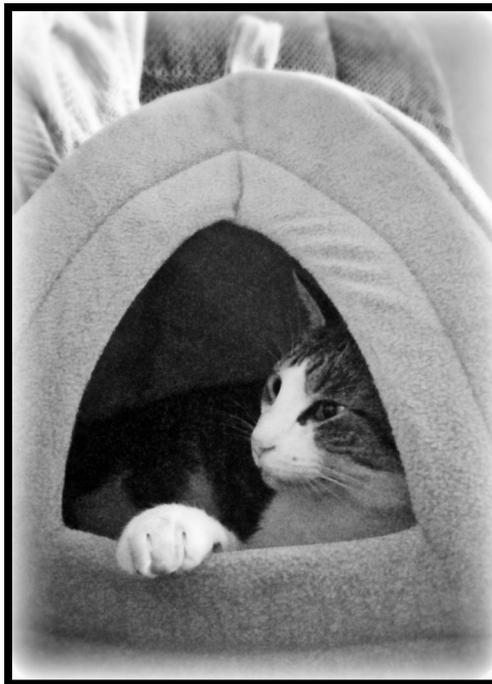
Laughs in the Loop

Friday evening Oct. 4 is Get Looped night on Delmar, with shopping specials, dining deals and entertainment. More info at visittheloop.com

Local comic Yale Hollander thought people had been laughing at the Loop Trolley for too long; now they should laugh on it. So he started Laugh Tracks. Stand-up comedians will be entertaining passengers aboard the trolley Sept. 13, Oct. 11 and Dec. 13,

according to the *Riverfront Times*. There's no charge except the usual fare. Board at the Pageant stop. Showtime is 9 pm. The show lasts for one full circuit of the trolley, about 40 minutes.

The U City in Bloom Garden Tour and Plein Air event is Sunday afternoon Sept. 22 in Brittany Woods. It's a chance to tour home gardens and see



Last month's Pacer listed the benefits of indoor life for cats. Here is a happy, well-sheltered Parkview Gardens cat, Mr. BooBoo Kitty.

painters at work. The afternoon closes with a party and art show at Heman Park Community Center. Tickets are \$20 at ucityinbloom.org.

Two more Starlight concerts remain in the season. Sept. 16, J-Rob performs Motown and R&B. Sept. 23, Oquestra Chevere performs Latin and Pop. Both concerts are free at

6:30 pm in Heman Park.

Library Events

At U City Public Library

Sept. 21 Free health screenings at 9 am

Sept. 25 U City Book Club discusses *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones at 7 pm

Oct. 15 Read the Classics Book Club discusses *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins at 2 pm.

Balloon Views

Now and 100 years ago

The Great Forest Park Balloon Race is Sept. 21, with festivities all afternoon and the balloons lifting off from the Central Fields shortly before 5 pm. If the wind is right, they may pass over Parkview Gardens.

On September 18, 1919, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reported that the Army had sent one of its observation balloons to town as part of a recruiting drive. An aerial view of the city was a novelty a century ago, when few people had flown and skyscrapers weren't really that tall. A reporter made two ascents, one to 400 feet over the West End, the other to 900 feet over South City. The most remarkable aspect of the first trip was "the illusion that the city really was nothing but a dense forest." The tree canopy covered most buildings. Among the few exceptions were "the octagon building in University City," (now City Hall) and the hilltop campus of Washington University. The reporter was



The Westgate–Enright bed, one of nine decorative gardens sponsored by PGA-SBD.

less impressed with the higher ascent. St. Louis appeared as a flat plain, the streetcars and houses looked like toys, and even the Mississippi looked undersized. A pall of black smoke was the city's most impressive feature. Today, the air pollution caused by burning coal is gone. In the West End, the tree canopy continues to be impressive, as anyone who has looked over it from the top of City Hall can attest.

Remembering the Tivoli

In its decrepit days

This summer, the Tivoli ran a series of classic films, which reminded me of the time when it did nothing else. Back in the 1980s, the Tivoli was a "revival house." The term is unfamiliar now, and most young people probably think it refers to a church where sinners weepingly repent. Back then, every city had a revival house where old movies were screened. The program changed every couple of days. Flicks from the golden age of Hollywood alternated

with obscure European art films. Bette Davis one night, Jean-Luc Godard the next. Prices were low. Some patrons said you got what you paid for, as far as amenities were concerned. The Tivoli, at that time a single auditorium, was a dismal place, more than 50 years old and showing it.

Many seats were broken, the floor had sticky patches from dropped soft drinks, and there were rumors of rats. No one had dreamed of digital projection yet, and the quality of prints varied. Sometimes colors were faded. There might be pops on the soundtrack and scratches on the image. On some nights, an embarrassed manager would have to go to the front of the house to apologize that the big drums of film simply hadn't arrived. Even so the Tiv was a neighborhood fixture. The long schedule sheet, with its tiny-print descriptions of movies, was to be seen on closet doors and refrigerators all around the Loop. You often encountered neighbors at the concession stand. It's hard to feel nostalgia for the old Tiv when you walk into today's beautifully restored multiplex, showing new films

you often are unlikely to find anywhere else in town. Today you can own DVDs of your favorite films and watch them anytime. Still, I miss the era when the only available storage medium was your memory. After a lapse of years, a movie struck you differently. Some, sadly, lost their magic. *Casablanca*, of course, always came through.

Fall Arts

Entertainment around town

Stephane Deneve's first concert as music director of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra will be Sept. 21. He will conduct selections from Ravel and Gershwin's *An American in Paris*.

Bookfest St. Louis in the Central West End starts at 10:30 am Sept. 21 and runs all day and evening Author signings, panel discussions, books on sale, etc. (bookfeststl.com)



Comedy aboard the trolley? See story on p. 2

Jazz@Webster series presents the Carolbeth True Trio 7 pm Sept. 23 at Winifred Moore Auditorium, 410 E. Lockwood Ave., in Webster Groves. \$7

Winter Opera's fall gala is Sept. 27. It's a dinner at Old Warson Country Club, at \$150 per person, featuring musical entertainment. (314-865-0038)

The Kemper Art Museum at Washington University reopens on Sept. 28. with a show of sculpture, photographs and films by dissident Chinese artist Ai Weiwei

Best of Missouri Market brings together more than 120 regional food producers. It's all weekend, Oct. 4-6 at Missouri Botanical Garden (mobot.org) General admission \$16.

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News of the Neighborhood:
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*Once upon a time at the Tivoli