

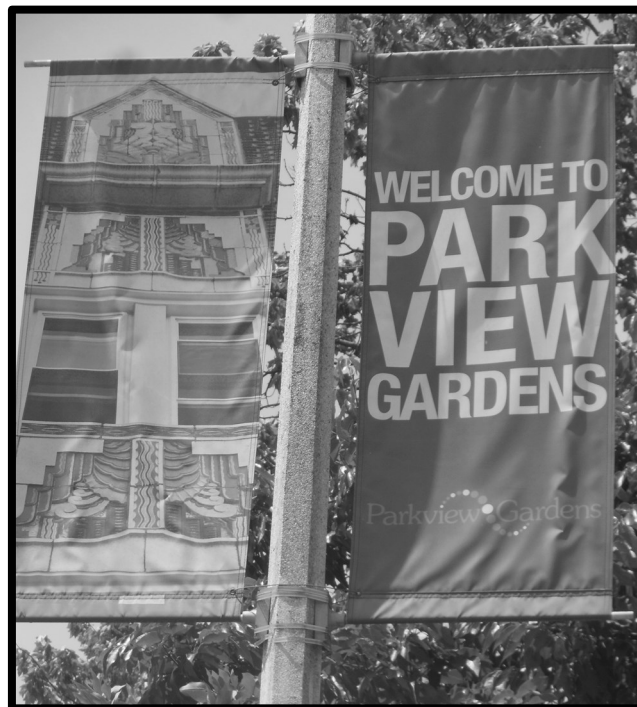
The Pacer

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Banners and blooms

June is bustin' out all over

The Parkview Gardens Association SBD is planning to replace the six year-old light pole banners with news ones of the same designs by Traci Moore. Loop gardener Kelcye McDonough and helpers are planting the neighborhood's ten decorative gardens, sponsored by PGA-SBD, with colorful, pollinator-attracting annuals, including old favorites like zinnias and new ones like coreopsis.



getting mid-June for restoring normal public access to City Hall. Door-to-door soliciting is

in mid-June by timed reservation only. The Botanical Garden is hoping to re-open in mid-June.

U City Public Library is gradually re-opening. Curbside pickup begins June 3. You can reserve online and pick up the items you have placed on hold. You can also return books to the drop. The summer adult reading program is going ahead. As usual, the book is a long and intimidating classic, but this time a more recent one: David Foster Wallace's *Infinite Jest*. The alternative consists of two books by Octavia E. Butler, *Parable of the Talents* and *Parable of the Sower*.

Back to Business

With restrictions

City Manager Gregory Rose announced May 22 that on June 1 the city would resume its normal yard waste collection schedule. The requirement for stickers on the bags has been suspended. Rose is tar-

banned across the city. Rose said there is no word on the pool or CentCom yet. The Dog Park on Vernon has re-opened.

The St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* reported May 21 that the Zoo will re-open June 15 using timed tickets available online. Access to indoor exhibits will be limited. The Science Center will also re-open

Council Meets

Doing business virtually

On May 11 the City Council of University City met via Zoom and sought to quell rumors swirling online about the Olive/I-170 redevelopment. Mayor Terry Crow said

that social media comments in advance of the meeting contained errors. Councilmember Paulette Carr (Second Ward) said rumors that Costco, the anchor tenant, was pulling out were false. She added that the council was "doing our due diligence" and its handling of this issue would be fully transparent. City Manager Gregory Rose introduced a new bill on the redevelopment. He said it makes no substantial alterations but does give the developer, Novus, more time to acquire land and is intended to enhance its ability to obtain financing. Standard procedures were being followed and there would be no vote on the bill at this meeting. In citizen comments, David Harris said that the deadline extensions were too long and the slow financing was a red flag.

In other business, Amy Gilbertson and Amanda Truemper of Trivers summarized the findings of their study of U City's space needs. The city has nine buildings and nine departments. The most visited is Parks and Recreation, at Centennial Commons. Some buildings, like the annex and the old library, are not in use except for storage. Among user comments was that City Hall has access problems because of its steep staircases and single small elevator. Users also said it's a beautiful building. Heman Park Community Center is worth updating. The police deserve a permanent headquarters. Summarizing her internal survey, Truemper said

that the arrangements do not facilitate collaboration; departments are "siloed" and meeting space is lacking. The city has total office space, including unused buildings, of 110,510 square feet. Its existing office space, including the temporary police building, is 89,790 sq. ft. Proposed office space needed is 101,470 sq. ft. Rose said that this summary does not include a recommendation on renovating the annex vs. building a new station for the police. Crow said the city needs to be prudent in expenditures, as the population is declining. He also said that the world is

gible to collect \$1.4 million of funds received by St. Louis County to compensate municipalities for loss of tax revenue. The city will apply for these funds to use for police and fire protection services. Councilmembers thanked Paulette Carr (Second Ward), who retires after this meeting, for her service.

Since U City's future seems to be bound up with Costco, a May 26 NPR *Marketplace* report may be of interest. It said the pandemic lockdown had caused Costco's biggest loss since 2009. But online sales have risen 90%

this spring. That's good news for Costco, but not for U City, which is counting on a store. So let's hope NPR's expert was right. He predicted Costco's future growth will be in ordering online/picking up at the store.

Dive Bombers

Avian acrobat-

ics

At night we're hearing an odd sound in Parkview Gardens. Some say it sounds like "Waaauhh!" Others describe it as a "deep whirr." What's making this noise? It's the common night-hawk. These and other nightjars are the birds you see circling and swooping in the evening sky as they devour insects. The noise they normally make is a short, buzzy call. But the male can also "boom." Here's how the website aboutbirds.org describes it:



University City High School salutes graduates.

in the midst of a large-scale experiment in working from home, which will be bound to influence discussion of U City's office space needs.

At its May 26 meeting, the council unanimously approved the bill to support the Olive/I-170 redevelopment. In public comment, Tom Sullivan stated, "As has become obvious, financial institutions don't think much of the Costco development either--same as many citizens." U. City is eli-

"Flying at a height slightly above the treetops, he abruptly dives for the ground. As he peels out of his dive (sometimes just a few meters from the ground) he flexes his wings downward, and the air rushing across his wingtips makes a deep booming or whooshing sound, as if a racecar has just passed by. The dives may be directed at females, territorial intruders, and even people."

Cool Breeze

In your apartment.
We've had an unusually cool (and wet) May, but we should expect June to be as hot and humid as usual in St. Louis. A few words of advice from PGA landlords on central air conditioning are timely:

*If nothing happens when you hit the switch, go down to the basement and check the circuit breakers or fuses. (Assuming, of course that you have access to the basement. If not, call the landlord.)

*Don't expect instant comfort. It takes two or three hours for the system to get the humidity out of the apartment.

*Once you turn it on, leave it on while the hot weather lasts. When you go out, turn the thermostat up to 85. On your return set it down to 78, which repre-

sents the best compromise between comfort and expense. There is a limit to how cool an apartment can be made; if the temp outside is 100, 80 is about the best you can expect inside.

*Check and if necessary replace your furnace filter ele-



The Farmers Market is open Saturday mornings at Market in the Loop.

ment. The air conditioning uses the same system as the furnace, and a clogged filter can cause a coil to freeze.

*Make sure the return grille is not blocked by furniture or pictures.

Online Crime

Crooks sneak in via your modem

Computer/modem and phone provide us with most of our access to the world these days. Unfortunately, they also provide con artists with access to us. I've nearly been taken in by a couple of unusu-

ally slick phishing attempts. One purported to be an email from Netflix, using all the right designs and logos, saying my account needed attention. Since I do have an account, I clicked on the link, and a page opened that, according to the url box, was netflix.com. But it asked so

many questions that I got suspicious and went to netflix.com on my own, and there was no problem with my account. Be wary of phone crooks, too. The American Automobile Association says that more than 14 million Americans became victims of identity theft in 2018. The AAA advises

refusing to give out personal or financial information to callers, no matter how convincingly they pretend to be your bank or credit card company. You may want to sign up with a company that monitors credit bureaus and insures you against identity theft.

Roaring '20s

Hot times in U City

A century ago, big changes were coming to this town. On July 7, 1920 the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* announced that the population of U City had gone up by 181% in ten years

and now stood at 6,792. In the decade to come, more than 20,000 would move into the city. Nineteen-twenty was the year the Delmar Garden amusement park was sold to developers who divided it into lots and began construction of what would become the western third of our neighborhood. The eastern two-thirds (Ackert Park is the dividing line) was already built up. At 720 Westgate Avenue, a third-floor apartment was for rent for \$100 a month. September 7 was election day, and four women were waiting in line when the Second Ward polling place opened at 5:30 am. The nineteenth amendment to the Constitution giving women the vote had passed on Aug. 18, and they became the first women to vote in a mayoral election in Missouri. They announced that they were voting for Warren C. Flynn, running to replace August Heman, who had died in office. Flynn won.

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News of the Neighborhood:
*Pandemic: re-openings
*Latest on Olive/I-170 redevelopment
*Booms in the night
