

The Pacer

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

PGA Meets

What's next for neighborhood?

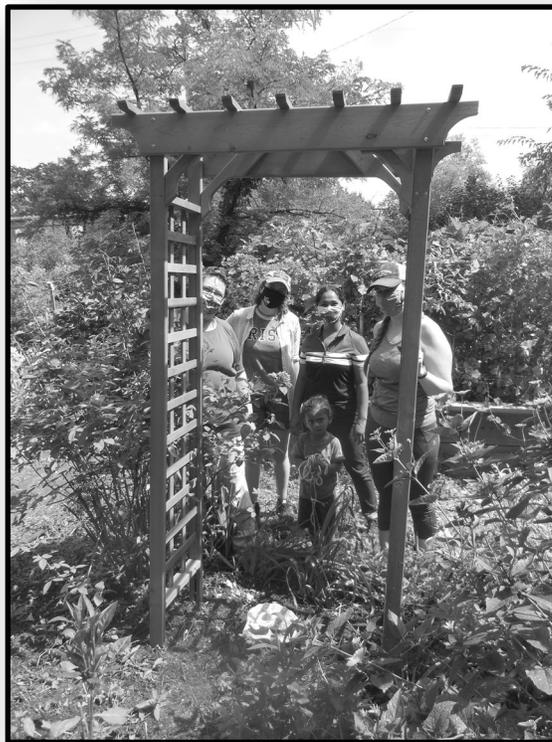
The annual meeting of the Parkview Gardens Association and its associated special business district will be a Zoom online meeting, from 6 to 8 pm Tuesday, Oct. 13. After a review of last year, activities will be planned for the coming year. Election of officers will be held. The meeting will be open to the public. If you want to attend virtually, email the Pacer editor at davidlinzee@yahoo.com. This neighborhood improvement group, consisting of landlords, businesspeople and residents, was founded in 1980. Membership is \$25 a year. You don't have to be a member to attend the meeting.

Ackert Renewed

Art & nature

The University City Parks Department has begun the process

of obtaining funding for a re-vamping of Ackert Park. Inspired by the Parkview Gardens Master Plan of 2011, the



Saturday, August 8th, workday at Clemens. The rose arbor is cedar, and was constructed from a kit by one of the gardeners. The arbor replaces one that had fallen apart. Clemens is one of three community gardens co-sponsored by the PGA-SBD.

proposal is for the central part of the park from Westgate to Leland and is estimated to cost \$577,000. Improvements include: a sculpture garden on

the upper level with native perennials, a mural on the retaining wall, a splash pad at the existing fountain on the lower level, a new playground with rubberized surface, two bike racks, new signage, a parks message bulletin board, screen plantings on the north side and a new rain garden on the south side, new shade structure and trees and shrubs. The city is applying to St. Louis County for a grant and should hear back by the end of Oct. A detailed plan of the proposal is available at ucitymo.org, Departments, Parks. At the Oct. PGA/SBD meeting, boardmembers will be considering assisting in partial funding of the proposal if necessary.

Council Meets

Street renaming

At a virtual meeting August 10, the City Council discussed the collective bargaining agreement with the Fire Department, which creates a labor/management committee. Topics discussed included a "no strikes" provision, the lack of a position for an assistant fire chief, seniority

assignments and number of personnel. The council voted to approve the collective bargaining agreement. A bill to establish a market on Olive Blvd. got its second reading. Councilmember Tim Cusick (Second Ward) said that recent heavy rains had caused some flooding, pointing up the need for a warning system. Mayor Terry Crow brought up the renaming of city streets like Jackson Ave., which is named after Confederate General Stonewall Jackson. U City will have to coordinate with Clayton, through which Jackson Ave. also runs. Dorset may have to be renamed if the man it is named for owned slaves. At present, this is unknown. Crow proposed that each councilmember nominate a resident for a working group, which would spend 90-120 days reviewing street and park names. The City Council would then make renaming decisions. Steve McMahan (First Ward) nominated Bwayne Smotherson (Third Ward) for the office of mayor pro tem. He was elected. The next virtual council meeting is at 6:30 pm Sept. 14. Go to ucitymo.org to find links to the livestream.

Masked vs. Unmasked

A matter of personality
St. Louis County requires the wearing of masks in public places, but any sojourn into such places will show that many people are going barefaced. Discussion of the mask controversy usually focuses on its political aspects. But it may be that many who prefer to go unmasked are not trying to make a political statement. They just don't want to bother

with remembering their masks, putting them on, taking them off, steaming up their glasses, etc. It's well established that many Americans resist following doctor's orders on all sorts of topics, such as tobacco use and obesity. But there is a type of person who takes the trouble to form and keep healthy habits. The medical profession calls him or her "the conscientious individual." Such people, according to many studies, "tend to experience a number of health benefits, not the least of which being greater longevity." According to this paper from the Department of Health and Human Services, conscientiousness is "a more important factor for a longer lifespan than gender or education." Another paper reported that "conscientious individuals report lower high blood pressure, lower incidence of diabetes, stroke, and joint problems, and fewer psychiatric conditions." The conscientious are less likely to indulge in activities like "risky driving, risky sex, suicide, tobacco use, and violence." Further research is likely to find that the conscientious are less likely to ride motorcycles, and if they do, will avoid mass gatherings of unmasked fellow bikers in the middle of a pandemic. What are the characteristics of the conscientious personality? Psychologists say they have "a tendency to be responsible, organized, hard-working, goal-directed, and to adhere to norms and rules. A conscientious person is good at self-regulation and impulse control." In a word, *boring*, you may be thinking, if you're one of life's swashbucklers. Certainly, no conscientious person will ever be the hero of a "dark" cable-TV drama se-

ries. But the conscientious are more likely to get through a pandemic alive and well. If your motto is, "Live fast, die young and leave a pretty corpse"--well, that's what you're likely to do.

Real Estate Roundup

U City developments

A proposed project now before the Plan Commission is Delmar Apartments, a 254-unit apartment complex, which would be located west of the interchange with I-170. The complex would consist of a five-story building on the east side, a four-story building on the west side and a parking lot. An existing condominium in Parkview Gardens, at 6404 Cates, is being offered for sale at \$279,900. Kingsland Walk, the newly constructed residential facility at 868 Kingsland, is offering virtual tours at kingslandwalkseniorliving.com, and in-person sessions with prospective tenants, arranged by calling (314) 955-6884. The temporary information center is at 6721 Vernon Avenue.

Free Video

On the Hot shelf of U City Library

Richard Jewell was the security guard who found a terrorist bomb at the Atlanta Olympics and was falsely accused of planting it. When Clint Eastwood's movie was released last year, audiences were not interested. But it's a well-made film with a strong cast. *The Farewell*: The grandmother of an extended Chinese-American family does not have long to live. Following Chinese cus-

tom, the family does not tell her about her terminal diagnosis. Instead, they gather to say farewell, under the pretext of a wedding. Which means that they can't actually say farewell. This precarious situation provides many opportunities for melancholy comedy.

5, 10 15, 20 Years Ago

In the Pacer

Sept. 2015

Washington University widened the sidewalk for dual use (pedestrians and bicycles) along the south side of Enright Avenue and connected it to the Ackert Walkway, part of the Centennial Greenway bike trail system. Parkview Gardens lost one of its decorative flowerbeds to construction. Ambulance service was outsourced to Gateway Ambulance Inc. by the City Council, which ignited a long, fierce controversy, public safety vs. money-saving. Ambulance service was "insourced" to the Fire Department last year. The Missouri Supreme Court ruled red-light cameras unconstitutional because they identified the car but not the driver. U City in Bloom held a garden tour Sept. 20, which included a stop at Clemens Community Garden.

Sept. 2010

Of the painted fiberglass lions created for the 100th anniversary party of the Lion Gates in 2009, all had been auctioned off

save three that remained on display, in the public library, atop Centennial Commons and in Flynn Park. All are still in place. A lion that was later placed at the southwest corner of Heman Park has been removed for repair. St. Louis was talking about competing plans for the renovation of the Gateway Arch grounds. The project was completed last year. In Syracuse community garden, a big maple tree died. Its trunk was left as a "snag," to provide a home for birds. It



Parkview Gardens brickwork

continues to serve that purpose.

Sept. 2005

Joe Edwards announced plans to build a hotel in the East Loop. It would incorporate the facade of the former funeral home that stood on the spot. It was built and named the Moonrise Hotel.

Sept. 2000

The U City Residential Service sponsored a bike tour of U City on Sept. 24. The Dept. of Parks and Recreation announced that the summer youth program, co-sponsored by PGA SBD, ended in Au-

gust with 65 young people participating. Chuck Berry, rock and roll legend who still performed at Blueberry Hill, received Kennedy Center Honors from President Bill Clinton.

U City Virtual Event

All online

U City in Bloom's annual Plein Air Festival is virtual this month. To view the artists' paintings of U City gardens and houses, go to ucityinbloom.org. You can follow the artists as they paint on Instagram and cast your vote for the "People's Choice" Award. Prizes will be awarded to the winning artists Oct. 4.

School Scene

*Dealing with
Covid-19*

Washington University is welcoming students back to campus. Classes

will be a blend of live and virtual. Indoor spaces have been rearranged for social distancing. Masks are required. On-campus housing has been decreased, leading to large numbers of undergraduates applying for apartments in Parkview Gardens and other neighborhoods near the Danforth campus. Saint Louis University is holding in-person classes, but nonessential activities have been curtailed. SLU announced it is staying open over Labor Day to minimize travel. The School District of University

City has begun the year with all classes online, but hopes to offer in-person classes as soon as conditions improve.

Welcome to the Neighborhood

Introducing ourselves

Just moved in? The Parkview Gardens Association welcomes you, and offers some helpful information on our website, parviewgardens.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 (see p.1) . Membership is \$25 a year.

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830 Vanderbilt Avenue
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News of the Neighborhood:

- *Ackert Park plans
- *Street Renaming
- *PGA Online Meeting