

# The Pacer

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

## PGA Meets

### *Spring get-together*

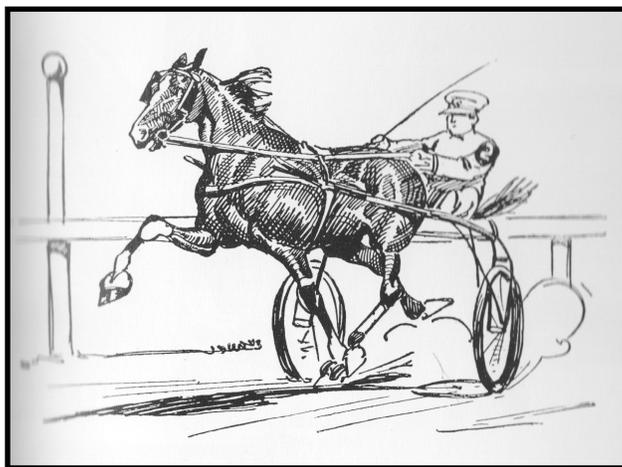
The semi-annual meeting of the Parkview Gardens Association and its Special Business District will be held at 6 pm Tuesday, May 4. It will be a virtual event on Zoom. The neighborhood association, founded in 1980, has sponsored many improvements, including the community gardens and decorative flower beds. Officers will consider applications for the PGA Award, review the year past and discuss ways to enhance the local quality of life in the year to come. Neighborhood residents and business people are welcome to attend. To receive the link, please email [davidlinzee@yahoo.com](mailto:davidlinzee@yahoo.com), preferably a few days before the event.

## Play and Learn

### *Summer youth program*

The School District of University City introduces a new program, Camp U, combining

summer school and summer camp. It's free to all U City first through eighth grade students. Classes and activities will be held in person, with younger kids going to Jackson



*Original logo of The Pacer, which marks 24 year of publication with this issue.*

Park Elementary School, older ones to Brittany Woods Middle School. There will be classes in the traditional subjects of reading, writing and math, as well as field trips and other activities in partnership with COCA, the Magic House and the Science Center. The dates are June 7-July 16. Lunch will be provided. More info: [ucityschools.org](http://ucityschools.org).

## Council Meets

### *Developments progress*

At the virtual City Council meeting March 22, Mayor Terry Crow deplored recent attacks on Asian-Americans in Atlanta. He urged people to speak out against scapegoating, noting that U City is a diverse and welcoming community. Kathleen Sorkin was re-appointed to the EDRST Board and Ed Nickels appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission. The council approved the purchase of traffic/speed trailers for the police, to inform passing drivers of how fast they are going. Deterring speeding is the sole purpose, no tickets will be issued. Jeff Hales (First Ward) said that citizens frequently requested more traffic/speed trailers. The firm of Gilmore Bell has been retained to provide legal services for the Annex building renovation. The firm has had a long relationship with the city. The final plat of the tract to be called Market at Olive was approved. The council extended time for the devel-

oper of the Olive commercial corridor to acquire property. The Green Practices Commission seeks grants and volunteers to clear out invasive plants from Ruth Park woods. Crow praised the new lights on the old Cicero's building and thanked the owner for investing in U City.

## Upcoming Events

### *Not all virtual*

The U City in Bloom Plant Sale is one the most popular annual local events. Last year the coronavirus forced cancelation. This year U City in Bloom will hold the sale outdoors, at their Vernon Avenue yard, on May 1 and 2. Check [ucityinbloom.org](http://ucityinbloom.org) for updates.

The Confluence Trash Bash is April 17-24. Volunteers clean up our creeks and streams. More info and signup at [greatriversgreenway.org](http://greatriversgreenway.org).

The Women's Hope Chorale holds a virtual concert from the Lake House at 7 pm April 24 featuring jazz, opera and show tunes. This is a free Facebook Premiere event. More info including link at [womenchopechorealestl.org](http://womenchopechorealestl.org).

The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra is offering a mixture of virtual and in-person concerts at Powell Hall this spring. Tickets at [slo.org](http://slo.org)

## State of the City

### *Pool and Cent Com reopen*

The State of the City Address was held virtually, sponsored by the Historical Society, on March 4, which would have

been the 152nd birthday of E.G. Lewis, founder of U City. City Manager Gregory Rose noted that though last year's address had been held in-person, the great coronavirus lockdown was impending. "Little did I realize we'd still be in a state of closure" a year later, he said. But that's coming to an end. The city is preparing to reopen Centennial Commons May 28, Heman Park pool May 29. Staff members are being hired or rehired.



*New lighting on Delmar Garden building.*

The city's finances remain strong, the pension funds healthy. But the recycling program is struggling. China has stopped accepting recycling materials from the U.S. Hard decisions will have to be made, involving continuing the recycling program and raising rates. Public Safety has been strengthened by insourcing ambulance service and installing security cameras for crime prevention. Rose thanked police and firefighters for their service in hazardous coronavirus times. On the development front, he said that a major goal is to diversify the

economy. U City is primarily a bedroom community, with some business. It is reliant on sales tax. City Hall is studying Cunningham Industrial Park, looking for ways to attract more business. The Third Ward has too much rental housing. City Hall seeks to create a better path to home ownership and raise the value of housing throughout U City. Small businesses have been hurt by the lockdown. City help has enabled many to survive. U City continues to invest in infrastructure like parks and streets and services to residents. A citizen satisfaction survey is coming soon. Rose said that U City welcomed Black Lives Matter members engaged in peaceful protest. He concluded that if we work together we can yet achieve the ideals of President Johnson's Great Society.

Mayor Terry Crow, noting that he had not been in the City Council Chamber from which he was then speaking for a year, said, "We miss seeing you in this chamber." He noted the passing of former councilmember Bob Wagner. He said the city had been guided through the difficult year now ending by science. He thanked first responders who went beyond the call of duty. He said, "We are in a better financial position than expected." He realized that the timing of re-opening of schools and recreational facilities was controversial, with some thinking U City was moving too slowly. The

EDRST allocated \$1 million to assist businesses. The Police Department has been in temporary quarters for too long. The Annex is being prepared for the department. Crow thanked U Citians for their patience on the Olive/I-170 redevelopment. He said tracts of land are being closed on and financing is in place. Redevelopment plans are coming for the North & South/Olive intersection, the Midland/Olive intersection and the Delmar/I-170 intersection. The Tru Hotel developer has agreed to allow preservationists to remove Delmar Building mosaics before demolition. The Harvard building will be saved and incorporated in the hotel. Washington University is a great neighbor, but has a negative fiscal impact on the city because services are rendered but taxes are not paid. He will meet with Wash U representatives. The task force on city names has worked hard and will report to the council next month. Four names are at issue: Jackson, Amherst, Wilson, and Pershing. [Note: Pershing has already been changed once, from Berlin Avenue after World War I.] The Jeffrey Plaza shopping center will come down. He wants the businesses there to relocate elsewhere in U City. He concluded, "I can't wait for us to be back in this chamber."



## 24 Years of the Pacer

### *Newsletter covers changing area*

This is the 24th anniversary issue of the Parkview Gardens Pacer. Its name refers to a type of horse-and-buggy racer and harkens back to the early 1900s, when the eastern half of the neighborhood was a race track. The first issue, in April 1997, reported on construction of the parking gar-



*Building a raised bed on the first workday of the season at Syracuse Community Garden.*

age across from the Tivoli. A Loop apartment was to be featured on the University City House Tour April 27. Volunteers were asked to help out in a community cleanup day. Twenty years ago, the April 2001 issue reported that a fitness circuit with mental agility stations rather than the usual physical exercise stations was one of the temporary public art fixtures that went on display in the 16th U City Sculpture Series co-sponsored by Washington University and the Municipal Commission on Arts and Letters. Fifteen years ago, the

April 2006 issue reported that Clemens Community Garden was threatened. The owner of a part of the lot wanted to sell it to the city which would resell it to a developer. Gardeners appealed to the City Council which voted not to buy the land. The documentary *U City: The first century* debuted at COCA. It was made to celebrate the city's 100th anniversary. Ten years ago, the April 2011 issue reported that City Manager

Lehman Walker had proposed a budget with deep cuts. He said these were hard times for U City because of declining revenues and property values. Five years ago, the April 2016 issue reported that the PGA-SBD was planting trees in the medians of Clemens, Heman and Leland, including tulip poplar, oak, maple, dawn redwood and crabapple.

## U City Scene

### *Out with the old*

Delmar School, 711 Kingsland Ave. is being demolished. It will be replaced by a Tru hotel. It was built in 1913 as the first permanent school building of the University City School District. The architect was William B. Ittner, a design innovator responsible for many St. Louis area school buildings. In 2016, U Citians voted to protect and preserve the other buildings of the Civic Plaza with Prop H, but Delmar School was not included because it was owned by the School District, not the city.

## Avoiding Lemons

### *Most reliable cars*

AAA reports on the latest J.D. Power Initial Quality Study that surveys new-car buyers about reliability during their first 90 days of ownership. There was a tie for first. The unsurprising winner was Kia. The South Korean manufacturer has come out on top for the last six years. The less predictable winner was Dodge, the first Detroit make to be rated number 1 in IQS history. Popular Japanese makes including Toyota and prestige brands like Mercedes-Benz did only middling well. Coming in last was Tesla. Innovation and reliability seldom go together.

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News of the Neighborhood:  
\*PGA Meeting Announced  
\*Opening dates for recreation facilities  
\*U City in Bloom holds plant sale