

# The Pacer

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

## Racing in May

### *Hopefully*

The Parkview Gardens Association SBD has made a donation to the 2021 U City Memorial Day Run. Hopes are high that the event will take place this year. (It had to be canceled in 2020.) The organizers are working with the city and Big River Running, the event manager. Options being considered are in-person races, virtual events, or a combination of the two. An in-person event would probably be a scaled down 5K race, with a limited number of competitors setting out in stages and precautions in place. The course of the pandemic is unpredictable. More definite announcements about the event will be forthcoming.

## Opportunities for Teens

### *Students and Poets*

Applications for the 2021 Parkview Gardens Association

Award are due by April 1. This \$5,000 award is for higher education such as trade school or college. To qualify, you must be a Parkview Gardens resident and a high school senior

The deadline is March 1 for the 2021 Beverly Hopkins Memorial Poetry Contest. Winners receive cash prizes and publication of their works

in the St. Louis Poetry Center's annual chapbook. Open to St. Louis area high school students. No entry fee. Marjorie Maddox will judge entries. Info: [stlouispoetrycenter.org](http://stlouispoetrycenter.org).



*The first real snowfall of the winter blanketed Parkview Gardens Jan. 27.*

who has demonstrated the ability to succeed in your studies as well as your commitment to working for the betterment of school and community. Applicants must also show financial need. For more information, consult your high school guidance counselor or call (314) 721-5357

## Changing of the Guard

### *In Loop*

The West Loop Special Business District Board of Directors elected Michael Alter chair and Mohamed Qadadeh vice-chair at a virtual meeting Jan. 21. Joe Edwards has stepped down. The board thanked him for his work promoting and developing the Loop over many years. They will continue to tap his expertise. Edwards also stepped down from the

executive directorship of the East Loop CID and was replaced by David Mastin. City Manager Gregory Rose said that the summer issue of *Roars* will have an article about Edwards' accomplishments. Parkview Gardens Association President Mike Giger saluted Edwards for his key role in bringing back the Loop, starting in the dark days of the early 1970s.

## Cat Control

### *Council meets*

At a virtual meeting Jan. 25, the City Council approved appointments to boards and commissions: Joan Suarez to CALOP, Teresa Huether to Senior Issues, Kathryn Freese to Urban Forestry, Andrea Lubershane to Storm Water Issues, Nicole Thomas and Wilmetta Toliver-Diallo to Arts and Letters. City Manager Gregory Rose addressed the proposed TNR ordinance (see story below). He said the city had no policy on stray cats. The proposed ordinance needed work, but he felt that it moved the city in the right direction. Director of Public Works Sinan Alpaslan said that a feasibility study of the Materials Recovery Facility was needed. Jeff Hales (First Ward) spoke in favor of maximizing use of the sorting facility and monetizing it. The agreement was approved. The council approved amendments to the building and construction articles of the Municipal Code, enacted a new chapter of the Fire Code and vacated a portion of an easement on Delcrest Drive. Stacy Clay (Third Ward) urged residents to be careful what they put in the blue recycling

dumpsters. Contamination is a major problem in recycling. "If you're not absolutely sure it's recyclable, put it in the trash," he said.

## Cops & Cats

### *News from one of our councilmembers*

Second Ward Councilmember Aleta Klein said in her newsletter that the City Council will make a decision about the permanent Police Headquarters by



the end of this month. March 1 is the deadline for Novus to acquire properties and funding to move forward with the Olive/I-170 development. Klein stated her support for a TNR Ordinance, which "would put into law the process of humanely trapping, sterilizing, vaccinating for rabies, eartipping and returning community cats to their original location."

## Presidents' Day

### *Holiday closings*

Presidents' Day will be observed Monday, Feb. 15. The public schools, library and City Hall will be closed. Washington University and University of Missouri-St. Louis will be open. Refuse

collection will be postponed to Tuesday

## MO Comes In Last

### *Way to go, Gov. Parson!*

As of Jan. 25, 4.2% of Missourians had received Covid-19 vaccination, the lowest of any state in the nation. The *New York Times* said that 661,400 doses have been distributed to Missouri and only 335,695 shots have been given. The Missouri Department of Health

stated: "The limited allotments that our state receives continues to limit the rate at which people are vaccinated, but we have also become aware that some of Missouri's vaccinators have not been administering vaccinations as efficiently as we have been asking." More than 318,000 people are on the waiting list in St. Louis County.

The Health Department also needs to work on its subject-verb agreement.

## Spring Forward

### *Time change impends*

Daylight Saving Time will begin at 2 am Sunday March 14. Prepare to move your clocks forward one hour, get less sleep that night, and enjoy the light longer in the evenings to come. The U City Fire Department wants us to get in the habit of changing batteries in our smoke detectors, too.

## How Fares U City?

### *Top officials speak*

The Historical Society of University City presents State of the City. This will be a virtual event, with streaming beginning at 7 pm Thursday March

4. City Manager Gregory Rose and Mayor Terry Crow will report on municipal accomplishments and challenges. Go to [ucitymo.org](http://ucitymo.org) for an announcement about the link.

## Book Report

### *Library news*

University City Public Library continues to be open to the public for curbside service only. Inside the building, progress is being made on the long-planned renovations. Compact shelving will be installed in the basement, allowing for storage of 43,000 books. Staff have begun putting RFID tags on books, which will simplify inventory management and streamline patron check-out. Help with filing taxes is available at [ucitylibrary.org/TaxTime](http://ucitylibrary.org/TaxTime). Book discussion groups are meeting virtually. Information is on the website under Events.

## Past Parties

### *5, 10, 15 & 20 years ago*

Go back through the years in February Pacers, and you find Parkview Gardens residents dining out, dancing, mixing with crowds at parades and performances. That used to be normal life, and it will be that way again...someday.

2016: The Lunar New Year Festival took place Feb. 19-20 on Olive. Asian restaurants presented banquets, a dragon parade, a night market and midnight moonlight ball.

2011: The Ice Carnival held Jan. 14-15 was the best-attended and most successful to date, Joe Edwards announced.

2006: The Souldard Mardi Gras opened with the Crystal Cajun Cook-off Feb. 11 and climaxed

with the Grand Parade Feb. 25.

2001: Delmar Harvard School celebrated Black History Month with an evening of student performances Feb. 28.

## Free Video

### *Ronin*

The Pacer peruses the DVD offerings of U City Library. This 1998 thriller is set in the brief interval between the end of the Cold War and the beginning of the War on Terror.



Its premise is that secret agents were losing their jobs and their sense of purpose in life. (*Ronin* is the term for masterless Samurai.) Laid-off CIA agent Robert De Niro joins a multinational group of mercenaries tasked with taking delivery of a package. They aren't told what's in it or whom they're working for. The movie is set in France, and it has all the fist-fights, shoot-outs and car chases (*especially* car chases) that you expect from a spy thriller, but it's a long way from James Bond. The locations are gritty, the color photography drab, the performances low-key and hard-bitten. How tough is De Niro? After calmly supervising anesthetic-free

bullet removal surgery on himself, he announces, "Think I'll pass out now," and does. He dallies with beautiful Natascha McElhone, but his lasting bond is with fellow tough guy Jean Reno. Veteran director John Frankenheimer manages the action scenes and plot twists with cool clarity. After the final revelation of what it was all about, you may wonder if the bloodshed was justified. That's probably what Frankenheimer intended.

## The Wreath Index

*Another good year*  
There are many indicators to measure change in an urban neighborhood like Parkview Gardens. Much has been said about the rising value of buildings, for instance, or the falling crime rates. But PGA

President Mike Giger believes that The Wreath Index should be borne in mind.

For 25 years, Giger has been hanging wreaths on the doors of his buildings and those belonging to PGA. The first few years, they were all stolen. Immediately. But he persevered, and noticed a slow but steady rise in the survival rate through the mid-eighties. Later in the decade, they started disappearing again. In the nineties, survival rates increased dramatically. In the years 1993-1996, 100% of his wreaths made it through the holiday season. In 1997, he put wreaths on his own and the newly renovated PGA-owned buildings, for a total of 41, more wreaths than he ever had put up before. He

lost one. In recent years, all wreaths have come through. 2021 was "another year when none of the wreaths were stolen," Giger said "In fact one of the residents put up their own Christmas wreath on the front door of one of PGA's buildings. The tenant's wreath was much prettier than the PGA wreath." Watchers of economic benchmarks and neighborhood sociologists, take note.

## **Gardening Begins in March**

### *New plot sign-up*

Thinking about eating more organically grown vegetables but can't face the high prices? Imagining how nice a bouquet of fresh flowers would look on your table? Promising yourself to keep a supply of fresh or dried culinary herbs on hand? Consider growing your own! The wait list for community garden plots will be open through the end of February. If you live in Parkview Gardens and want a bed, there's still time to call (314) 727-5836. In March garden leaders will meet to allocate beds, which are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants will then be notified whether they got a bed or not.

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**News of the Neighborhood:**  
\*Apply for a bed in a community garden  
\*Loop under new leadership  
\*PGA supports Memorial Day Run