

The Pacer

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PGA Special Business District

Apply Now

For PGA Award

Applications are now being accepted for the 2021 Parkview Gardens Association Award.

This \$5,000 award is for higher education, including college and trade school. To qualify, you must be a Parkview Gardens resident and a high school senior 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.



Grow Your Own

Get a bed in community gardens

Neighborhood residents interested in growing their own



Apply now for a bed in a community garden.

vegetables, herbs and flowers organically are invited to sign up for a plot in a Parkview Gardens community garden. The gardens are co-sponsored by Parkview Gardens Association and Gateway Greening/For the Health of St. Louis. The season starts in March, with available plots assigned at the end of February on a first-come, first-served basis. For

more information about Syracuse or Clemens gardens, or to get on the wait list, you may call (314) 727-5836. Requirements for having a plot include residency in Parkview Gardens, participation in a set number of workdays (to maintain the common areas), keeping your plot weed-free and harvested in a timely manner, and an annual fee of \$10.

Perks range from free seeds and compost to Gateway Greening's complimentary Urban Gardening e-newsletter

Council Meets

Too Many \$ Stores

At a virtual City Council meeting December 14, the council approved the 2021 legislative platform. Stacy Clay (Third Ward) brought up police accountability. City

Manager Gregory Rose replied that U City is looking to outfit all officers with body cameras in order to provide an "unbiased display of information." He commended Chief Larry Hampton, saying there have been few complaints about officers. Hampton said, "As a black man, I understand relating to the community. The department is diverse and active in the community." He supports cameras, saying "we want to know what's going on on the scene." Rose commented that when people say "defund the police" they often mean, re-imagine how policing



can occur. The city is exploring how to integrate social services with police work. Hampton said that the city has received a COPS (Community Oriented Police Services) grant from the Justice Department to hire two additional officers.

In other business, the council approved the site plan for a nine-unit garden apartment complex at 6669 Washington. Christopher Cross, director of planning and development, said the site was a vacant lot on a block of multi-family buildings. The developer did a traffic study, approved by the Traffic Commission, showing that the new building would not have a detrimental impact on the area. The proposed development meets all requirements, including onsite parking. Sinan Alpaslan, director of public works, said he wanted to do a study of the

6600 and 6800 blocks of Washington and the intersecting blocks of Kingsland, examining on-street parking. One option to manage it would be parking meters. The review would not begin until after Washington University resumes classes in late January. The council also voted to rescind the reprimand of Byron Price and the censure of Terry Crow, imposed by the previous administration on the then-councilmembers. Jeff Hales (First Ward) thanked Bwayne Smotherson (Third Ward) for co-sponsoring the measure. He said, "We're all hesitant to look back," but the reprimand and censure were "stains on the city" and needed to be rectified. He said the culture and relationships of the council and city manager have changed profoundly since the previous administration. Mayor Terry Crow yielded the gavel to Smotherson and abstained from voting on the resolution affecting him.



Smotherson introduced the question of whether U City needs an ordinance to control dollar stores, and even eliminate excess ones. There are five stores in three miles on Olive. He said dollar stores take a toll on grocery stores, reducing access to fresh food. They target African American neighborhoods. The city should support Schnuck's, Pete's Shur-Save, and Aldi. Clay agreed, saying that Olive is the

future of U City. Rose said city staff would draft an ordinance and bring it to a study session in the new year. Crow said all wards have developments going on or under consideration which was a compliment to the city manager and staff. He added the city must balance these development opportunities so they meet citizen needs. The city held a successful Covid-19 testing event at Centennial Commons on Dec. 5.

Trypanophobia

The real reason for vaccine resistance?

Hopes are high that the vaccines now being distributed will end the world's coronavirus ordeal. But 39% of Americans are reluctant to receive the injection. The reasons they generally give are suspicion of the Trump's administration's haste and mixed messages, distrust of government and the medical establishment generally, and fear of side effects. I suggest another possibility: trypanophobia—the fear of needles. If a person is at all vulnerable to this phobia, their fears are being exacerbated by TV news. Every time the coronavirus is mentioned, which means numerous times every day, TV shows close-ups of needles going into arms. In the good old days, TV had decorum. People didn't throw up or take off their clothes or swear. They somehow managed not to bleed when they were shot. And needles were *never* seen to penetrate flesh. We



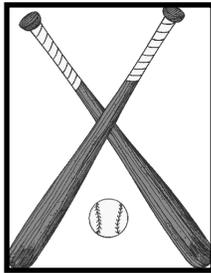
want trypanophobes to be immunized, so let's minimize the puncture close-ups and replace them with more shots of vaccine vials rolling off the assembly line.

Upcoming Events

If the fates allow

A year ago, the Pacer published a list of coming events in 2020--and about half of them ended up being canceled. Undeterred, and optimistic about 2021, the editor publishes a list of events he hopes will take place, here and around the country.

- Jan. 20 Inauguration of President Biden
- Feb. 6 Taste of Soulard Drive-Thru event
- Feb. 7 Superbowl LV in Tampa
- March 27 Passover begins
- April 4 Easter Sunday
- April 6 St. Louis mayoral election



- April 8 Cardinals home opener against Milwaukee
- April 12 Ramadan begins
- April 25 Academy Awards ceremony
- May 31 U City Memorial Day Run
- The Forest Park Balloon Race and Festival of Nations have not



announced their plans yet.



Bootlegging & Kidnapping

From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch of a century ago

Over the New Year holiday 1920-21, University City was wondering about the fate of Jacques Villard, who lived at 7206 Pershing, and was editor of an English/Polish newspaper. He disappeared in Chicago Dec. 27. Several days later, his wife at home received a letter from him saying he was all right. But it was signed "Jack," a nickname he never used, so she alerted a detective agency. It turned out that Villard had been kidnapped. The criminals were hoping for a ransom, but he convinced them he didn't have any money. While they tried to figure out what to do with him, they had him write to his wife so she wouldn't raise the alarm. The attempt backfired, as noted above. The kidnapers considered killing Villard, but one persuaded the others that murder was too serious a crime. (The *Post* notes it was lucky they did not know that the penalties for murder and kidnap-

ping were the same.) They took his money and jewelry but did not otherwise harm him. After 11 days of captivity, he was dumped on the street. Villard was disabled and could not walk. He shouted for help but passersby ignored him. Finally he got a tax driver to take him to the train station where he called authorities.

Prohibition was the law of the land, but that didn't stop U City youth. The University City PTA and League of Women Voters launched an effort to shut down bootleggers who were supplying liquor to high school students. On March 19, at a party attended by U City high school students, the father of the host noticed they were going to a parked car to "cool off." But girls were fainting and boys were "acting in a peculiar manner." The parents gave them coffee. The League of Women voters investigation revealed that liquor was commonly taken to student parties and that the bootlegger was believed to be in the Third Ward. The city admitted to some drinking by students but insisted there were no bootleggers in U City.



Trolley Update

A melancholy anniversary

It's been a year since the Loop Trolley suspended regular

operation, and the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* revisited the issue in a Dec. 22 article. Joe Edwards said he is hopeful that the trolley can resume operations after the pandemic runs its course and business activity in the Loop returns to normal. But community activist Tom Sullivan said ridership never came up to expectations and the trolley "is pretty much done." The Federal Transit Administration warned that if the trolley failed to resume operating, it may seek to recover some of the \$25 million in federal funding the project received. City Manager Gregory Rose said that if the trolley does not start running again, the city will probably pave over the tracks, which would be cheaper and less disruptive to business than tearing them out.

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News of the Neighborhood:
***Apply for a bed in a community garden**
***City Council Meets**
***PGA Award competition opens**
