

The Pacer

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Holiday Race

PGA co-sponsors run

Registration is open online for the 46th annual Memorial Day Run. The pandemic lockdown caused cancellation of the event last year, and this year there will be precautions and restrictions. Individual entry is \$20. (A virtual option will cost \$15.) Packet pickup will be at the library Sunday May 30. No race day registration. There will be a 5 K race only, limited to 360 runners. They will set out in groups, with the first one going at 7 am Monday, May 31. Parkview Gardens Association SBD is a major sponsor of the event. Proceeds benefit the Green Center, U City in Bloom and the library. Signup: ucitymemorialdayrun.org. Also on Memorial Day, the library and City Hall will be closed. Refuse collection will be postponed to Tuesday. Centennial Commons re-opens May 28, Heman Park Pool May 29.

More Eyes on Crime

Community Camera Program

The University City Police Department is inviting citizens



Beekeeper Delmar Mary Ellen Raymond sells honey products at Midtown Farmers Market, open 8:30am -12:30 pm Saturdays.

to help keep neighborhoods safe. The police are asking business owners and others who have security cameras to register them. If a crime occurs in an area covered by a camera, the police will ask to view the footage from that camera. This program aims to avoid situations in which cameras

capture valuable information, but it goes undiscovered because business owners are not aware of the crime. The program also seeks to speed the pace of investigations and apprehension of perpetrators. The police will not have remote access to citizens' cameras, and will never access them without notice. More information and online registration is at <https://www.ucitymo.org/801/Camera-Program>

School's Out

And summer begins

At Washington University, final exams end May 13 and Commencement is May 21. A celebration for the class of 2020, making up for cancellation of last year's ceremony, will be May 30. At the University of Missouri-St. Louis, spring semester closes May 15. The last day of school at U City public schools is May 28.

Cops' New HQ

Annex revamped for police

At the City Council meeting April 12, representatives of Trivers and HDK showed a video on their proposed redesign and renovation of the Annex building behind City Hall for the Police Department. The plan calls for plenty of meeting space, in line with the needs of community-oriented policing: an open reception and waiting area, with meeting rooms and employee lounge upstairs. Other space is devoted to offices, locker rooms, evidence storage and holding cells. Two ground floor bays would be maintained as a sally port for prisoners being brought in. A new elevator would be installed. Jeff Hales (First Ward) praised the open concept, which is much brighter than the existing building. Mayor Terry Crow said the dialogue with the design team was ongoing. In other business, City Manager Gregory Rose requested funds to hire a new assistant city manager. The position would assist in developing infrastructure for the Novus project on Olive and enhancement of the Third Ward among other responsibilities. Rose said staff had been reduced during the pandemic lockdown. The council approved the funds. (Brooke Smith was subsequently appointed to the position.) Rose recommended that the city sponsor the Redbird Rookies program, a free, non-competitive coed baseball and softball program for youth. The recommendation was approved. The council also approved a resolution condemn-

ing anti-Asian American hate crime. Hales noted that this date marked one year since council meetings went virtual, and expressed hope for a return to in-person meetings.

Spring Get-Togethers

In-person events return

The Soldiers Memorial downtown is holding outdoor tours on Saturdays at 1 pm, exploring the architecture and history of the monument, its military museum and Court of Honor,



A lilac bush blooms in a Parkview gardens backyard.

including the Walker Hancock sculptures and Gold Star Mothers Mosaic. Tickets are \$5 per person. Masks and advance registration required (mohistory.org).

Shakespeare Festival St. Louis returns to its outdoor theatre in Forest Park. This year's play is *King Lear*, running from June 2-27. Free admission. Precautions and restrictions are still being worked out and will be announced on stlshakes.org

St. Louis African Arts Festival is May 28-31 in Forest Park. A detailed schedule of events

will be posted on stlfricansartsfest.com

May 17 is National Bike to Work Day. Nearest refueling stations (coffee and snacks) will be at Kaldi's on DeMun and the Missouri History Museum on Lindell. More info: trailnet.org

Finally, baseball lovers will have noticed that the Cardinals are back on the field at Busch Stadium and fans are back in the seats, though reduced capacity and social distancing rules still apply. (tickets: mlb.com/cardinals)

Jeff City News

From ex-mayor Joe

Joe Adams, who represents this area in the Missouri House of Representatives (and is a former mayor of U City), keeps constituents informed about Jefferson City developments with his regular Capitol Report. (You can get on

the mailing list by emailing joe.adams@house.mo.gov.) The latest issue received at press time covered the sudden departure of state health director Randall Williams and the continuing legislative deadlock on restoring Medicaid funding.

Missourians in the News

Show-Me Celebs

In late April, three Missouri men drew national attention. On April 21, Mark McCloskey, the Portland Place lawyer who pointed his gun at demon-

strators last year, told Fox News that he is talking to enthusiastic voters about running for the seat of Senator Roy Blunt (R-Mo), who is retiring next year. Also on April 21, state Representative Rick Roeber (R-Lee's Summit) was expelled by a unanimous vote of his colleagues, after a House ethics committee reported that he had sexually abused two of his children and physically abused all four. On April 22, Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo) was the only senator to vote against a bill to strengthen federal response to hate crimes against Asian-Americans.

Free Video

Air Force One

The Pacer continues to peruse the DVDs of the Municipal Library Consortium, available through the U City public library. The presidential plane is hijacked by terrorists, but the president himself is still aboard and on the loose, ready to shoot it out or duke it out with the bad guys. The set-up sounds preposterous, and it is, but to understand why this movie was a big hit, you have to know just how big a star Harrison Ford was in 1997. Having played Han Solo, Indiana Jones, Rick Deckard, Dr. Richard Kimball and Jack Ryan, he had the stature to play a Leader of the Free World-cum-action-hero. It seems only right that Jerry Goldsmith's horn fanfares and rolling drums should accompany his fisticuffs. The authority came so easily to Ford that he could concentrate on playing the character's vulnerability and emotions, and his per-

formance puts this far-out thriller across. It helps that the tactics of the battle for control of the plane are rather interesting. The movie's politics, arising from the era of the Bosnian War, are a little dated, but when the terrorists take over the plane, the movie's staging provides a chilly premonition of 9/11. Director Wolfgang Petersen made his name with *Das Boot*, in which he put the audience into a U-Boat, so it's surpris-



A freak snowstorm interrupted Spring on April 20.

ing that he fails to make *Air Force One* seem like a real plane. The interiors feel like the sets they are, and the CGI exteriors don't make the airborne maneuvers seem real. The movie was what audiences needed in 1997: while President Harrison Ford was battling terrorism bare-handed on the screen, President Bill Clinton was dallying with Monica Lewinsky in the real Oval Office.

New Names for Streets?

Task Force reports

At a virtual meeting April 26, members of the Task Force on Street Renaming presented their report to the City Council. The meeting began with an acknowledgment that the land we live on is the traditional territory of the Osage Nation and Illinois Confederation. Holly Ingraham said that after reviewing over 200 street names, the Task Force had found four that should be changed.

1/Amherst Avenue was named for the college which was named for the town where it was located which was named for Jeffery Amherst, a general commanding British forces in colonial America, who advocated sending blankets infected with small pox to the Indians.

2/Jackson Avenue was named for Confederate General "Stonewall" Jackson.

The Hanley family gave it the name because they were Southern sympathizers.

3/Wilson Avenue was named for President Woodrow Wilson, who supported segregation and white supremacy, rolling back integration when he was president of Princeton University and when he was in the White House.

4/Pershing Boulevard was renamed for General "Black Jack" Pershing, who commanded Black soldiers in action against Indians, and advocated a "separate but equal" policy for Black troops in World War I.

The Task Force further reported that a number of streets are named after slave owners, including Clemens, Gay, Hanley, and Kingsland. Another category of street names was possibly offensive and needed further consideration, including Princeton, named for a university that practiced racism, and Yale, named for a university founded by a slave owner. The proposed next step would be a community-wide conversation including residents of the affected streets and high school students.

Councilmembers thanked the Task Force members for their valuable work. Steve McMahon (First Ward) said that they were providing answers to residents who questioned the practicality of street renaming or said that things were fine when nobody knew who their streets were named for. Aleta Klein (Second Ward) suggested that practical difficulties could be minimized by naming streets for more worthy individuals with the same name. Jackson, for instance, could be renamed for Mary Jackson, the first black female engineer at NASA. Bwayne Smotherson (Third Ward) noted that some of the streets in question also run through neighboring cities. Mayor Terry Crow said that the conversation involving all citizens was as important as the actual renaming. He observed that those directly affected might have different views.

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News of the Neighborhood:
***Memorial Day Run**
***New Police HQ Preview**
***Changing Street Names**