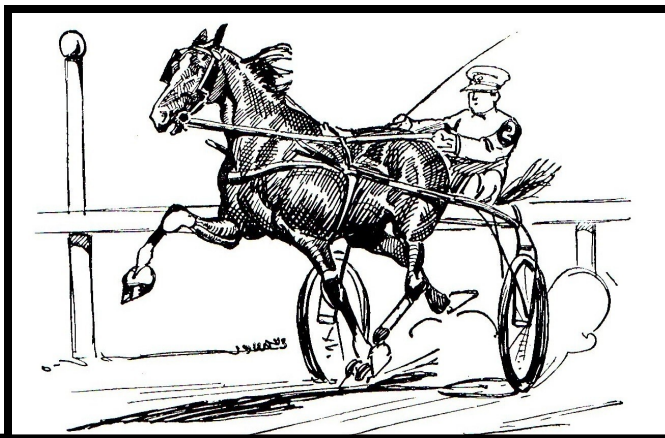


The Pacer



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

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.

Rose Returns

New city manager

Parkview Gardens Association welcomes our new city manager Gregory Rose. Actually we wel-

come him back, because he was deputy city manager 1997-2001. He's been out west, most recently managing the city of Maricopa, Arizona. An Air Force veteran, he earned a Master's degree in public affairs from the University of Texas. He can be reached at (314) 505-8534. You can meet Rose at State of the City, at 7 pm March 6, in the council chamber atop City Hall. He and Mayor Shelley Welsch will talk about challenges and opportunities currently facing the city. Sponsored by Historical Society of U City. Free and open to the public.

Funding Fight

Council discusses campaign money

A scrap over campaign contributions provided the fireworks at an otherwise harmonious meeting of the City Council January 22. Three motions were unanimously approved: Our Lady of Lourdes church on Forsyth submitted a site plan proposing additions to a

building and changes in a parking lot; neighbors spoke in favor. Tim Cusick, who is a candidate for Ward Two councilmember (running against Jerrold Tiers for the seat now held by Michael Glickert, who is retiring), spoke in favor of hiring an engineering firm in connection with MSD's proposed construction of wastewater storage tanks in U City. Sinan Alpasian, director of public works, asked for \$30,000 to replace the main drain valve in the Heman Park pool. The valve is essential to the filter system. It failed last summer and the pool had to be closed for a few days. The work will be completed before the pool re-opens. City Manager Gregory Rose said he plans to assess all city facilities to be prepared for maintenance and repair costs. Councilmembers also discussed creating an Enterprise fund to provide money to improve the Ruth Park golf course and reviewing noise ordinances covering the parks.

Mayor Shelley Welsch is not running for re-election, and Ward One

Councilmember Terry Crow is running unopposed to succeed her, but that doesn't mean the spring campaign will be free of controversy. During citizen participation, resident Jeff Hales brought up "the Mayor's Sunday night hand grenade." He was referring to Welsch's University City Bulletin Board, which can be found on the U City Positively Facebook page. It contains a report by residents James Bashkin and Irv Logan on contributions to candidates for mayor and city council mostly from PACs affiliated with the firefighters' union. The contributions total about \$50,000 since 2014. The contributions are legal, but "create an actual conflict of interest," the report said, noting that the City Council will vote on the next firefighter contract and on returning ambulance service, currently outsourced, to the Fire Department. Bashkin and Logan propose that candidates should not accept contributions from con-

tributors who might have business before the council. Contributions should be capped at \$500 per election.

Don Fitz, who led the drive for Proposition H, said that the report made inaccurate statements about the architectural preservation measure. He called it "an attempt to blacken the firefighter's union." The group's treasurer said that firefighter contributions amounted to less than 15% of the total, not 60% as the report asserted. Crow said that the reason the council would revisit the emergency services issue was that outsourcing had been very unpopular with residents. He added that councilmembers who had supported outsourcing had left the council or were soon to depart. Steve McMahon (Ward One) and Paulette Carr (Ward Two) deplored the attempt to call their integrity into question.



Join the community gardeners in spring.

with a way to open them up, without harming the sink surface. Mix up a small amount of a solution of baking soda and white vinegar and pour it down the drain. It will fizz. Wait for five minutes or so, then pour in water, and watch how quickly it drains!

Presidents' Day

Holiday closings

Presidents' Day will be observed Monday, Feb. 19. 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.

Library Events

At the public library, 6701 Delmar
Feb. 17 Free Health Tests, 9 am
Feb. 28 U City Book Group discusses George Saunders' *Lincoln in the Bardo* at 7 pm
Mar. 6 County Older Residents Program will provide information about their services at 11 am.
The library has a new area for in-demand books and popular DVDs. They can't be put on hold and are available on a first-come, first-



Chuck Berry's 1973 Cadillac on display at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

Household Hints

Unblock drains

Last month, the Pacer addressed the topic of slow drains. A reader kindly called in



Ice sculptor at work . The Loop Ice Carnival in January was a success, with appropriately frigid weather.

serve basis. The shelves are in the central area on the ground floor, in front of the periodical section.

Spring Forward

Time change impends

Daylight Saving Time will begin at 2 am Sunday March 11. 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.

2018 PGA Award

Apply now

Applications for the 2018 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 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.

Free Video

Nicholas and Alexandra

The Pacer continues to scan the DVD shelves of the library to help you save on rentals. *Nicholas and Alexandra* (1971) was one of the last of the old-fashioned historical epics. Sam Spiegel, who produced the best of them, *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962), also produced this account of the final years of the last Tsar and Tsarina of Russia, who were executed along with their children by the Soviets 100 years ago. Sparing no expense, Spiegel turned out an eye-filling spectacle. The palaces and castles are not the real ones, since Western film companies were banned from St. Petersburg, then called Lenin-grad, but they are suitable impressive. Crowd scenes, shot long before CGI, required hundreds of extras. The women's gowns and jewels and the men's uniforms are gorgeous and no doubt historically accurate. The mostly British cast, though short on big names, is long on talent. Franklin Schaffner (Patton) directed. Many historians have dismissed Nicholas II as unimaginative, weak-willed, and deserving of his sad fate. But this

film follows its source, Robert K. Massie's compelling biography, in depicting the Tsar and Tsarina sympathetically, as loving parents struggling to cope with the hemophilia of their son, the heir to the throne. The movie gets off to a good start, clearly laying out the perilous political situation of 1905. But then it becomes rather slow and stately. The filmmakers' tasteful, balanced and restrained approach is the wrong one for dealing with one of history's most outrageous characters, the mad monk Rasputin. A faith healer of inexplicable powers, the real Rasputin became a power broker at court, promoting his friends, destroying his enemies, and trying to seduce every woman in sight. The film somehow manages to make him a dull character. In the final three-quarters of an hour, the pace gets slower and slower, as if the filmmakers are trying to put off the horrifying final scene. Michael Jayston turns in a touching performance, endowing Nicholas with a self-awareness and tragic stature that the real man probably didn't have, but it's a long slog to a downer ending.



The city has repaired the formerly crumbling curb on Heman Avenue. PGA gardeners will renew the garden in spring.

Area Events

In U City and nearby

Winter Opera presents Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore* March 9 and 11 at Chaminade. Tickets: (314) 865-0038.

U City Symphony Orchestra presents "Focus on St. Louis" at 3 pm Feb. 25 at 560 Music Center. Free. Art in Bloom, a celebration of art and flowers and a popular fixture of spring in St. Louis, takes place March 2-4 at St. Louis Art Museum. Lectures, family activities, dining and shopping. Full schedule and tickets: slam.org.

Parkview Gardens Assn.

830 Vanderbilt Avenue

University City MO 63130

News of the Neighborhood

Inside:

- *Sign up for garden plots
- *Grant for education
- *Campaign finance controversy