

The Pacer

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The Winner *Of the Parkview Gardens Award*

The PGA 2020 post-high school \$5,000 per year renewable scholarship has been awarded to Ivonne Quiroz Linares of the 700 block of Syracuse. Ms. Linares will pursue a degree in nursing at St. Louis Community College. Since 2001 PGA has awarded 35 scholarships; six students are currently in school and 10 have graduated.

New at Clemens

Our biggest garden gets bigger

Clemens Community Garden has new compost tumblers, sponsored by the Parkview Gardens Association SBD. All Parkview Gardens residents are welcome to use them, but before putting anything in, read the sign next to them. A composter has already had to

be dumped out because it was contaminated. (An alternative: go to perennialcity.com to arrange residential compostables pickup. For a small fee, this company will provide a bucket for food scraps and collect

expect to see the usual bright floral display this summer.

Adapting to Covid-19

Postponements, closings, re- openings

The May meeting of the Parkview Gardens Association and its SBD Boards of Directors has been canceled. The boards will meet in the autumn on a date to be announced. Directors will deal with pending business via email.

On April 23, City Manager Gregory Rose announced that University City's parks, trails and tennis courts

would re-open May 1. The golf course will re-open by May 15. Playgrounds and basketball courts will remain closed. He said that though the future is unknown, as of now the city's finances seem to be in good shape to "weather the storm." Inevitably, U City will see the loss of some businesses. Previous-



New composters at Clemens Garden .

them from your doorstep.) Clemens also has five new beds. Gateway Greening provided the wood frames, as well as soil for the new beds and for the raised accessible beds.

Loop Gardener Kelcy McDonough and staff are continuing work on the decorative flower beds sponsored by the PGA-SBD, and residents can

ly, Rose had stated that City Hall was preparing for a 15% revenue reduction. He was cutting the budget and laying off or furloughing approximately 15 employees. Public safety and sanitation operations would not be affected.

The April 7 local election has been postponed to June 2. The St. Louis County Election Board is sending request forms for absentee ballots to registered voters to be used in the June 2, Aug. 4 and Nov. 3 elections. For more information, call (314) 615-1833,

The U City Farmers Market is open Saturday mornings at Market in the Loop. Check their Facebook page for the latest information.

Washington University has canceled Commencement scheduled for May 15, but is committed to holding an in-person ceremony for graduates at a date to be announced.

U City in Bloom has moved its spring plant sale to the fall. The sale, offering expert advice along with plants, will be held Saturday, Oct. 3. The Plein Air Festival will follow on Oct. 4. (ucityinbloom.org)

The U City Memorial Day Run has been canceled. The Parkview Gardens Association SBD, a regular co-sponsor, has made its annual donation and asked the Run organizers to apply it to future events. Competitors are invited to participate in a "virtual" Run. The

Gateway Resilience Run allows competitors to run or walk the distance whenever and wherever they choose. Register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MO/Ballwin/GatewayResilienceRun> and request that part of your fee go to the Memorial Day run. The event is an important annual fundraiser for the U City Public Library, the Green Center and U City in Bloom.

The Summer Camp for youth at Centennial Commons has been canceled.

29, SFSL is presenting The Zoom Plays online. More information at sfstl.com.

National Bike to Work Day has been postponed to Sept. 22. But May is still National Bike Month, and Trailnet is holding online programs. Info at Trailnet.org.

St. Louis County Parks are closed but re-opening is expected soon. St. Louis City Parks, including Forest Park, remain open.

The Munny Opera in Forest Park is considering a delayed

and shortened season that would begin in late July. The decision will be announced in early June.

Missouri Governor Mike Parson announced April 26 that a gradual re-opening of businesses is beginning May 4.



Clemens gardeners observe social distancing during their April workday.

The U City Educational Foundation has launched a Summer Meal Appeal to provide food for the neediest families in the school district. Go to ucityschools.org/MealAppeal2020 for more information or to make a donation.

Shakespeare Festival St. Louis has rescheduled its Forest Park play. *Much Ado About Nothing* will run Aug. 12-Sept. 6 in Shakespeare Glen. Until May

City Council Meets Virtually

In a historic first, the City Council held a virtual meeting April 27 via Zoom and livestreamed the meeting to the public via YouTube. An ordinance establishing a Storm Water Commission was unanimously approved. Mayor Terry Crow congratulated Councilmember Paulette Carr (Second Ward) for her work on this issue. Jeff Hales (First Ward) also praised Carr, saying that for a time "she was the

only voice speaking up on the issue." Heavy rainfalls have frequently caused flash flooding in parts of U City. The council also approved a conditional use permit for an auto service business on Olive Blvd. (No auto sales would be allowed.) and the donation of a lot to Habitat for Humanity. The group is pursuing St. Louis County funding for affordable housing construction. Bwayne Smotherson (Third Ward) commented that he favored an economic development commission to review the type of businesses opening on Olive Blvd. There are too many dollar stores. The virtual meeting had no citizen participation; the meeting format required comments to be submitted in writing in advance of the meeting.

Virtual Culture

What's onscreen

The great institutions of Forest Park have closed their buildings and are carrying out their missions online. Missouri Historical Society offers free programs at STL History livestream on Facebook. One of them, *Pandemics of the Past: St. Louis Responds*, includes the story of Dr. Max Starkloff, head of the Health Department in 1918, and how he dealt with the Spanish Flu. It also has *Hollywood vs. History* which delves into the current Netflix series *Self-Made*, about pioneering local businesswoman Madam C.J. Walker. At slam.org, you can watch videos and listen to audios about the permanent collection and recent exhibitions of the St. Louis Art Museum. The St. Louis Science Center offers videos on the Connect with Curiosity page of slsc.org.

Meanwhile on cable TV, a celebrated and controversial St. Louisan is the subject of a nine-part television series. Oscar-winner Cate Blanchett plays Phyllis Schlafly, a conservative activist best known for her opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment. The series, *Mrs. America*, is now streaming on Hulu.



Since this picture was taken in early April, Ackert Walkway and other U City trails have re-opened.

Streaming the Past

Reflecting on an old movie

Like a lot of people during the pandemic lockdown, I've been revisiting old movies. The passage of time has given unexpected poignancy to some of them. Take *Notting Hill*, an amusing if improbable romcom from 1999, in

which bookstore owner Hugh Grant and movie star Julia Roberts fall in love. In an early scene, the star is at dinner with Grant and his friends, who like him are just regular folks. There's one brownie left, and they decide it will go to the most deserving of them, meaning the one who can give the most pitiful account of his or her life. (This is so masochistic that I can readily believe it's a real English custom.) To the incredulity of the ordinary joes, the star makes a bid. She talks of plastic surgery, dieting, toxic relationships and media intrusions, and finishes, "A few years from now...I will be a sad middle-aged woman who looks almost like someone who used to be famous for a while."

Twenty-one years have passed, and things aren't that bad for Roberts, but she's no longer a movie star. She's still famous, but her fame is of a double-edged sort. She's a perfume model, which means that marketing managers believe that consumers think of her as a faded beauty who really needs the products of the allure industry. As an actor, her most recent completed project was listed on imd.com as "Let's Dance" (short) (2018), and her role was Woman on Train.

Watching the young Roberts deliver her lines in *Notting Hill*, I was struck by how convincingly she did it, as if she had no doubt, even at the height of stardom, that her fame was going to be as fleeting as everybody else's. It was a brave performance for her to give.

One Worry Dismissed

No need to keep social distance from your cat

There's a lot to worry about these days, but at least we don't have to worry about getting coronavirus from our cats. Dr. Anthony Fauci, no less, has assured the nation that he has seen no evidence of feline to human infection. Concern had been raised by a late-April news story about two cats in New York State who had contracted the virus. They didn't infect anybody, and both are recovering.

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News of the Neighborhood:
*PGA Award winner announced
*Clemens Garden improvements
*Pandemic: closings and re-openings