

The Pacer

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PGA Special Business District

PGA Meets

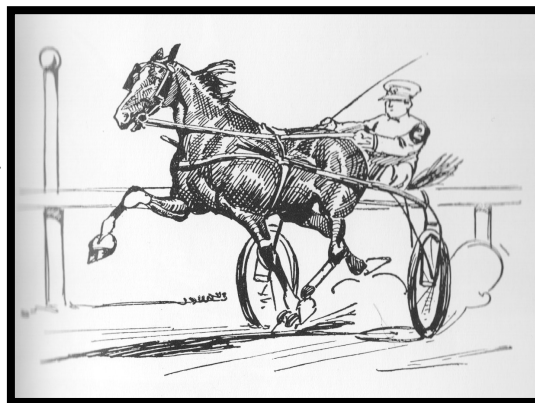
Spring get-together

The semi-annual meeting of the Parkview Gardens Association and its Special Business District will be held at 5 pm May 9 via Zoom. Some of the topics under discussion will be applications for the PGA Award scholarship, updates on the community EV charging station and a proposal for pickleball courts at Metcalfe Park. A long-term question concerns the role of the Association in the neighborhood, particularly the future of the 26 buildings the Association owns. PGA, founded in 1980, has sponsored many improvements, including the community gardens and decorative flower beds. Neighborhood residents and business people are welcome to attend the meeting. If you are interested, email davidlinzee@yahoo.com to receive the Zoom link.

Recreation Re-opens

Cent Comm hours extended
At Centennial Commons, the track and exercise machine

areas are now open from 5:30 am-7 pm Monday-Friday, 8 am-1 pm Saturday. Closed Sunday. Residency ID is required. Picnic Pavilion reservations are accepted and city trash stickers are on sale. Heman Park athletic fields are partially open. The large dog section of the Dog Park on Vernon is open. Complete infor-



This is the 26th anniversary issue of the Pacer. Our original logo recalls that the area used to be a race-track.

mation at ucitymo.org, Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry.

Fuller Named to Council

Safer MetroLink stations

At the City Council meeting March 13, Dennis Fuller was chosen from among four applicants to represent

the Second Ward, which includes Parkview Gardens. Fuller has relevant experience as a long-term trustee of the University Park subdivision. He will complete the term of Tim Cusick, who has retired. He will have the option of running for election in April '24. Kevin Scott, a representative of Bi-State Development, informed the council that a study of the transit system had made improved security of MetroLink platforms a priority. When completed they will look more like Chicago El-train stations, with ticket turnstiles, rotating gates and high fences. Work will begin on the Illinois side. Delmar Station will be renovated in Phase II, with completion scheduled for late 2024.

Nature News

Time for Plant Sale

St. Louis's Earth Day celebration will be 11 am-5 pm Apr 22 and 23 at the Muni in Forest Park. On offer will be food, entertainment, and information booths for sustainable products and services. Complete info at earthday-365.org



New Councilmember Dennis Fuller

The U City in Bloom Plant Sale, long a favorite local Spring event, will be hold outdoors on UCB's Vernon Avenue property, next to the Dog Park. The event opens with a preview party on Friday evening, April 28. Reservation info at ucityinbloom.org. The sale continues 9 am-1 pm Saturday the 29th and 11am-1pm Sunday the 30th.

The Green Center at 8025 Blackberry Avenue will hold a Summer Camp for young people, including photography and cooking activities. Registration is open at thegreencenter.org.

How's U City Doing?

Business boom

At the State of the City event--held live and in-person at City Hall for the first time since the pandemic, City Manager Gregory Rose and Mayor Terry Crow said that business development is roaring along--in other parts of U City. The picture here in the Loop is mixed. On the plus side, construction of the Crescent Plumbing Sup-

ply building on Vernon Avenue in Parkview Gardens should begin soon, with the business opening early next year. It will be a boon to the city's tax revenue. But the Tru Hotel on Kingsland was delayed by the pandemic and no start date for construction has been announced. The building at Kingsland and Delmar (the former Cicero's) is likely to remain mostly empty for a while. Nor is anything happening at the former Commerce Bank and Craft Alliance site. A developer was proposing for the site a large, high unit-occupancy student apartment complex with no first-floor retail and minimal parking, but the city considered it unsuitable.

Washington University continues to be a major player in U City real estate. The university recently bought several buildings in the heart of the Delmar entertainment district from Joe Edwards. It is also interested in the former University United Methodist Church and 6900 Delmar buildings. Crow said that the university has always paid tax on commercial buildings, but the payments are strictly voluntary, which is a bit worrisome to city officials. (The university is a tax-exempt non-profit.)

In the northwest part of the city, the Market at Olive is proving very successful. Costco, which opened in October, has more members than it expected. A Dierberg's and several fast-food franchises will be opening soon. One anchor store location remains, and a tenant will be announced soon.

Crow commended the late Paulette Carr, Second Ward Councilmember, for her lead role in getting the development off the ground. Of the renovation of the Annex for police headquarters and the old library for municipal courts, scheduled for this year, Crow said, "We need to get it done," although the project's costs have risen steeply because of inflation. Rose said that the city's financial condition remains strong, but the solid waste/recycling program and employee pension fund have problems that need to be addressed. The city continues to rebuild, repair and recover from the disastrous floods of July. Rose and Crow are doing their best to get the pool ready to open this summer, but could not set a date. They are seeking federal funds to build a detention basin in Overland to provide partial protection against future River des Peres flooding. The State of the City event was recorded and can be viewed on U City's You Tube channel.

Parks Birthday

First celebration in April

U City's public parks system is celebrating its centennial. The



Mayor Terry Crow



UCity in Bloom holds Plant Sale

first event will be at 2 pm April 15 in Ruth Park, on the east side of the woods and golf course parking lot. Mayor Crow will speak. On the 15th and 16th, knowledgeable volunteers will guide tours of the woods. On May 20, Kingsland Park will be dedicated as Shelley Welsch Park. U City in Bloom will plant a tree. There will be a Parks mannequin on display on Delmar as part of the annual Mannequins in the Loop event May 20-June 11. At the Memorial Day Run May 29, Parks Centennial Youth Ambassadors will be stationed at corners to cheer and pass out water to competitors. More events will be scheduled for later in the year. Check the ucitymo.org website for updates.

Pacer Turns 26

Glimpses of neighborhood history at 5-year intervals

April 1997

The first issue of the Pacer reported on recycling problems in the neighborhood.

(Contamination of dumpsters continues to be a problem.) A community clean-up of the streets by volunteers was held May 3. Phase II of the PGA Renovations Project of eleven rundown apartment buildings was being completed, with restored units ready for rental. The Project had a decisive effect in transforming Parkview Gardens into the desirable

neighborhood it is now. Construction of the city parking garage across from the Tivoli was underway.

April 2002

PGA was funding scholarships for the Parks and Recreation summer youth program, which it has continued to do. This year the program won't run because of lack of staff. The U City House Tour, which was run by the University City Residential Service, was held. It was one of many valuable services that the UCRS, now closed, performed for the city.

April 2007

The Loop business community was discussing the pros and cons of chain stores and restaurants. Chains have deep pockets and make more reliable tenants, but too many of them would change the character of the Loop. Independents give Delmar its unique flavor. A new neighborhood group, UCityUnited, was holding meetings. It has left the scene. The price of stamps was being raised so often that the Postal Service introduced "forever" stamps. A first-class stamp cost 41 cents. It's now 63 cents.

April 2012

The association, the city and Washington University applied for a federal "Tiger" grant to fund renovation of the neighborhood's parks. Many meetings and a lot of work had gone into the plan, but unfortunately we didn't get the grant. The Parkview Gardens Association still has

hopes for improvements at Metcalfe. At State of the City, Mayor Shelley Welsch and city manager Lehman Walker said that despite continued population loss (down 5.5% in 10 years), the city was in good shape thanks to its high-quality housing stock. They were trying to interest developers in the Olive I-170 intersection. A decade later, under a different administration, the Market at Olive opened.

April 2017

U City Symphony Orchestra held a free concert at All Saints Church. PGA provided scholarships for four neighborhood children to attend tutoring and enrichment programs at Lolly's Place.

April 2022

Last year, the Crescent Plumbing Supply Company development on Vernon was announced. Construction will soon begin.

Jeff City News

Gun laws

A Federal court has struck down Missouri's Second Amendment Protection Act, which became law two years ago. It said that Federal gun laws did not apply in Missouri. Attorney General Ash-



Flynn Park, established 1923

croft is appealing the decision. In February, a proposal to ban children from carrying guns in public without adult supervision was voted down by the House of Representatives.

In March Missouri's education department released new performance data for school districts. The state has a new accountability system that downgraded nearly every school district, according to the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*. In addition, the Covid epidemic had a lasting negative effect on children's learning. UCSD Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley said, "Covid-19 disproportionately impacted Black communities." But student growth was above average in math. U City school district's results put it in the provisionally accredited range.

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News of the Neighborhood:
*PGA Meeting
*State of the City
*New City Councilmember
