

The Pacer

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Ackert's Back

Work on our park completed

As this issue of the Pacer went to press, the re-opening of refurbished Ackert Park was imminent. So, as you're reading this, the park should have been open for a while. Traditional features of the park that were worn-down and neglected, like the dolphin pool and the horses, have been restored so that their charm can be appreciated as when they were new. The new playground and landscaping look great. Parkview Gardens Association thanks the University City Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry for this contribution to the attractions of our neighborhood.

Civic Plaza Plans

Convenience and security

Trivers Architects provided details of the redesign of the Annex (Police Department) and Trinity Building to the

City Council and public at a June 27 study session. The new set-up tightens security, leading to some controversy. Trivers representatives said that they have met with the Green Practices and Historic Preservation

dents can quickly and conveniently conduct routine business at counters for the Public Works, Finance, and Planning and Development departments. The Trinity

Building will be "turned around," with doorways added under the arches in what is currently the back of the building. Inside, the curving stairway will be preserved, leading to a large meeting room that will be used by the Municipal Court and City Council. The Annex will have a new breakroom for police. The exterior appearance of Trinity, built in 1939 as a public library, and the Annex, built in

1903 to house city founder E.G. Lewis's printing presses, will be preserved. Both will receive new HVAC systems and seismic upgrades. Trinity will get all-new windows. The temporary police headquarters will be removed and its footprint will become a 66-space public parking lot.



Dolphin pool at Ackert Park

commissions and plan to start construction in October. There will be a new entry linking City Hall and the Annex. It will be ADA compliant and have a security checkpoint with metal detector and package screening. (It seems that the traditional City Hall doors will be kept locked.) The entry will also have a "one-stop shop for city services," where resi-

The controversial feature of the plan is an eight-foot tall, semi-transparent climb-resistant fence which will surround the Annex and two secure parking lots providing a total of 67 spaces for police. An "ornamental" wrought iron fence landscaped with trees and bushes, similar to what runs along Harvard Avenue now, will border the public parking lot. Jeff Hales (First Ward) said that he liked the plans for the buildings and appreciated the wishes of the Police Department, but raised questions about the fence. Security has to be balanced with the historic character of Civic Plaza. He would like to see options for the fence. City Hall and the Trinity Building will be outside the security fence. No work on City Hall is included in this project. During public comment at the council meeting following the study session, citizens objected to the fence and restricted access, saying public money would be better spent on education and community events than fences and metal detectors. In addition, the council would make a big mistake in moving its meetings from the historic council chamber to a less impressive venue.

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$22 million. City Manager Gregory Rose said improvements in the Annex for the police are worth the cost. Police Chief Hampton said more than 30 employees, mostly support staff, spend the entire working day in the building. Police officers are usually out patrolling, but they

train, write reports and conduct interviews in the building. Rose said that the city would probably use certificates of participation to finance the project. Completion is expected at the end of 2023.

Back to School

Classes resume

At Washington University, the first day of classes is Aug. 29. At University of Missouri--St. Louis, it's Aug. 22. At the School District of University



Back of Trinity Bldg. to become front

City, Aug. 22 is the first day of school.

Labor Day

Closings and events

Labor Day is Sept. 5. City Hall and the public library will be closed. Refuse collection will be postponed. No classes at the public schools, UMSL or Washington U. Cent Comm. will be open. It's the last day for Heman Park pool. Traditionally this is a busy weekend for events, including the Japanese Festival at the Botanical Garden (mobot.org) and Gateway Cup bicycle races (gatewaycup.com)

Later in September, the St. Louis Art Fair will be back on the streets of downtown Clayton Sept. 9-11. (saintlouisartfair.com) The Great Forest Park Balloon Race will be the next weekend, Sept. 16-17. greatforestpark-balloonrace.com

Diversity Comes to Town

50 years ago in U City
On August 10, 1972, the St.

Louis *Post-Dispatch* quoted City Manager Charles Henry describing U City as a "very solid, even powerful but heterogeneous community." Henry based his comments on the recently released U.S. Census, which showed that Florissant had replaced U City as the most populous St. Louis suburb. The biggest change since the previous census in 1960 was the increase in non-white residents. In 1970, 9,292 Blacks, 257 Chinese, 61 Japanese, 34 Filipinos, 22 Indians and 140 "other races" lived here.

Ten years earlier, less than half of one percent of the population had been non-white. (There was no racial breakdown in the 1960 Census). The percentage of foreign-born residents dropped slightly during the same period.

The educational level of U Citians rose a bit. In 1960, 53.6% had completed high school. In 1970, 60.9% had. The figure for Blacks in 1970 was slightly lower, just over 57%. The per capita income of Blacks was \$2,698, the highest among Missouri cities over 10 thousand in population.

The total population of U

City had dropped by about 10% over 10 years, to 46,524. (It continued to drop, and was 34,300 in 2020.) Family size fell from 3.8 to 2.1 persons. Henry took this to mean today's residents were living in more spacious quarters. (Other, less positive, observers attribute it to families with young children moving to higher-rated public school districts.) He conceded that the rise of property values was "sluggish," which he blamed on institutional racism. U City ranked fifth in per capita income among suburbs, behind Sappington, Richmond Heights, Clayton and Ladue. Summing up, Henry said, "University City is not only providing a desirable living environment to an ethnically pluralistic society but also continues to serve all age groups in contrast to the highly homogeneous newer suburbs."

California. Heman Park is also named for him. SYRACUSE is probably named not for the city in Sicily but the university in New York, following the tradition set by Lewis of naming streets after universities, most of them old, private and located in the Northeast. LIMIT runs along the city limit of St. Louis. INTERDRIVE is intermediate, between Limit and Westgate. CLEMENS was named for

street in Parkview Gardens. CABANNE was named for Julia Cabanne, who married J.W. Kingsbury. He got his eponymous street south of Delmar. DELMAR has nothing to do with the Spanish phrase "from the sea." Two men who owned property along the street named it for their home states, Delaware and Maryland. That leaves LELAND and VERNON, about which the editor is clueless. He'd be glad to hear from anyone who knows or can make an educated guess.

In sum, our streetnames are mostly derived from landowners, or they're merely functional. This is common practice in the St. Louis area and throughout America. If Americans named streets the way the French do, Enright would be called Avenue Tennessee Williams. He lived there in the 1920s.



Daylilies bloom on Leland Avenue

Streetnames Tell Stories

In Parkview Gardens
WESTGATE and EASTGATE: These streets are located where the gates to Delmar Racetrack were located. The track was built at what was then the end of the streetcar line from St. Louis in 1900. For the next 10 year, it hosted horse races, car races and theatrical spectacles. Then it closed, mostly because U City Founder E.G. Lewis didn't want bookies, saloons and flophouses in the model community he was creating. HEMAN was named for August Heman, the second mayor of U City, elected in 1912 after Lewis went broke and moved to

Eliza Clemens, member of a rich, land-owning family, as are many streets in the St. Louis area. (Kingsland is a nearby example.) It was a large family with a lot of land. A distant relative was Samuel Clemens, AKA Mark Twain.

ENRIGHT was named for Thomas Enright, one of the first American casualties of World War I. Before the war it had been Von Versen, named for a German general who married one of the Clemens family.

CATES was named for Catherine Cates, whose maiden name had been Clemens. NORTH is the northernmost

Cop & Robber

U City a century ago
Patrolman John Kaiser of the U City police was walking his beat on University Lane when he spotted through a window a burglar looting an apartment in the building at 6649, reported the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* of Oct. 4, 1922. He called for backup in the way cops did back then: he knocked on a neighbor's door and asked to use the phone. Before officers in a car arrived at the scene, the burglar left the house. Kaiser pursued him. They exchanged shots and both men were wounded. Kaiser had to give up the chase. The burglar fled to the

Loop, where he tried to board the Delmar streetcar. But the cops in the prowler car caught up with him. At headquarters, he gave his name as Martin Wallace. Jewelry worth over \$1,000 was found in his apartment and some pieces were traced to owners in Parkview Gardens and Hi-Pointe.

Welcome to the Neighborhood

Introducing ourselves

Just moved in? The Parkview Gardens Association welcomes you. The PGA is responsible for the Loop North mural, light-pole banners, extra-bright streetlights, median trees, flower and vegetable gardens and other amenities. This neighborhood improvement group, consisting of landlords, businesspeople and residents, was founded in 1980. You'll be welcome at our semi-annual meeting in October. Membership is \$25 a year. Remember to email davidlinzee@yahoo.com if you'd like to see an electric vehicle charging station in the neighborhood (see July issue).

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News of the Neighborhood:
*New Police Headquarters
*Neighborhood Street Names
*Back to School