

The Pacer

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

Join PGA!

Neighborhood association at work for you

Join the Parkview Gardens Association and help support the flowerbeds and community vegetable gardens, Loop North mural/garden, this newsletter, the light-pole banners, the extra-bright street-lights and other amenities PGA sponsors. This neighborhood improvement group, consisting of landlords, business-people and residents, was founded in 1980. You'll be welcome at our semi-annual meetings and qualified to vote on officers or become one yourself. If you're already a member, please use the enclosed form to pay your annual dues.

In spring 2023, the PGA will again present the Parkview Gardens Association Award. This \$5,000 award is for higher education, including college and trade school. The award is given to Parkview Gardens residents who are high school seniors and have demonstrated the ability to

succeed in their studies as well as a 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



Our charging station might look something like this.

or call (314) 721-5357.

Next spring, the Kingsland entrance to the big parking lot will be flanked by colorful new blooms. With the approval of the Loop Special District Business, the Parkview Gardens Association is sponsoring a new flowerbed, to be planted and maintained by Kelcye McDonough. Preparatory work on an electric vehicle charging station at Vito's Garden on Leland is going forward. The good news is that an electric power source is located nearby. The next step is deciding on the right kind of

charger. Reader suggestions are welcome. Send to davidlinzee@yahoo.com. Enhancements to Metcalfe Park are also in the early stages.

Holidays Ahead

Closings and exhibits

Hanukkah is Dec. 18-26 and Kwanzaa is Dec. 26. At Washington University, finals end Dec. 21 and classes resume Jan. 17. At University of Missouri-St. Louis, fall semester closes Dec. 17 and

winter intersession begins Jan. 3. At U City schools, winter break is Dec. 21-Jan. 3. Christmas falls on Sunday. City Hall will be closed on Dec. 26 and the public library will close at noon Dec. 24 and remain closed Dec. 25 and 26. New Year closings are: the library closes at noon Dec. 31 and stays closed Jan. 1. City Hall will be closed Jan. 1.

The exhibition Vietnam: At War and At Home is at the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum downtown, mohisto-



U City's "Central Park" turns 100

ry.org. American Monsters, Superheroes and Villains: Our Culture at Play is at the St. Louis Public Library downtown, slpl.org. The Great Rivers Biennial art show is at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis in Grand Center, cam-stl.org. All preceding shows are free. Global Threads: the Art and Fashion of India Chintz is at St. Louis Art Museum in Forest Park until Jan. 8. Tickets: slam.org. Becoming Jane: the Evolution of Dr. Jane Goodall is at the Science Center in Forest Park. Tickets: slsc.org.

Going Away for the Holidays

Avoid a flood

It's a good, money-saving idea to turn your thermostat down before leaving for the holidays. But don't turn the furnace off! Pipes in the walls could freeze and burst, causing expensive water damage. Unfortunately, burglars are well aware that Parkview Gardens is a student neighborhood and students go away for the holidays. So precautions are in order:

*A light on a timer (or two) makes an apartment look occupied much more convincingly than leaving a light on.

*Close the curtains or blinds of windows people can see into from the street.

*Arrange for a neighbor to pick up your mail or newspaper, or suspend delivery.

*Don't pack the back seat of your car the night before you depart and leave it parked on the street.

Plogging

Joining clean-up and fitness

From the Pacer's Department of New Year's Resolutions. The Swedes came up with this word, made by combining "jogging" and *plocka upp* which means picking up. Want to add an upper-body work-out and flexibility to your jogging or walking routine? Take along a plastic bag (like the ones from Schnuck's) and pick up litter as you go. Gloves are recommended. Parkview Gardens has nice medians, parks and lawns, but an unrelenting rain of litter falls upon them. A few ploggers are already at work around the neighborhood, but they need help. Why not join them in 2023?

Thon Beats They
Nongendered

pronouns

People like to come up with faddish new verbs like "weaponize" and nouns like "bullycide," but they don't like to mess around with those necessary but boring types of words like pronouns. They stick with what they've got, even if what they've got isn't working anymore. The Pacer's Department of Sociolinguistics has learned from an article in the *Atlantic* magazine that Ella Flagg Young, superintendent of the Chicago school system, noticed the need for a gender-neutral pronoun way back in 1912. She proposed, as alternates to *he* and *she*, *him* and *her*, *his* and *hers*, *he'er*, *his'er*, and *him'er*. But this sound idea did not catch on. In fact, more than 200 gender-neutral pronouns have been proposed since the late eighteenth century. *Thon* made it into Funk & Wagnall's, and *hir* was in circulation between the wars, but neither had staying power. And what's the result? Now we really need a gender-neutral pronoun, and we're having to make do with *they/ them/their*. This is unfortunate, because *they* etc. already has a useful function, marking the plural. A pronoun has one job, to stand

Ackert Park in Parkview Gardens





Mayor Warren C. Flynn

in for a noun, and save writers the trouble of writing the noun over and over. So when you're writing an article in which Nancy Pelosi is conversing with Joe Biden, you only have to use their names once. After that, you can say *she said* and *he said*. But if Demi Lovato is talking to the St. Louis Blues, the only pronoun available for both is "they," and you can't keep writing *They said* without confusing the reader. Maybe it's not too late to try *thon* again.

Bumps & Dips

Resurfacing in the works
If you drive around the neighborhood, and especially if you bike around it, you've probably noticed that Kingsland and Vernon avenues are in need of resurfacing. They're going to get it, but not soon. The St. Louis County Department of Transportation, which is responsible for the stretches of both roads near Parkview Gardens, is in the design phase of a Kingsland from Delmar to Vernon renovation that will include road resurfacing and making curbs and traffic signals

ADA-compliant. The work is scheduled for spring 2024. Work on Vernon from Midland to the St. Louis City limit is also scheduled for spring 2024.

Parks Anniversary

U City greenspace

Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of the opening of University City's first park. NiNi Harris wrote in *Legacy of Lions: a History of University City* that in its early decades, U City had no parks at all. On April 4, 1922, under Mayor Warren C. Flynn, the Department of Parks and Recreation was established by a general election. The department decided on a policy of one big park in the center of the city and a number of small neighborhood parks. The next year, a bond issue passed, and the department used the money to establish Heman Park and to buy land for what became Flynn (on Pershing) and Jackson (now Mooney) parks. Eastgate Park was established the same year as the first park in Parkview Gardens. It has become a tradition to name parks after former mayors. Today, Heman is still the "main" park with the most facilities, though Ruth Park in the northwest part of the city is the largest. The city has a total of 21 parks, an extraordinarily large number

for a medium-sized suburb. All are described on the city's website, ucitymo.org, under Departments/Parks, Recreation and Forestry.

Election Results

From Nov. 8

Erich Schmitt (R) goes to the U.S. Senate, where he will no doubt make a worthy colleague for Sen. Josh Hawley. Cori Bush (D) was re-elected to the House of Representatives. State Sen. Brian Williams (D) and Rep. Joe Adams (D) will continue to represent this area in Jefferson City. Sam Page (D) will continue as St. Louis County Supervisor. Voters approved ballot measures to legalize recreational marijuana, authorize Jefferson City to force Kansas City to spend more on its police force (most Kansas Citians voted against it) and create a new Missouri Department of the National Guard. Voters rejected a measure that would have allowed legislators to override restrictions on how the treasurer invests tax revenue, and nixed the idea of calling a constitutional convention.

Flynn Park, one of U City's oldest parks



U City News

Ice Carny is back!

The Loop Ice Carnival will return to Delmar Saturday, January 21, with ice sculptures, 'Smoers, sports and games, food and drink, and all the traditional enticements.

The Dog Park on Vernon Ave. is a favorite place for dogs and their owners to socialize. The renewal period for members begins Dec. 5 and new U City residents may apply starting Dec. 12. The place to pay is the finance department on the first floor of City Hall. Bring proof of residence and valid vaccination documents for your pet(s). Centennial Commons is open for exercise 9 am-6 pm Monday through Friday. Candidate filing for the school board election is open from Dec. 6-27. Complete information at ucityschools.org/BOE. Renovation of the public library building at Delmar and Kingsland is on track to be completed in March 2023.

Parkview Gardens Association
830 Vanderbilt Avenue
University City MO 63130

News of the Neighborhood:
*Join Parkview Gardens Assoc.
*Holiday closings & events
*U City parks system turns 100