

The Pacer

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

U City News Roundup

Parkview Place closed

At the City Council meeting January 10, the Kempland Bridge (in the Northwest part of the city) was the main topic. The Public Works Department reported that the bridge, one of the highest in the city, was safe but in need of repair. Built in 1998, it is a steel girder structure, requiring more maintenance than a concrete one. Currently 80% of U City's bridges are concrete. The Kempland Bridge has an estimated lifespan of 50 years and would cost more than \$500 thousand to replace. Staff shortages are challenging the city's inspection and repair program. The council approved the Kempland repair. In other business, the council discussed hiring Creative Entourage for \$45 thousand to conduct a survey and produce materials to inform voters about the sales tax raise for the Fire Department on the April ballot. The city lacks a communications director, and public meetings are difficult given the Covid situation. The council approved the hiring. Dennis

Fuller, Jerrold Tiers, and Craig Hughes were reappointed to the Traffic Commission. A liquor license for Greenwood Restaurant and a site plan for All Nations Church on Olive were approved.

In other local news, no



Trolley may run again.

candidates have filed to run against Mayor Terry Crow and three councilmembers up for re-election. The filing period has closed. QuikTrip has bought land at 7579 Olive Blvd. for a filling station/convenience store. The city's population in the 2020 Census was 35,065, down from 35,371 in 2010. On Jan. 23, the School District of University City was in the latest group of schools sued by

Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt over mask mandates. St. Louis Mayor Tishaura Jones said that she and other local leaders have been given until March 1 to come up with a plan to restart Loop Trolley operations by the Federal Transit Authority. Otherwise, the FTA will seek to recover the money it contributed to construction of the trolley. Jones said that could add up to \$22 million. A water main break damaged the Parkview Place Apartments (formerly the Seltzer Building) on Westgate in mid-January. FoxNews2 reported that residents had to move out and the building has been condemned until it is repaired and brought up to code.

Opportunities for Teens

Students and Poets

Applications for the 2022 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

The deadline is March 1 for the 2022 Beverly Hopkins Memorial Poetry Contest. Winners receive cash prizes and publication of their works in the St. Louis Poetry Center's annual chapbook. Open to St. Louis area high school students. No entry fee. Info: stlouispoe-etrycenter.org.

Presidents' Day

Holiday closings

Presidents' Day will be observed Monday, Feb. 21. 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.

How Fares U City?

Top officials speak

The Historical Society of University City presents State of the City. This will be a virtual event, streaming beginning at 7 pm Wednesday March 2. City Manager Gregory Rose and Mayor Terry Crow will report on municipal accomplishments and challenges. Go to ucitymo.org for an announcement about the link.

Mo Rolls in Dough

Spending plans

State Senator (and former U City Mayor) Joe Adams reports from Jefferson City that state government is enjoying ample revenue, thanks in part to federal relief payments. Governor Mike Parson (R) proposed a \$46.7 billion state operating budget, which would fund the state's Medicaid program for FY 2022 and '23. He's also asking for \$600 mil-

less you're a night owl, set your clocks forward an hour before you go to bed. Your phone should be able to figure it out on its own, and you just have to prepare yourself for getting one hour less sleep.

Other Spring dates to remember:

March 1 Mardi Gras
April 5 Municipal elections
April 15 Passover begins
April 18 Tax deadline
April 22 Earth Day

Library Events

Virtual book clubs

The public library continues to host free online book discussions. Go to the website ucitylibrary.org for link information. U City Book Group discusses *Hell of a Book* by Jason Mott at 7 pm Feb. 23. Orcs and Aliens discusses *The Space between Planets* by Micaiah Johnson at 7 pm March 14. Read the Classics discusses *The Country Girls* by Edna O'Brien March 15 at 2 pm. The library

also has a YouTube channel with many programs including board meetings, storytelling and craft demonstrations.

Jazz Age Murder

A century ago in Clayton

Though forgotten today, the Graham-Taylor murder case was "one of the most sensational trials in the history of St. Louis County," said the St. Louis *Argus* at the time, and it made front-page headlines in all the other newspapers. The



Parkview Place closed

lion more for state-run colleges and universities, \$400 million for rural broadband expansion, \$250 million for community development grants and \$722 million for child care. The St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* added that Parson intends to raise teacher pay, which is currently the lowest in the nation. The income tax rate would fall to 5.3%.

Spring Forward

DST is back

Daylight Saving Time returns at 2 am Sunday March 13. Un-

story began in the late morning of Nov. 21, 1921, when sheriff's deputies responded to the mansion of Henry B. Graham, a man of great wealth and even greater notoriety, at the corner of Hanley and Clayton roads. They found Graham dying of a bullet wound. At about the same time, Clifford Taylor, Graham's Black chauffeur, walked into the sheriff's office in the Clayton courthouse and surrendered, saying he had shot Graham in self-defense.

The coroner's inquest was held at the scene of the crime a few hours later. The only witnesses were Graham's physician, Dr. Afton Brooks, his wife, Georgine Shore Graham, and her father, George M. Shore. Mrs. Graham testified that early that morning she had found the kitchen in a mess. At breakfast, she asked her husband to "admonish" the cook, Blanche Wallace Taylor, wife of the chauffeur. He went to the kitchen and told her she would have to do better. She went up to the third-floor room she shared with her husband. A little later, he came downstairs to enter the living room, where Graham was seated at his desk. Mrs. Graham, who was in the next room, heard Taylor tell her husband that he and his wife were quitting, and he wanted the pay that was due them. Graham ordered Taylor to remove his pipe from his mouth and take his hat off. Clifford refused, and Graham said, "Then I'll take it off!" Through the doorway, Mrs. Graham saw him rise to knock off Clifford's hat, and Clifford pull a pistol from his pocket and shoot Graham. She ran into the living room.

Clifford pointed the pistol at her, then lowered it and ran out of the house. Shore confirmed her account. Dr. Brooks, who tended Graham in his last moments, asked him what had happened, but Graham had no statement to



Henry B. Graham

make about the crime. He only reminded Brooks that several quail he'd promised him were in the icebox. The coroner charged Taylor with murder and ordered him held without bond.

The racial prejudices of the time were plainly displayed in the coverage by the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, and *St. Louis County Watchman-Advocate*. (Less so in the

St. Louis Post-Dispatch) The *Watchman-Advocate's* front page headline was typical: "Clayton Man Slain by Negro." Reporters from these papers seldom bothered to interview Blacks. But there was a prominent African American newspaper, the *St. Louis Argus*. Its masthead slogan was, "A square deal for every man." On November 25, a front-page article said, "the *Argus* sent a representative to the scene so that the facts of the case might be given." When the sheriff would not permit an interview with Clifford Taylor, the reporter spoke to his wife. She said that upon returning to the kitchen after her day off, she found "everything torn up and disarranged." She set about straightening and cleaning. Graham came in for a glass of whiskey and she told him about the mess. He kept on drinking and became abusive. She went weeping to her husband. They decided to leave. They had worked for Graham on and off for three years and had experienced his drunken rages before. While she packed, her husband went

downstairs. Hearing raised voices, she followed and witnessed the shooting. Her account of it differed from Georgine Graham's in one important point: Blanche Taylor said Graham had a gun in his hand, and Taylor had to shoot him in self-defense. *To be continued in the March issue*

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.

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News of the Neighborhood:
*PGA Award funds education
*State of the City online event
*Death in the Jazz Age
