

# The Pacer

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## Electric Vehicle Charging

*If we build it, will you come?*

Electric vehicles benefit the environment because they have a significantly lower carbon footprint than gasoline-powered vehicles. They benefit their owners by requiring much less maintenance and being cheaper to operate (especially in an era of higher gas prices). For these and other reasons, EV sales increased 80% last year. The number of EVs on the road is expected to reach 145 million by 2030. Some of them will be in Parkview Gardens--possibly in *your* parking space. The only real drawback of EVs is charging them. It's especially difficult if you live in an apartment. So the Parkview Gardens Association is considering constructing an EV charging station. But we don't know if the demand is there yet. If you would like to see a charg-

ing station in the neighborhood, please let me know your thoughts at davidlinzee@yahoo.com.

## August Combined Events



*One of four painted pianos in the Loop.*

## Back to School Rally And National Night Out

The community-wide National Night against Crime and Back to School Rally will be held from 5 to 7 pm Aug. 2 at Jackson Park Elementary School, 7400 Balson. Free haircuts, health checks, music and refresh-

ments. Masks required.

## Council Meetings

*Eminent domain, parks and recreation*

On June 13, the City Council considered the use of eminent domain at the Market at Olive development. Larry Chapman, one of the partners in the development, said that currently his top objective is buying the few properties remaining to be acquired. All needed property on the south side of Olive has been acquired. On the north side, 34 houses have been bought, leaving only three. The partners are eager to get

them. Prospective tenants, including major retailers sought for the Anchor B location, are asking for a guaranteed completion date. If too much time goes by, they will lose interest. The developers have been flexible in their dealings with homeowners, in



*A strong turn-out for the 2022 Memorial Day Run*

some cases buying properties for them to move into or assisting with financing. They have paid more than owners could get if they just hung out a for-sale sign. Now, Chapman said, he is reluctantly asking for eminent domain on three parcels on Elmore and Orchard avenues. The issue is money, not whether homeowners want to stay. If the developers are allowed to go forward on eminent domain, it will spur hold-outs to come to the negotiating table and seal the deal. Steve McMahon (First Ward) asked if third parties had been brought into the negotiations. Chapman said that in one case he had tried a mediator without success. Mayor Terry Crow said the city's policy was that if someone wants to stay in their home, City Hall wants them to be able to stay. But it seems these three homeowners want to move. Chapman confirmed this. In other business, assistant city manager Dawn Beasley provided more information on Code Red, the new emergency warning system. New software will enable improved communication with residents, especially about

was approved. Richard Sorkin was re-appointed to the Land Clearance Redevelopment Authority. In public comment, a resident of Crown Center Senior Living expressed concern about new nearby luxury apartments on Delcrest. They may be rented out through airbnb and used for parties, leading to parking problems.

At the June 20 meeting, the council discussed Heman Park lighting. The city intends to provide more lighting for the area where band concerts are held, which now is dark at night. More light at the end of concerts, when people are going to their cars, would be welcome. This improvement would also put more light on nearby athletic fields. Police Chief Hampton was asked if the four police cars recently purchased are electric vehicles. Hampton said no, police vehicles are in use all the time, so there is no downtime for charging. He is exploring other options. City Manager Gregory Rose pointed out that code compliance officers use EVs and the city hopes to expand EV use to other departments when possible. Parks

flood risk. Staff can send messages direct from cell phones or laptops to specific geographic areas. Residents can sign up to receive alerts at [ucitymo.org](http://ucitymo.org). A rezoning bill related to the Costco development

and Recreation funding was discussed. McMahon asked if we are getting to the point where the focus should shift from facilities (buildings and parks) to recreation programs. We had a lot of layoffs during the Covid lockdown. Now we need to increase staff as well as citizen participation. Rose said the city had been far behind on park facilities but has now caught up and will shift to recreation. The climate is different from pre-Covid. The city needs to identify programs residents feel comfortable participating in. The city is looking into partnerships with the school district and other jurisdictions in offering programs. Rose will bring information to the council on the costs of a summer youth program for next summer and may approach the school district about cooperating on it. The Council approved an amendment to an ordinance relating to the Loop Special Business District advisory commission, reducing the number of members from nine to seven. Mayor Terry Crow asked for a report from the Commission for Access and Local Original Programming. The annual operating budget



*Street Market on Delmar, Memorial Day Weekend*



*Mayor Crow praised this year's 22 Mannequins in the Loop and thanked the organizers.*

was approved. Aleta Klein (Second Ward) thanked U City in Bloom and volunteers for their work on Ruth Park Woods. She invited the community to enjoy this beautiful park.

## Vote!

*Who will MO send to DC?*

The primary election is Aug. 2. Numerous Democrats, Republicans and Independents are running for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Roy Blunt (R), who is retiring. Cori Bush (D), who represents our district in the House, is facing several challengers. Republican voters will also select a candidate to run for this seat. Candidates for state and local offices will also be on the ballot.

## Consumer Alert

*Product hazardous to user*

Mass shootings and talk of potential laws restricting guns are known to motivate people to

buy guns. Before you do, consider the hazards. Guns are dangerous to their owners. "Ready access to a gun is a major risk factor for suicide," said David Studdert, lead author of a Stanford University study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* two years ago. The study, which tracked 26 million Americans from the day they bought their first handgun for 12 years, confirmed the findings of earlier, smaller studies. A 2019 study found that police officers are three times more likely to commit suicide than be killed by someone else in the line of duty. The New York Police Department reported that a majority of officer suicides shot themselves with their own guns. Suicides accounted for more than half of American gun deaths in 2020, the Pew Research Center found. People buy guns to feel safer from other people, but having the gun makes them more dangerous to themselves.

## Summer Arts

*Music and painting and biking*

COCA's summer musical is *Matilda* by Roald Dahl, presented July 22-24.

Tickets available from [co-castl.org](http://co-castl.org). The Union Avenue Opera presents Verdi's *Falstaff* on July 29 and 30, August 5 and 6. Ticket info: 314-361-2881. At the St. Louis Art Museum in Forest Park, the exhibition *Catching the Moment: Contemporary Art from the Ted L. and MaryAnne Ellison Simmons Collection*, continues until September 11. Ticket info: [slam.org](http://slam.org). The Moonlight Ramble, St. Louis' beloved late night bike ride, will be Aug. 13. ([moonlightramble.com](http://moonlightramble.com))

## Local History

*5, 10, 15, 20 Years Ago in the Pacer*

July 2017 A pergola was constructed in Clemens, one of the community gardens co-sponsored by PGA. The U City Summer Band held a special concert at Whitehaven in South County.



*One of 12 images by Washington University students on display in Heman Park, which explore the history, visual profile and community perceptions of the River des Peres. This is the latest temporary exhibition to result from the collaboration of University City Arts & Letters and Washington U which began in 1986.*

July 2012 Gardeners were coping with drought. U City was debating the Loop Trolley.  
July 2007 Clemens Community Garden announced that it would host a National Night Out Against Crime party Aug. 4. The Tivoli was holding a Midnight Movie Festival.  
July 1997 808 Kingsland Avenue, the first building to be completed in the \$5.4 million PGA Phase II Renovation Project, was ready for occupancy.

## Trolley Returns

### *On weekends*

The Loop Trolley is scheduled to start running again Aug. 4. Hours of operation will be 11 am-7 pm Thurs-Sun. A decision on fares is forthcoming. The Trolley will not run in winter.

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News of the Neighborhood:  
\*Electric car charging station?  
\*Council considers eminent domain  
\*Summer scenes on Delmar