

The Pacer

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

EV Charger Coming Soon

PGA Board Meeting

Electric vehicle charging is coming to Parkview Gardens in July. At the joint boards of directors meeting of the Parkview Gardens Association and its associated Special Business District May 9, President Mike Giger announced that after a long search he had found a contractor, Guarantee Electric, to build the two-port, Level II charging station. Ameren has approved the bid and will pay part of the cost. Construction will soon begin behind Vito's Garden (not currently in use as a community garden) at 746 Leland Avenue. The station will be part of the Blink charging system. Their website will show how best to get to our charging station and what is required. Charging will be free to users, but they will need to use their cell phones to get the app from blinkcharging.com and register with a credit card.

The 2023 PGA Award has been won by Kiarira Merrill on Cates Avenue, who is graduating from University City High School and will attend Linden-

wood University. This award for higher education was initiated in 2001. Thirty-eight young residents of Parkview Gardens have received support, and 11 have graduated from college or trade school. PGA has



Coming soon to Leland Avenue

also provided support for five neighborhood children to attend Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Education Center on Kingsland Avenue.

Gardener Kelcye McDonogh, who looks after the neighborhood's decorative flower beds, reported progress on the new decorative beds flanking the entrance to the big parking lot on Kingsland Avenue. The location lacks a nearby water source, so drought-tolerant native plants are being put in there. The established beds have been replanted and the median trees are looking healthy.

Treasurer Dennis Lutsky reported that the organizations are in sound financial shape. The Special Business District's main source of income is a special tax paid by local businesses for the betterment of the neighborhood. Its main expenses are the two community gardens, this newsletter and education of neighborhood youth. The Association's main source of income is repayment of loans. Its main expense this year was repair of buildings damaged in the July floods.

The project of building pickleball courts in Metcalfe Park is on hold, mostly because construction cost estimates have risen steeply. PGA is also considering a walking/running track at Metcalfe. The city plans to improve the parking lots there and may upgrade the playground. This is the 100th anniversary of the city's public park system. The PGA-SBD has contributed to the celebration.

Thirty years ago, PGA bought some apartment buildings in a neighborhood improvement initiative that has proven successful. The Asso-

ciation made a commitment then to charge below-market rent on these buildings. This commitment ends soon and the board members are considering what to do with the buildings. A decision will be announced soon.

Music & More

U City news and events

The 2023 Starlight Concert Series has begun this year's free shows Mondays in Heman Park. Next up, on June 19, is Bridges and Company, followed by Cheri Evans on June 26 and Inner City Blues on July 10. Showtime is 6 pm. More concerts will follow in September. Dierbergs is coming to Market at Olive as the second retail anchor (after Costco). Midtown Farmers Market offers food and drink, crafts and music every Saturday morning at 6655 Delmar. Summer reading programs are underway at U City Public Library. The books are *The Priory of the Orange Tree*, written by Samantha Shannon in 2019, and *The Tale of Genji*, written by Murasaki Shikibu in 1008. Information about discussions and other events is at ucitylibrary.org. Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, superintendent of U City schools, received the Robert L. Pearce Award from the Missouri Association of School Administrators. Susan G. Rehkopf, retired archivist and president of the Historical Society of University City, received the Rozier Award from Missouri Preservation. COCA's summer musical is *Pippin* by Stephen Schwartz, with performances on July 20-21. Tickets at cocastl.org

19

Events around town

Juneteenth will be celebrated with numerous events. At the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park, From New Orleans to Galveston to St. Louis and Beyond is a nine-generation family migra-



Mannequin on the Loop: Elinoir Blanc by Tony Renner

tion story. There will also be a live performance by Community Gospel Choir of St. Louis. Thursday June 15 5:30-8 pm. Free admission, food and drink available for purchase. Juneteenth Caribbean Heritage Festival is Saturday June 17 in Forest Park. Tickets at eventbrite.com. The Free Dome Celebration will take place in Fairground Park 1-7 pm Monday June 19, with vendors and entertainment. Free admission. June 19 is a federal holiday. U City library and city hall will be closed.

Jeff City News

Spending bill passes

Representative Joe Adams reports that Attorney General Andrew Bailey has withdrawn the emergency rule banning gender care for minors and adults in Missouri he announced last month. A St. Louis County judge had temporarily blocked the rule. The legislature has passed and sent to the Governor a bill restricting gender care for minors. Governor Mike Parson has signed the supplemental budget bill that authorizes \$2 billion in spending on Medicaid, schools and child care services.

Independence Day

Party on the riverfront

July 4 falls on a Tuesday this year. The library and city hall will be closed. Fair St. Louis will be held downtown on July 4, with a parade in the morning and fireworks display in the evening. The Fair St. Louis Foundation plans to expand in 2024; go to fair-saintlouis.org for information.

Cool Breeze

In your apartment.

A few words of advice from PGA landlords on central air conditioning:

*If nothing happens when you hit the switch, go down to the basement and check the circuit breakers or fuses. (Assuming, of course that you have access to the basement. If not, call the landlord.)

*Don't expect instant comfort. It takes two or three hours for the system to get the humidity out of the apartment.

*Once you turn it on, leave it on while the hot weather lasts. If you don't have one of the new programmable thermostats, turn the thermostat up to 85 before you go out for the day. On your return set it down to 78, which represents the best compromise between comfort and expense. There is a limit to how cool an apartment can be made; if the temp outside is 100, 80 is about the best you can expect inside.

*Check and if necessary replace your furnace filter element. The air conditioning uses the same system as the furnace, and a clogged filter can cause a coil to freeze.

*Make sure the return grille is not blocked by furniture or pictures.

* The North American Electric Reliability Corporation has warned that power outages are likely in the region this summer.

Forest Park Fun

*Jewel of St. Louis
sparkles*

Missouri History Museum has the exhibition Soccer City St. Louis: uniforms, mementos, photos documenting the city's history as "America's soccer capital." Free. At St. Louis Art Museum, the show "Monet/Mitchell: Painting the French Countryside" ends on June 25. Joan Mitchell is an American abstract expressionist painter. Ticket info at slam.org. The Art Hill Film Series is showing *Top Gun: Maverick* July 14, *Akeelah and the Bee* July 21, *School of Rock* July 28. Free. Music and food trucks. The Planetarium holds Yoga Under the Stars, with a 60 minute session fol-

lowing a survey of the night sky, on June 26. Ticket info at slsc.org. Muny Opera presents *Beauty and the Beast* starting June 22. (Ticket-center.com) HullabaZoo spotlights unique animals and habitats from around the world on Friday evenings at the St. Louis Zoo with food, drink and live entertainment.



Former Mayor Shelley Welsch at the ceremony re-naming Kingsland Park in her honor May 20

On June 9, the subject is Peru; on June 23, bees and other native pollinators. Free admission. And don't forget the Boathouse on Government Drive, where you can rent a boat or have a drink and a meal ashore.

Indy 5

The story so far

Indiana Jones has been a movie hero for a long time and weathered changes in social attitudes. When first seen in 1981, he was stealing a sacred sculpture from indigenous people in the Amazon.

Forty-two years later, that act would get the adventurer-archeologist hero condemned as an imperialist-racist looter. Back in that carefree era, *Raiders of the Lost Ark* was a big hit that made Harrison Ford a superstar. (In the *Star Wars* movies, he'd been second banana to Mark Hamill.) The second installment, *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* (1984), made money but tangled director Steven Spielberg in one of the nastiest controversies of his long career. He was accused of making the movie too "horrific," with a feast of snakes and monkey brains, a tunnel of a million bugs and a guy's heart getting torn out. Today's audiences are hardened against such gruesomeness, but they'd be more likely to object to the movie's heroine, who is what was quaintly called a "gold-digger." (She's looking for a rich man to marry.) *Indiana Jones and*

the Last Crusade (1989) received an unqualified warm welcome from fans. In an inspired move, it provided Indy with a father, played by Sean Connery. The age difference between them was only 12 years, but nobody complained. They made a perfect comedy team. The film turned a bit pious and sentimental toward the end, but that was understandable considering everyone expected it to be the last of the series. Indeed there was a gap of almost 20 years, but then *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* appeared. This time In-

dy was provided with a son, played by Shia LaBeouf, who did not find favor with audiences. In fact, many viewers thought that Cate Blanchett, as a droll Commie spy, stole the picture from the Jones boys. Was *Skull* one sequel too many? Apparently the film-makers didn't think so, because *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny* opens June 30. Harrison Ford has already announced that it will be the last. What--he's giving up playing action heroes just because he's 80? Fans are wondering how he'll look when he's digitally de-aged for a flashback, and whether James Mangold will prove a worthy successor to Spielberg as director.

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News of the Neighborhood:

- *EV Charging Station
- *PGA Award Winner
- *New Flowerbeds