

# The Pacer

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PGA Special Business District

## PGA Meeting

### *Suggestions for foiling porch pirates*

At the semi-annual meeting of the Parkview Gardens Association and its associated Special Business District, held virtually Oct. 19, community representative Michael Donovan and property owner representative Steve Condrin were re-elected. Election of officers was held and Mike Giger continues as president, Dan Wald as vice-president, and Dennis Lutsky as treasurer. In his report, Lutsky said that the PGA and the SBD were in good financial shape. The PGA spends its money mostly on supporting education of young residents. The SBD spends its money mostly on making the neighborhood a more pleasant place to live. The SBD is funded by a tax approved by the voters in 1996. The PGA's income de-

rives from properties it owns and member dues. The board appreciates that one member added a contribution of \$100 this year, and several members have written in to say that they



*Blooming in autumn. Japanese anemones in the Clemens-Kingsland median flower bed.*

are pleased with reports of PGA activities they read in the Pacer.

Giger said that the coronavirus lockdown had a chilling effect on educational outreach. There were four neighborhood residents in the U City High School graduating class, but none applied for the

PGA Award, which supports college and trade school education. Organizations are now recovering from the lockdown. The PGA has made contributions to Lolly's Place (314-800-4260--of-fering tutoring and activities for young children) Unleashing Potential (314-383-1733--providing a variety of activities for a range of ages) and College Bound, which concentrates on high school juniors and seniors. (Note to parents: PGA provides scholarships to Parkview Gardens residents for the Lolly's Place tutoring and Unleashing Potential before- and after-school programs.)

PGA-SBD contributed to the U City Memorial Day run, which was held successfully this year after an off-year due to the pandemic. The three community gardens co-sponsored by PGA-SBD are shutting down for winter and have a waiting list for spring. Kelcye McDonough continues to tend the 12 decorative

flower beds and median trees. The Leland/Loop North beautification project is complete except for the light, which is a complicated repair. Giger thanked Condren for recommending a tuck pointing firm for the job and commended artist Andy Cross for the mural.

Looking to the future, boardmembers discussed parks. The city received grants for Ackert Park renovation but has not started work yet. Turning some of the neighborhood's vacant lots into mini-parks is a possibility worth considering. The Association needs to be vigilant to combat overcrowding of apartments, although so far the city has strictly enforced its occupancy permit policy against too many unrelated people sharing an apartment. The new construction on Cates is doing well under quality ownership. Condren said that Washington University off-campus housing has almost completely recovered from the Covid lockdown-related slump. The university has completed renovation work on its buildings for now. Porch pirates are a problem here, as in many neighborhoods. Washington U. tenants can ask to have packages delivered to the North Campus office, but delivery drivers may not necessarily comply. The university's maintenance workers have a policy of moving packages on the doorstep to inside the building lobby.

An internet service called Luxor One, which notifies customers when they have a package, is recommended as the holiday gift-giving season approaches.

## Free Move

### *Rose corrects Fox News*

At the virtual City Council meeting Oct. 11, City Manager Gregory Rose addressed a recent Fox News report that relo-

found that the stop could have been handled better but there had been no gross negligence. In other business, the Community Visioning 2040 Task Force is complete. The council approved the fiscal year 2022-23 Work Plan, noting that the retention and recruitment program is important now to support local business. The council approved the purchase of a shooting range trailer for the police. Chief Hampton said officers need more firearms training, and he has to lease sometimes distant ranges at inconvenient times. Florissant is selling a shooting range trailer and U City is bidding on it. The establishment of a Third Ward Revitalization Task Force was approved.



*An abundant harvest on display at Midtown Farmers Market.*

cating council meetings from City Hall to the Trinity Building (the old library) would cost more than \$2 million. Rose said the actual cost would be zero. He recommended the relocation because the only elevator available to take people to the fifth floor Council Chambers was unreliable. The Trinity building is also more secure, an important consideration in our era of mass shootings. Rose made a statement about a May incident in which a U City police officer stopped and questioned pedestrians on Delcrest. One of them filed a complaint. An internal review

## Bond Transformed

### *No spoilers*

Everybody's talking about the ending of *No Time To Die* while trying not to spoil it for people who haven't seen it yet, and the Pacer editor can't resist joining in. The producers made a radical move with Daniel Craig's first movie, "re-booting" the series. It worked; *Casino Royale* (2006) was widely considered one of the best Bonds ever. They made another risky choice with Craig's last movie, and this one may turn out to be a mistake. The character of James Bond has kept going through 60

years and many changes of actor by playing on our mixed feelings about him. He was unquestionably a hero for our moment, but he was also a cold-blooded killer, whose appetite for life's baser pleasures was whetted by his bloody deeds. We felt a thrill rooting for Bond but knew it was a dirty thrill. At the finale of *No Time To Die*, the movie-makers try to make it simpler for us. We are invited to embrace Bond as a warm-hearted, noble, conventional hero. The killing-machine thing is no longer an issue; the three female stars of the picture kill people just as unhesitatingly and remorselessly as Bond does. In the final scene, a mother even considers an account of his adventures to be inspiring fare for a four year-old child. This is quite a change. When the first Bond movies came out, many parents forbade their twelve year-old children from seeing them--as the Pacer editor can testify from personal experience. Does the future hold a G-rated Bond? Let's hope not. With the next picture, the producers can do another re-boot.

zoo.org. The Polar Express Train Ride starts at Union Station with hot chocolate, Christmas carols and gifts. From Nov.19-Dec. 30. Ticket info: 314-421-6655. Holiday Lights at Grant's Farm opens Nov. 19. (314-843-1700) Winterfest Ice Rink at Keiner



*Icicle time is coming.*

## Holidays Approach

### *Closings and events*

Thanksgiving break is Nov. 24-28 at Washington University and at the University City School District, Nov. 20-29 at University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Garden Glow begins at the Missouri Botanical Garden Nov. 13. Tickets can be ordered through mobot.org. US Bank Wild Lights returns to the Zoo Nov. 26 and continues through the holidays. Tickets: stl-

Plaza downtown begins Nov. 20. (314-289-5300) One of the most eagerly-awaited of lockdown-delayed movies, Steven Spielberg's remake of *West Side Story*, is scheduled for release Dec. 10. COCA presents *wUNDERland*, a hip-hop adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland*, Dec. 16-19. Tickets: cocastl.org. Winter Opera holds a holiday extravaganza featuring not just song but dance--portions of *La Bohème* and *The Nutcracker* Dec. 4 at Kirkwood Perform-

ing Arts Center. Tickets: 314-865-0038

## Covid Testing

### *Easy and free*

U City School District is partnering with Washington University School of Medicine to provide free saliva testing for Covid-19. The testing aims at detecting asymptomatic but transmissible cases. Any student, staff member, or person living with either, is eligible for testing. Appointments: 314-454-4269.

## Sleeping Tips

### *How to stay*

#### *warm*

There's nothing like snuggling into a warm bed on a cold night. As a *New York Times* article pointed out, while most activities are harder in the winter, sleeping is easier and more enjoyable. Keeping the bedroom at 65 degrees or even a little lower helps most people sleep better.

With the money you save on your Spire bill, buy flannel sheets and a down comforter. The *Times* also recommends preheating the bed with an electric mattress pad. Weather stripping around window frames keeps out arctic blasts. A humidifier prevents chapped lips and dry throat.

## Stinkbugs

### *Snarl supply chain*

An insect that is a minor pest in Parkview Gardens turns

out to have a global reach. Brown marmorated stinkbugs are sneaking into our apartments now, fleeing cooling temperatures in favor of snug hiding places to spend the winter. We won't see them until March or April, when they will sluggishly emerge. According to ABC News, the bugs are up to the same tricks in ports around the world, in search of food as well as shelter. Stinkbug infiltration is contributing to international supply chain delays. Port authorities are holding containers to inspect and fumigate, because areas that don't have stinkbugs hope to keep them out. Once stinkbugs establish a population in a new area, they devour crops. Fortunately, all you have to do with the ones in your apartment is catch them and put them outside. Don't crush them. There's a reason they're called stinkbugs.

## Lolly's Place

*News from children's center*

Lolly's Place, which provides tutoring and activities for young children, reports that in its seventh year it has a new office at 6940 Olive and a staff of 13 employees, 30 volunteers, and four UMSL students. They serve 48 U City children. In addition to PGA, they receive donations from the Incarnate Word Foundation and the Emerson Charitable Trust.

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### News of the Neighborhood:

- \*PGA Board meets, discusses education
- \*City Council discusses police shooting range
- \*Holiday events