

The Pacer

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PGA Special Business District

Helping Kids Succeed

After-school tutoring at Lolly's Place

The Parkview Gardens Association provides scholarships for children living in the Parkview Gardens neighborhood to attend the after-school tutoring program at Lolly's Place, which is located next to Schnuck's at 6934 Olive Blvd. The program is for children in grades K-6th grade. It is literacy-focused. It helps children complete homework, strengthen their academic skills, work on organization and time management skills. Go to lollysplace.org or call Ashley at 314-800-4260 for more information.



A student works with a tutor at Lolly's Place

Council Meets

Avenir controversy

At the virtual City Council meeting Sept. 12, Bill 9486 received its first reading. The bill designates "a certain tract

of land" as a blighted area, approves a development plan and authorizes the city "to enter into certain agreements and take certain other actions." Resident Valmik Thakore stated that the city did not identify

the tract of land as the Avenir Project and did not specify that the city was considering granting a tax abatement to the developers. (The Avenir project is a 262-unit high-end rental apartment complex on Delmar near I-170.) Thakore made his statement as part of public comment. Since the meeting was virtual, citizens could not address the council, but could send emails to the city clerk, which were published in the Minutes section of Public Documents on the city

website. There were 37 comments about Bill 9486. Twenty-two were in favor of the city providing financial incentives to the developer. Reasons given were that the development was well-designed, would draw more residents, business and development to the city and would provide more funding for the school district and other needs. Fifteen residents opposed the bill. Reasons given were that not enough information had been made public, that the city should not subsidize luxury apartments, that the developer could afford to pay for the project itself and that the city has more urgent needs, like flood relief.

In other business, City Manager Gregory Rose said that he would meet with the Missouri Sewer District to discuss its role in managing the River des Peres. He said the city had spent \$1.65 million so far on flood recovery, and that equipment failures had caused delays in refuse collection. The Council approved purchase of a new

refuse truck. Mayor Terry Crow congratulated Joe Edwards on the 50th anniversary of Blueberry Hill. (On Sept. 24, the city applied for federal funds for buyouts.)

Vote!

New law takes effect

November 8 is Election Day. At the top of the ticket, Republican Eric Schmitt is running against Democrat Trudy Busch Valentine for U.S. Senator. Republican Andrew Jones Jr. is running against Democrat Cori Bush for U.S. Representative. Missouri's new voting law is now in effect. Utility bills are no longer acceptable as ID. You must bring along your driver's license, passport, or other form of unexpired photo ID issued by the state or federal government. If you don't have one of these, seek information at sl.sos.mo.gov/voteridhelp. If you go to the polling place without ID, you can still cast a provisional ballot. To vote absentee, apply via the St. Louis County Board of Elections website by Oct. 26. The website also provides information on early in-person voting.

School News

Returning artist

U City's 2022 returning artist is musician Scott Black of the class of 1971. He will be honored with a reception at U City Senior High School Nov. 16. One U City will hold a Trunk or Treat and Pumpkin Stroll event at Jackson Park School Oct. 29. The School District is holding community input events on Saturday morning Oct. 22 and Tuesday evening

Oct. 25. Location will be announced on ucityschools.org

Free Video

Memory

The Pacer peruses the DVD offerings at local public libraries. In his new movie, Liam Neeson plays a hit-man sinking into the shadows of Alzheimer's Disease. The idea is



Tivoli celebrates 50 years in Loop

intriguing. When you've committed many murders, you might welcome the fading of your memory. But you're in a business where losing your mental edge means losing your life. Since the 2008 hit *Taken*, Neeson has established himself as Hollywood's senior action star. He's 70 now, and I was wondering if this picture would gain resonance from a rueful acknowledgement that time must inevitably catch up with even the toughest of heroes. In the 1993 *In the Line of Fire*, Clint Eastwood enhanced the suspense and the humor by

suggesting that he was getting too old and too slow to catch the villain, and that his much younger romantic co-star was amused by his outdated smooth opening lines. Disappointingly, *Memory* establishes the Alzheimer's threat only to push it aside in favor of a conventional plot in which Neeson refuses to complete his assignment of killing a child and becomes the target of his drug-cartel employers. As usual, Neeson out-smarts and out-shoots legions of younger bad guys, notwithstanding his failing memory. The setting is El Paso, and the line dividing right and wrong gets as blurred as the Texas-Mexico border. At one point, Neeson seems to be offering FBI agent Guy Pearce a deal: he'll keep killing villains whom corrupt prosecutors won't allow Pearce to arrest, if Pearce will promise to kill the ones who are left when Neeson loses all his marbles. Or something like that. The picture is nearly stolen from Neeson by another veteran performer: Monica Bellucci, as a drug queenpin turned esteemed philanthropist. Her serene, icy performance demonstrates the power of cartel money better than all the gunplay and expletive-riddled rants of frustrated lawmen. Over all, there are more old ideas than new ones in the movie. For instance, Neeson takes to writing key facts he can't remember on his forearm with a felt-tip pen. When he wakes up in the hospital, the forearm is washed clean. As a frustrated Neeson shows the forearm to Pearce, I was hoping Pearce would say, "No, you've got to *tattoo* the vital clues into your skin, the way I did in *Memento*." But that was

way back in 2000, and I guess he forgot.

Quality Question

From the Pacer's socio-linguistics department

Seems like whenever I ask a question these days, the other person responds, "That's a good question." This confuses me, because in my youth, people said "Good question!" when they didn't know the answer. But many expressions that were said archly in my young day are now spoken sincerely, or at least with soothing intent. The answer will come in due course, but first the other person wants to butter me up a bit. It works; I feel a little glow when assured that I have made an astute query. That's probably why, on radio and television, politicians and celebrities frequently say "good question" to interviewers. Terry Gross on NPR must be getting tired of hearing it.

Realtors Act

Against housing discrimination

In the early 1960s, we read in NiNi Harris' *Legacy of Lions*, Blacks were beginning to move into U City, and "real estate companies urged them to buy in the northern section and advised whites to avoid it." The City Council considered a Fair Housing Bill. Opponents warned that if U City alone passed such a bill, real estate agents would steer their clients to other cities. In 1965, the council announced that it favored a fair housing policy but did not make it the law. In 1967, the council banned For Sale signs, "the obvious evidence of panic selling by white homeowners." These memories

of the bad old days were prompted by heartening recent news. The St. Louis Realtors Association apologized for helping to keep the region segregated by taking part in practices such as red-lining (denying Blacks mortgages) and blockbusting (encouraging white homeowners to sell by telling them



Winter is coming

Blacks would move into their neighborhood and lower property values). The Realtors' also announced a corrective plan, with 22 calls for action, including a land bank in St. Louis County to address vacancy, a state law to eliminate racist real estate covenants still on the books despite being outlawed, and mentorship programs to attract and keep Blacks in the real estate business.

Keep Warm

And save money

You may really need these

tips, because Spire is seeking a rate increase. The company estimates that a typical residential customer's monthly bill will rise by 10.44%. Consumers can contact the Public Service Commission via email: pscinfo@psc.mo.gov. Whatever happens, tenants and owners can save on their heating bills by taking a few simple steps this winter:

*Change the furnace filter.

You may only have to ask the landlord. If not, the filter elements are inexpensive and can be found in most hardware stores. Some filters are washable.

*Don't block the return-air.

This is usually a grill set in the wall or floor near the furnace, or on an opposite wall. The furnace can't operate efficiently if it's covered. The same goes for the grill in the floor of the furnace closet.

*Don't store anything in the furnace closet, especially not inflammables.

*Take window air conditioners out of the windows and put them in storage.

*Lower your storm windows. Admittedly, this can be a struggle in an old building. But it pays off in better insulation.

*Turn the thermostat down at night or when you go out. Every degree counts when it comes to your heating bill. Inexpensive timers are available to lower or raise the heat at preset hours. New-model thermostats can be programmed to do this.

Film Fest

No longer at Tivoli, alas!

The 31st annual St. Louis International Film Festival is

November 3-13. Films will be shown at Washington University and theatres around the area, including Plaza Frontenac and Galleria 6. Information about films and special events can be found on cinemastlouis.org

DST Ends

Forever?

Daylight Saving Time ends Nov. 6. This may be the last time we turn our clocks back in the fall. The U.S. Senate has approved the Sunshine Protection Act, which would relieve Americans of adjusting their clocks twice a year. If approved by the House and signed by the president, the law could go into effect next year. As of now, though, set your clocks back before you go to bed, enjoy an extra hour of sleep and prepare for darkness to come earlier in the evening.

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News of the Neighborhood:
*PGA offers scholarships for tutoring
*New rules for voting
*Spire may raise rates
