

The Pacer

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

PGA Meets

Plans year ahead

The semi-annual meeting of the Parkview Gardens Association and its associated special business district will be online at 6 pm Tuesday October 19. The board will elect boardmembers and officers, review financial statements and past year's activities. It will plan activities for next year and discuss issues of concern in the neighborhood. The meeting will be open to the public. If you want to attend virtually, email the Pacer editor at da-vidlinzee@yahoo.com. This neighborhood improvement group, consisting of landlords, businesspeople and residents, was founded in 1980. Membership is \$25 a year. You don't have to be a member to attend the meeting.

Tutoring

And after school program

Lolly's Place is a literacy-focused tutoring program located in University City, next

to Schnuck's on Olive. Our program is for children in grades K-6th grade. We resume in-person tutoring on Monday, September 20. Enroll today at lollysplace.org/



PGA is a sponsor of the annual U City Memorial Day Run.

enroll or call Ashley Rhodes at 314-800-4260 for more information. The Parkview Gardens Association sponsors students living in this neighborhood.

Unleashing Potential will hold before and after school programs at Flynn Park elementary school and Brittany Woods middle school. They will operate from 7-8:30 am and 3:30-6 pm. The program provides a curriculum-based approach to math, literature,

character education, fitness and nutrition. PGA offers scholarships to children who live in this neighborhood. More info at upstl.org or call Jennifer Vaughn at (314) 561-3341.

Ackert Rehab

At City Council meeting

The resurgence of Covid-19 forced the City Council to return to meeting online August 9. Mayor Terry Crow asked people to please get vaccinated. Ackert Park renovation was one of eight items on a

consent agenda that was approved. Aleta Klein (Second Ward) inquired about the mechanism for asking the surrounding community what they would like to see in the park. City Manager Gregory Rose said that normally there was a process and he would look into it. (The renovation plan was described in the December 2020 Pacer.) The city has received a grant of \$525

thousand from the Municipal Park Grant Commission and one of \$209 thousand from Washington University to fund the project.

In other business, the council authorized Rose to enter into a contract with the Missouri Highway and Transport Commission to improve Canton Avenue. The council approved the final plat and development plan for 8400 Delmar.

A bill to rename Kingsland Park for former Mayor Shelley Welsch was introduced. Bwayne Smotherson and Stacy Clay (Third Ward) and Chief Larry Hampton discussed reinstatement of the Police Explorers program. This is a critical time to improve relations between U City high school students (the majority of whom are Black) and the police. U City has avoided conflicts that have shaken other cities because the police department is highly professional and has good community relations. But declining student numbers make all kinds of programs difficult. Other inner-ring suburbs have the same problem, and U City should consider partnering with neighboring school districts. As an example of successful cooperation between the school district and the police department, Crow cited the recent National Night Out/Back to School event, which got a good turnout.

Local Numbers

Census reports on St. Louis

The 2020 U.S. Census reports that St. Louis County has a population of 994 thousand, up 1/2% from 2010. The median household income is \$67,400. 83% commute alone in their cars. 69% own their homes. For those who pay rent, the median is \$983. St. Louis City



Ackert Park

has a population of 300,600. Median household income is \$47,200. 73% drive alone to work. 44% own their homes. The median rent is \$828. The population has dropped by almost 18,000 from 2010. The St. Louis Metropolitan area has fallen out of the top 20 for the first time.

St. Louis has been losing population steadily since 1950. Will the decline continue until the last inhabitant turns out the lights and drives away? Not necessarily. It's possible that current population movement trends will reverse, which would benefit St. Louis. The *Guardian* noted recently that

for decades Americans have been moving from the Rust Belt to the Sun Belt, and it's now becoming clear that this is the wrong direction, considering climate change. Phoenix is the fastest-growing city in the nation, despite rising heat and growing doubts about the water supply. Florida and other coastal regions continue to grow despite sea level rise.

ProPublica has put on its website a map of the U.S. showing the region that will suffer the least from the consequences of climate change. It's the mid-section, including Missouri and other unglamorous states like Nebraska. St. Louis would seem to be an especially attractive city if water shortages are to come, being located near the junction of the continent's two largest rivers.

Netflix Pick

Seven Days in May

The Pacer combs through the DVD offerings on Netflix.com for obscure but interesting films. One thing that left and right agree on is that our democracy is teetering on the brink, so this seems an appropriate time to revisit a movie that imagined an American *coup d'état*. Released in 1964, *Seven Days in May* was a prestige picture, based on a big bestseller, boasting an all-star cast, with a script by Rod Serling (*Twilight Zone*) and direction by John Frankenheimer (*The Manchurian Candidate*). It is very much a product of its era. Diversity hasn't been in-

vented yet; this is a quarrel among middle-aged white men. The revolt is to be led by an Air Force general, who thinks the president is endangering the country by negotiating a disarmament agreement with the Soviet Union. The general is obviously a Republican, the president a Democrat, but the movie is too discreet to mention party names. In fact, the standard of decorum is high. There's no violence. Nobody curses or disrobes. The president's men get hold of letters the general wrote to his mistress. Everybody thinks these letters have the potential to destroy the general. The assumption seems to be that junior officers and enlisted men will follow orders to overthrow the government, but not if they come from an adulterer. It's a moot point, because the president is too much of a gentleman to reveal the letters. As the military men are about to make their move, the president gets hold of written evidence of the existence of the conspiracy, and that's enough to make the conspirators back down. Viewed in 2021, *Seven Days* makes one feel like laughing, then crying, at the inability of people in 1964 to imagine what America teetering on the brink would be like.

MO Covid

News from Jeff City

More than 10 thousand Missourians had died of Covid-19 as of Aug. 12, Rep. Joe Adams reported in his Aug. 20 newsletter from Jefferson City. That figure

was from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. Statistics compiled by local health departments placed the total death count from the disease at 11,182 on Aug. 12. Most counties include antigen test cases in their counts. The state only counts cases confirmed by a PCR test. Missouri is among the top third of states with the most new cases and



Gateway to University Hills, site of U City in Bloom garden tour

deaths per capita. It also has among the lowest vaccination rates, with just 43 percent of eligible Missourians being fully vaccinated as of Aug. 19.

Claiming Williams

Tennessee's neighborhood?

In August the Tennessee Williams Festival presented a "site-specific" production of *The Glass Menagerie* at the apartment building where his family lived from 1918 to 1922 in the Central West End,

"the Site that Inspired Williams' Masterpiece." Well, the festival is a welcome fixture on the St. Louis cultural scene, but we can't allow that claim to go uncontested: *The Glass Menagerie* belongs to Parkview Gardens. Williams scholar Allean Hale wrote, "The opening description of the Winfield apartment clearly places it on Enright Avenue, where the events of *Menagerie* actually took place in 1933." The Williams family lived at 6254 Enright from 1926 to 1935. Alas, we can't produce the play there, since the building was demolished in the 1960s.

Baker Honored

News from France

The remains of a great St. Louisan are to be reinterred

in the Panthéon, Paris. Josephine Baker, who has a star on the Walk of Fame, was born in St. Louis in 1906. In 1925 she went to Paris and became a star of the Folies Bergère. She accepted French citizenship in 1937, but returned to the U.S. to participate in the civil rights movement in the '60s. She died in 1975 and was buried in Monaco. She will be the first Black woman to rest in the Panthéon, along with Victor Hugo, Marie Curie and Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

Local Events

September festivities

The Loop in Motion festival returns this autumn. Delmar will be pedestrians only Sept. 11 and 12, and musicians will perform blues and reggae from a stage on the Tivoli parking lot in the afternoon and evening. U City in Bloom will hold a Garden Tour and Plein Air arts festival in University Hills Sept. 26. Tickets available at ucityinbloom.org. The St. Louis Art Museum presents a special exhibition, Art Along the Rivers: a Bicentennial Celebration, with 150 art objects produced in this area over the last thousand years. The show runs Oct. 3 to Jan. 9, 2022. Ticket prices and times at slam.org. Twilight Thursday evening concerts will be held at the Missouri History Museum starting Sept. 9. Info at mohistory.org

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News of the Neighborhood:
*Ackert Park renovation
*Semi-annual PGA meeting
*Tutoring and after school program