

The Pacer

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

Flooding

Is new development too risky?

At the Sept. 2 meeting of the Stormwater Commission, more than a dozen members of the public spoke about a proposed housing development and its potential effect on River Des Peres flooding. The development is The Enclaves at Canton, which is about a quarter-mile west of the intersection of Midland and Hanley. The River des Peres, which crosses U City partly in underground pipes and partly in concrete channels, flooded disastrously in July 2022. Vernon Avenue in Parkview Gardens briefly became a raging river. To build The Enclaves, an 11-acre wooded area on the west end of United Hebrew Cemetery would be clear-cut. At the Sept. 2 meeting, a member of the Green Practices Commission said that many of the trees are not in good condition. Residents of Mendell Avenue, downhill from the cemetery, and next to the river, stated that trees absorb rainwater, and replacing them with impermeable surface will contribute to flooding. The Mendell residents were unimpressed with developers' promises to plant

some trees when construction is finished. Other speakers stated that the River des Peres is one of the most flash-flood prone rivers in Missouri.



The EV charger is at 746 Leland Ave

Global warming is contributing to more frequent and severe floods, and records of past floods cannot be relied on to predict future ones. Still other speakers noted more benefits of trees: they provide bird habitat and mitigate the heat-island effect of urban areas. The numerous opponents of the project spoke for more than an hour. One speaker, a member of the Plan Commission, spoke in favor of the development. He said

the plan included retaining basins which would probably do a better job of flood mitigation than the forest. He added that the city needed more moderately-priced rental housing, which The Enclaves would provide. The Stormwater Commission took no position on the development at the Sept. 2 meeting. Ultimately the City Council will decide.

U City Halloween

And other local news

Halloween Trunk or Treat will be from 5-7 pm Oct. 24 in the Cent Comm parking lot. Grownups decorate their car trunks and hand out candies to trick-or-treaters. To compete for prizes, contact mmeehan@ucitymo.org by Oct. 17. The Loop Trolley will suspend operations for the winter Oct. 26. Until then, it runs Thursday-Sunday 11 am-7 pm. The 34th Annual Whitaker St. Louis International Film Festival will take place Nov. 6-16 at the Hi-Pointe Theatre and other venues. For a full schedule of films go to cinemastlouis.org



Streetscape Makeover

In East Loop

Delmar east of Skinker will soon be made more walkable, according to the East Loop Community Improvement District. Traffic lanes will be reduced, and the area will be given over to sidewalks, making it easier and safer for pedestrians to move around and cross the street. This arrangement has proven successful in the 6000 block of Delmar, and the plan is to extend it eastward through the 5900-5800 block. Sidewalks will not just be roomier but more attractive, with trees, other plants and painted decoration. Brighter lighting and redesigned crosswalks will make pedestrians

Design concept of Delmar streetscape

safer. On Sept. 29, the design team did a temporary mock-up on-site and received community feedback. To provide feedback online, use the QR code below. Finishing touches are now being put on the plan and costs being estimated. In early 2026, the CID will apply for federal grants.

School News

Annual events

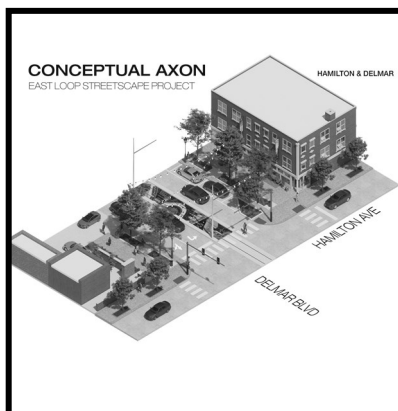
At University City High School, the Homecoming Parade will begin at 10 am Saturday, Oct. 18 at City Hall and proceed west on Delmar. The game against the Affton Cougars will take place the previous evening at the school's newly renovated stadium. A reception for the 2025 Returning Artist is scheduled for Oct. 14 at the school's media center. The Hall of Fame dinner and ceremony begins at 5:30 pm Oct. 16. Tickets can be bought via ucityschools.org

earlier in the evenings, so this is a good time to check on the lights in public areas of your building: street doors, stairs, parking areas. If you find burnt-out bulbs, notify the landlord.

Football Rivalry

Missouri v Kansas

Missouri came from behind to defeat Kansas 42-31 on Sept. 6. The two schools have been rivals for a long time. In fact,



SCAN ME

Take E Loop streetscape survey.

Fall back

DST ends

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 am Nov. 2. Set clocks back one hour. Darkness will come

the New York *Times* recently placed Mizzou-Kansas first in an article about America's oldest, fiercest football rivalries, explaining that it is rooted in actual warfare. Before the Civil War, Missouri was a slave state, and Kansas, not yet admitted to the union, was going to be a free state, if abolitionists like John Brown had their way. During the Civil War, the western border of Missouri was the scene of bloody guerilla warfare. Among those who fought for the Confederacy were William Quantrill and Jesse James. The *Times* said that as late as 2008, Kansas football fans were invoking John Brown, but doesn't say whether post-millennial Missourians were celebrating Jesse James.

Redistricting

Jeff City News

As part of President Trump's effort to maintain Republican control of the House of Representatives in next year's election, Missouri Governor Mike Kehoe called the legislature into a special session to draw a new voting map. The only significant changes are in the Fifth District, one of only two of the eight Missouri districts currently held by a Democrat. He is Emanuel Cleaver, who was the first Black mayor of Kansas City before serving 11 terms in the House. In last year's election, he won by 24 percentage points. The redrawn Fifth District stretches into central Missouri to include more rural, Republican voters. The new map has been passed by both houses of the Missouri legislature and signed by Kehoe. It does not significantly alter the First Dis-

trict, the only other Missouri seat held by a Democrat, Wesley Bell. The First District, which includes University City, is majority Black, and "major boundary changes there could be vulnerable to challenge under the Voting Rights Act," according to the New York *Times*. Lawsuits have been filed challenging the Republicans' right to redistrict in mid-decade. (redistricting traditionally follows the every-ten-year census) A group called Peo-



No Kings demonstration on Tamm Ave. July 4

ple Not Politicians is gathering signatures for a petition to force a statewide referendum vote.

Jab News

Protection from viruses

Despite the recent controversy in Washington over Covid vaccinations, Walgreens and CVS have the new vaccine and are scheduling appointments through their websites. The flu vaccine is available, too. The standard medical advice is that October is the best time to get vaccinated.

Students Rated

Bad news & good news.

First, the bad news. The National Assessment of Education Progress, a highly-regarded authority, announced in September that reading skills of high school seniors are at a three-decade low. In math, performance was the lowest since 2005. Scores among top students (90th percentile and above) remain high, but for the majority, scores are in steep decline. Education experts blame the Covid lockdowns of several years ago, student reliance on AI chatbots, and too much screen-time generally. Now, the good news. Missouri and many other states have enacted cell phone bans at school, and while it's too early for scientific reports on outcomes, the first signs are encouraging. Jefferson County in Kentucky reported that 40% of students have checked books out of the library, double the number from last year. The New York *Times* commented: "It turns out that when kids aren't allowed to doomscroll, take rude pictures of each other or rot their brains on TikTok during lunch hour or in study hall, they get bored enough to go to the library and check out books."

News of the Neighborhood:
*PGA Meets
*Halloween events

PGA Meets

Nov. 5

Got questions about the neighborhood or ideas how to improve it? Come to the next meeting of the Parkview Gardens Association and its associated Special Business District, in the University City Public Library, beginning at 6 pm Wednesday Nov. 5. This neighborhood improvement group, consisting of landlords, business people and residents, was founded in 1980. Membership is \$25. The meeting is free and open to the public.