

The Pacer

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

Holiday Race

Co-sponsored by PGA
The 52nd University City Memorial Day Run will take place on the morning of May 25. Parkview Gardens SBD is one of its sponsors. There will be a fun run as well as 5 and 10 kilometer events. The start/finish line is at the corner of Delmar and Kingsland. Register at ucitymemorial-dayrun.org. Also on May 25, City Hall and the public library will be closed.

Events in Parks

Local favorites
St. Louis Shakespeare Festival presents *The Tempest* May 27-June 21 (except Mondays) in Forest Park. It's free, but you can buy reserved seats at stlshakes.org. The play, last produced in the park in 2005, is traditionally called Shakespeare's finale, a fond farewell to the theatre before he retired. As usual where Shakespeare is concerned, we can't be sure,

but *The Tempest* is full of music, magic and spectacle, offering opportunities to directors and designers. The St. Louis African Arts Festival



Start of the 10 K, 2025

is May 23-25 at the World's Fair Pavilion in Forest Park. Free. Info: 314-626-3115. The Humane Society of Missouri holds its annual Bark in the Park event 8 am-2 pm May 16 in Tower Grove Park. Free, register at hsmo.org.

School's Out

And summer begins
At U City schools, the last day of school is May 29. At Washington University, finals end May 6 and Commencement is May 15. At University of Missouri-St. Louis, spring semester ends May 15 and Commencement is May 16.

U City Round-up

Trolley returns
The Loop Trolley will operate 11 am-7 pm, Thurs-Sun, April 30-Oct. 31. It's free. U City holds a Tennis Block Party, from 10-noon

May 17 at the Heman Park Tennis Courts. Racquets and balls as well as snacks and drinks will be provided. To register, email mmeehan@ucitymo.org
There will be a Pool Opening Party from 5-8 pm May 22 (Info: 314-505-8625 The pool season runs May 23-Sept. 7. Passes are on sale at Centennial Commons. U City Farmers Market is open every Saturday morning 8:30-12:30

and every Thursday evening 4-7. The location is near Centennial Commons. U City Summer Band opens its season of marches, show tunes, light classics etc. June 9 in Heman Park. Shows continue on Tuesday evenings (except June 30) until July 26. The 30th anniversary celebration is July 7. Free. In the April 7 mayoral election, Terry Crow defeated Bwayne Smotherson, 2,158 to 1,929. Christina L. Dancy has replaced Stacy Clay on the City Council, representing the Third Ward.

City Hall Sloth?

Departure from Stormwater Commission

Robert E. Criss resigned from the Stormwater Commission in April. Criss, professor emeritus of hydrogeology at Washington University, wrote that he was “disappointed in the slothful response to numerous recommendations of the Stormwater Commission to City Hall, all of which would reduce flood hazards in University City.” He noted that St. Louis is one of the communities most threatened by flash floods in the U.S.

Political News

Jeff City & D.C.

In an April 10 article headlined “A Ballot Battle of Republicans vs. Citizens,” the New York Times covered the conflict between legislators and activists in Missouri and other Republican-controlled states. Lawmakers in Jefferson City, the article said, put a measure on the ballot that would require proposed amendments to the state constitution to win in

all of the eight U.S. House districts. “An initiative that wins 95% of the vote statewide could lose,” the *Times* said. Even if a measure wins in an election, legislators still thwart the will of the people. A law establishing paid sick leave got 58% of the vote, then legislators repealed it. Missouri lawmakers have put a measure on the November ballot asking voters to reverse the pro-abortion initiative they ap-



Charge your EV at 746 Leland.

proved in 2024. Republican attorney general Catherine Hanaway is investigating a citizen’s group seeking to overturn Missouri’s pro-Republican redistricting map on suspicion of using illegal immigrants to collect signatures. Republicans justify their actions by saying that petition drives are often sponsored by out-of-state special interest groups, and that the founders of the U.S. intended to establish a representative democra-

cy, not a direct democracy.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruling of April 29 against “racial gerrymandering” raises the possibility that Jefferson City Republicans will move for another redistricting map, aimed at changing the First Congressional District (St. Louis), currently held by Wesley Bell, to make it more likely to elect a Republican. The previous redistricting drive made the Fifth Congressional District, currently held by Emanuel Cleaver II, more likely to elect a Republican. Bell and Cleaver are the only Blacks currently representing Missouri in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Cooperation across the aisle in Washington is rare these days, and across the Mississippi River even rarer, but Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO) and Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) are joining forces to sponsor the STOP CSAM Act (Child Sexual Abuse Material). The legislation would allow victims to sue companies that host such material. It’s a response to big tech negligence.

EV Charging

Close to home

The average gas price in Missouri is \$4 a gallon at this writing, so people who own electric vehicles are feeling pretty smug right now. They’re even happier if they live in Parkview Gardens, where charging their EV is free, at the two-port charger on Leland sponsored by the Parkview Gardens Association. If you don’t have your card yet, email davidlinzee@yahoo.com.

Good Bread

Local bakery

Bridge Bread is a social enterprise, offering jobs that teach marketable skills to homeless people. You can support them with contributions, volunteering or simply by buying their bread and other baked goods. Hours are Wed-Fri 7:30 am-2 pm and Sat 9 am-2 pm. Location is 616 N. Skinker. Parking is available down the alley just past their sign. More info 314-899-9778.

Down with Ads

At the movies

A Hollywood studio head, Tom Rothman of Sony Pictures, has good advice for theatre owners: cut down on the pre-show commercials. If you get to the theatre on time, you may have to sit through trailers and commercials for up to 30 minutes before the movie you came to see starts. Way back in the Twentieth Century, American movie theatres didn't show any commercials at all. Back then, theatre owners felt that if customers took the trouble to come to a theatre and pay to get in, they should be spared commercials. If you made them watch commercials, they might well decide to stay home and turn on the TV. Rothman says that box office revenue is at last showing signs of recovery from the Covid slump, and cutting back on commercials will help it keep rising.

Fad Words

Of our moment

"In the digital era, memes have evolved far beyond entertainment. They are now a form of political expression." -International Business Times
 "Now, there's nothing wrong with most tropes in any genre. A few can definitely be prob-

often very broad terms. In fact, a meme would seem to be a sub-type of a trope.

15 Stars

Walk of Fame nominees

On March 26, the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* nominated 15 locals (or former locals) who

deserve a star on the Loop Walk of Fame:

- Kevin Nealon (comedian)
- Nikki Glaser (comedian)
- The Urge (band)
- Dan Dierdorf (sportscaster)
- Sarah Kendzior (writer)
- Sterling K. Brown (actor)
- Kathrine Switzer (Marathoner)
- David Sanborn (musician)
- J.K. Simmons (actor)
- Peter A. Schneider (movie exec)
- Robert Guillaume (actor)
- Bonnie Stein (philanthropist)
- Fredbird (mascot)
- David Freese (Cardinal)
- SZA (singer)



Trolley is back for another summer.

lematic, but many are useful."

-Writers Digest

If, like the Pacer editor, you find it hard to understand such sentences, you may benefit from definitions of *meme* and *trope*. A *meme* is a picture, video or text, often humorous, that spreads on the internet. A *trope* is a theme, motif, or term that recurs. Words that enjoy a fad are

I have a nominee to add: Sam Altman.

Born and raised in

Clayton, he has made billions developing AI, while warning us that AI may bring about the end of the world. If that can't get you a star on Delmar, what can?

Rising Water

Rate increase

The City of St Louis wants to raise water rates—a lot.

News of the Neighborhood:

- *Memorial Day Run
 - *U City summer events
 - *EV charging
-

Eighteen percent for the next two years, then 6% for the three years after that. This is a proposal now before the Board of Aldermen. The Water Department says it needs the money to upgrade infrastructure. Old pipes have to be replaced to keep drinking water safe.

Library Events

- At U City public library, 314-727-3150
 - May 16 Youth Summer Kick-off Bubble Party 5:30 pm
 - May 21 Yoga at the library 7:30 pm
 - June 1 Chair yoga for seniors 1 pm
 - June 2 Youth summer teen crafternoons camp 1:30 pm
-