

# The Pacer

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

## PGA Meets

*Supporting home ownership*  
The Parkview Gardens Association and its Special Business District Boards of Directors met May 5 at the library. The boards voted unanimously to approve a commitment of \$25,000 to SHED (Sustainable Housing and Equitable Development) to assist in purchasing the house at 6261 Cates Avenue from Washington University. SHED is seeking the remainder of the purchase price (\$50,000) from St. Louis County. The university is selling the house for less than its market value. SHED will perform major renovations to the house, then sell it to an income-qualified individual who will make it their home, not rent it out. The plan is to sell the house for \$180,000, though its market value will be \$350,000. PGA directors support the project because they believe owner-occupied housing is good for the neighborhood.

Loop gardener Kelcy McDonough reported that the neighborhood has 12 decorative flower beds and two community gardens, all supported by PGA SBD. She has recently

redone the decorative beds at North Leland and Westgate, adding trees and flowers. Claire Linzee, leader of Syracuse Community Garden, which has 12 beds, reported that four beds have not been taken by residents, so



*6261 Cates will make a nice home for someone.*

the beds have been planted with sweet potatoes, strawberries, tomatoes and herbs for the use of all members. Gwen Clopton, leader of Clemens Community Garden, which has 28 beds, reported that two beds have not been taken and will also be planted with common crops. Dead trees have been replaced with new ones. The two hives in the beeyard

are thriving.

Treasurer Dennis Lutsky reported that both the PGA and the SBD have ample operating funds and reserves. President Mike Giger said that the Electric Vehicle charger has a small group of steady resident users, who charge free. Other users have to pay, which provides some income, but the charging station operates at a loss. No one applied for the Parkview Gardens Award this year. This has happened in four previous years. The demographics of the neighborhood have been changing. There are fewer families with children. Only one neighborhood resident was in this year's graduating class at U City High School. (Graduates of private schools are also eligible to apply for the PGA Award, provided they are residents.) Since 2000, 41 awards have been given out, and 13 recipients have graduated from college or trade school. The boards of directors then went into closed session to discuss sale of the 20 buildings PGA owns.

## A/C

### Keep Cool

A few words of advice from PGA landlords about air conditioning. If nothing happens when you hit the switch, go down to the basement and check the circuit breaker or fuses. (That's assuming you have access to the basement. If not, call your landlord.) Don't expect instant comfort. It can take two or three hours for the system to wring the humidity out of the air in your apartment. During intense heat waves, leave the a/c on. But during normal summer heat, don't pay to cool an empty apartment. Program the thermostat to turn off while you're away, or if you don't have programmable, turn the thermostat up to 85 before going out the door. On your return, set it down to 78, which represents the best compromise between comfort and expense. (In the interests of candor, the Pacer editor concedes that most Americans prefer 72, but you'll pay for that.) There is a limit to how cool an apartment can be made. If the temp outside is 100, 80 is about the best you can expect inside. Check and if necessary replace your furnace filter element. The air conditioning uses the same system as the furnace, and a clogged filter can cause a coil to freeze. Make sure the return grill is not blocked by furniture or pictures.

## Independence Day

### Nation's 250th birthday

Celebrate 250 will be held on the Riverfront July 3-4, with a parade, fireworks, drone show, Innovation Village, music, food and drink. In U City, City Hall and the library will be

closed July 3-4. Flag Day marks the day in 1777 that Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes design. It will be celebrated with special gusto this patriotic year on June 14, a Sunday.



*17th Annual Mannequins in the Loop: figure in front of Market in the Loop.*

## Flood Control

### Stormwater Master Plan

At a May 11 Study Session, HR Green and Reitz + Jens, engineering and flood-plain management consultants, presented the Stormwater Master Plan to the City Council. The SMP has been 10 years in the making and will continue to change as new problems come up. It does not lay out a series of steps to be taken and deadlines to be met. Instead, it identifies and classifies problem areas that city officials and residents will have to make decisions about, like which problems are most urgent and important, which solutions to implement, and how to pay for them. U City's biggest problem is that the River des Peres

and its tributaries overflow during heavy storms. To buy out every house in danger in a five-year flood would cost more than \$50 million, and that would leave many houses still under flooding threat. Effective ways of mitigating flood danger are decreasing impervious areas (replacing concrete with grass and trees) and diversion (piping stormwater away from threatened areas). The latter usually means combining floodwater with sewage. (This has undesirable side effects, and Metropolitan Sewer District is proposing major piping projects to separate the two flows.)

Problems in some areas can be solved with infrastructure improvements, like building walls or replacing bridges, but often it would be cheaper to buy out houses than build infrastructure to protect them. Difficult decisions will also have to be made about when the taxpayers will pay for improvements to protect properties, and when the owner will have to do it. Going forward, cheaper solutions need to be considered, like revising codes and policies to make developers flood-proof their projects. (This will be of limited help in U City, which is mostly built-out.) Educating the public is vital; prospective home buyers need to know that the little creek flowing beyond the back fence could flood their basement in a storm. The consultants advised city officials that while they discuss, plan and prioritize, they need to be looking hard for sources of money: federal and state grants, loans, bond issues, tax increases. It will cost a lot to keep U City's head above water.

## Free Video

### *Star Trek TOS*

People of the Pacer editor's generation remember when *Star Trek* (debut: 1966) was just a television series. After an average three-year run, it was cancelled. But some fans didn't want to let it go. A friend of mine recalls demonstrating in front of the NBC building, with a sign that said "Don't Wreck the Trek!" For years, the show's creator, Gene Roddenberry, was a popular campus speaker. In 1977, the success of *Star Wars* boosted the stock of all starry IP, and the first *Star Trek* movie was released in 1980. Ensuing years brought more movies, and more television series, and more movies based on television series.

Maybe it's just nostalgia, but for me, none of the successors can rival *Star Trek TOS* (The Original Series, as fans call it.) It has originality. It has 1960s goofiness. Best of all, it has William Shatner's stalwart performance as Captain Kirk, and Leonard Nimoy's witty performance as Mr. Spock. TOS episodes stream continuously on Pluto. If you want to pick your episode, you can order the DVDs free from the public library website. An episode I recommend is "The Deadly Years," in which our heroes, on a visit to a strange planet, are exposed to radiation that makes them age rapidly. The script is fast-paced and inventive, avoiding the speechifying that sometimes clogged TOS episodes. The big scene is a competency hearing to determine if Kirk has become too senile for command. Shatner, channeling Bogart in *The Caine Mutiny*, delivers a stem-winding performance. The episode has only gained in interest with the pass-

ing years. Since Shatner, Nimoy, DeForest Kelly (Bones) and James Doohan (Scotty), continued to play the same characters until they really were old men, you can compare the work of two generations of makeup and wig artists. Were the artists of the 1960s better at making young



*17th Annual Mannequins in the Loop: figure in front of the library.*

actors look old than the artists of the 1990s were at making old actors look young?

## Library Events

*All at U City Public library*

314-727-3150

June 17 Adult Summer reading movie night: *River to the Heart* 6:30

June 18 Youth summer all ages storytime 10

June 24 Chair yoga for seniors 1

June 24 Adult summer reading discussion: *Mississippi Solo* by Eddy Harris 7

The library will be closed

June 21 for Fathers Day.

## 100 Years Ago

### *In our town*

The July 6, 1926 St Louis *Post-Dispatch* was pleased to report that in the course of Independence Way weekend, no St Louisan had been killed by fireworks. Of local celebrations, the report singled out U City's for praise: six thousand people attended a fireworks display hosted by Gannondale Community Association. At the St Louis Flying Field, (Now Lambert Airport) "a plane piloted by Captain Charles A. Lindbergh touched off fireworks in the air." Lindbergh had only 10 months left as a normal human being. In May 1927 he would fly the Atlantic, becoming famous (and sometimes infamous) for the rest of his life.

## Music & Arts

### *Local events*

*Hairspray* opens the Munny season June 15. Delmar Hall presents *Light It Up*, a rock opera about Nikola Tesla, on June 20. (Appropriately, that's the summer solstice, the longest day of the year.) U City Summer Band continues its season of marches, show tunes, light classics etc. June 16 in Heman Park. The Band's 30th anniversary celebration is July 7. Free. Kim Fuller-Barnes performs June 15 in Heman Park as the Starlight Concert Series continues. Free. The exhibition Ancient Splendor: Roman Art in the time of Trajan continues to Aug. 6 at St. Louis Art Museum. The show features sculptures, mosaics and other art objects "that have never left Italy before," says the SLAM website. It also has a

### News of the Neighborhood:

\*PGA Meeting

\*Flood plan

\*July 4 events

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soundscape and a smellscape. Tickets: [slam.org](http://slam.org)

## Juneteenth

### *Closings and events*

City Hall and the public library will be closed June 19 for Juneteenth. June 18, the Missouri Historical Museum presents Joyful Juneteenth, featuring music, theatre, dance and poetry on the theme of African American history. Free June 19, St Louis Symphony Orchestra presents Soul of a People, a Juneteenth celebration of Black music. Tickets at [slso.org](http://slso.org). The Juneteenth celebration on Delmar is June 13, featuring live performances and food and drink all day.