The Pacer

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Save All Saints

Church seeks a new use

Christ the King Church, the successor church to All Saints on Westgate Ave., has formed a committee that is seeking proposals to dispose of All Saints Church, the school and the rectory. These proposals are due by December 1, 2026. For additional information, interested parties should contact Cheryl Kelly at 314-552-6167.

Council Meets

Dark streets

At the City Council meeting Sept. 14, City Manager Brooke Sharp reported that she had looked into the long-standing problem of the streetlights that are out at the corner of Olive Blvd. and Kingsland Ave. The outage happened when Missouri American Water inadvertently severed underground wires during a construction project. The street has since been repaved. The County plans street work at the site, and Sharp hopes to coordinate repairing the wires with this project. Then the lights can go back on. In other business, the Council approved the buy-out of three houses in the Wilson Ave. flood plain. FEMA will reimburse 75% of the purchase price. The Council also approved payment to Alco Wrecking Company for demolition and asbestos abatement of structures in the flood plain. Topics brought up during public comment included the new Starbright system, which links cell phones to the Starlink satellite network, break-ins to city-owned vacant houses on Wilson Ave., maintenance problems in Parkview Gardens alleys, and the Ruth Park driving range.



All Saints Church

Scholarships

For Julia Goldstein

The Parkview Gardens Association SBD is again offering scholarships to pre-school children who live in this neighborhood to attend Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Education Center on Kingsland Ave. Interested parents should call the school's principal at 314-290-4390.

Key Vote

Embattled election

Election Day is Nov. 3. A current photo ID issued by the State of Missouri or the Federal government is required. Early voting begins Oct. 20, at Mid-County Library in Clayton and other locations. Oct. 21 is the last day to request an absentee ballot. In Missouri, absentee ballots are the same as mail-in ballots. In September, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected President Trump's proposed new rules for absentee balloting. The procedure

will be the same as in previous elections. Go to the Board of Elections page on the St. Louis County website for more information.

Missouri Republicans redistricted in hopes of defeating Black Democratic Representative Emanuel Cleaver of Kansas City. This was the map used in the August primary. Then Missouri's Supreme Court ruled that the old map had to be used in the midterm election. A Trump-appointed Federal judge overruled the Missouri Supreme Court. The U.S. Supreme Court intervened, and it is the old map that will be used Nov. 3. President Trump promised $5,000 to every American if Republicans win the midterms, but Congress would have to approve such a payment, and even the current Republican-dominated Congress is unlikely to do so.

Neither of Missouri's Republican senators has to run this year. Voters will choose a U.S. Representative and state officials. They will also vote on Constitutional Amendment 3, which would repeal the amendment passed two years ago to provide reproductive healthcare rights including abortion. Amendment 6 would bolster the initiative and referendum process (according to supporters, preventing politicians from meddling with the will of the people) and other amendments and propositions.

Considering that Trump asked his supporters to pledge, "I don't care if I'm registered or not, I'm going to try to cheat like hell like they do," and recalling his actions on Jan. 6, 2021, prudent people will prepare for the possibility of disorder in government and on the streets, if the election does not go Trump's way.



Hilton is accepting reservations for the Tru Hotel on Kingsland starting April 1, 2027, so it would seem that construction has a ways to go.

Local Events

Halloween and more

Trunk or Treat is Oct. 23, according to the city calendar, but that was unconfirmed at press time, so better check ucitymo.org. If the '26 event is similar to past years, it will be in the early evening in the Cent Comm parking lot, where grownups will decorate their car trunks and hand out treats to trick-or-treaters. The Whitaker St. Louis International Film Festival will be held Nov. 5-15 at the Hi-Pointe and other theatres. The full schedule is available at cinemastlouis.org. The University City High School Homecoming parade will be on Delmar from 10 amnoon Oct. 10. Veterans Day is Nov. 11. A wreath-laying ceremony will take place at 11 am at the Soldiers Memorial in downtown St. Louis.

DST Ends

And sunset comes sooner

Daylight Saving Time ends November 1. The House of Representatives has passed a bill to make DST permanent, but it awaits a decision in the Senate. For now, clocks go back an hour. Darkness will descend early in the evenings, making this a good time to check on the lights in public areas of your building: street doors, stairs, parking areas. If you find burned-out bulbs, notify your landlord.

Flower Power

UCB mainstay retires

Parkview Gardens Association salutes Judy Prange on her retirement as executive director of U City in Bloom. This fine organization beautifies the city with public gardens. The ones nearest to us are on Olive Blvd. UCB also maintains the flower beds at the roundabout, the public library, and the containers along Delmar. Jesse Gilbertson, who has been the horticulture director, takes over as executive director.

100 Years Ago

In U City

In 1926, as in 2026, people were talking about merging St. Louis City and County. On Oct. 19, 1926, President Kinsey of the Board of Public Service addressed a public meeting in U City, which was the largest suburb. Even so, the

ward in the city where he lived had a bigger population than U City. "We are all one great city," he said, and should get together to work out solutions to common problems. One example was the River des Peres. St. Louis was going to put the river in a sewer. What was U City going to do with its stretch of the stream? (The answer was that U City also put the river in pipes or concrete beds, to deal with the flooding problem, and it didn't work, but that's another story.) The wealth generator of the whole area was downtown, and outlying districts should get a share of the funds. Spokesmen favoring continued separation said that the County did not want to be burdened with the City's public debt or to pay for sewer construction. City and County remained separate, but the sewer system is now the area-wide Metropolitan Sewer District. Retiring County executive Sam Page said that more such agencies should be created to handle area-wide problems. It's a similar argument to the one Kinsey was making a century ago. The big difference is that now most of the money and most of the people are in the County, and merger proposals take the form of making St. Louis a municipality within the County.

Odysseus

At Wash U

Washington University held a discussion of *The Odyssey* on Sept. 23, and the lecture hall was almost full. Panelists noted that opinions of Christopher Nolan's film adaptation vary, but no one can dispute that it has aroused wide interest in the three millennia-old poem. Classics professor Kathryn Wilson faulted Nolan for "softening Odysseus's rough edges" and removing sex from the story. While Homer sang the delights of food and drink, "everything consumed in the movie looks disgusting." Colin Burnett of the film and media studies department challenged the preconception that an original is always better than an adaptation. There have been many versions of the Odyssey both verbal and visual. The latter category stretches back to Greek urns of the fifth century B.C. Rebecca Wanzo of the American culture studies department talked about feminist works inspired by *The Odyssey*, from the '90s TV series *Xena Warrior Princess* to *The Penelopiad*, a novel by Margaret Atwood. Everybody took shots at Elon Musk for condemning the casting of a Black actor as Helen of Troy, a criticism based on modern misconceptions of the racial composition of the ancient Mediterranean.

Old Bond Returns

So where's New Bond?

Amazon-MGM is taking a long time to name the actor who will play James Bond in their production of the 26th Bond movie. Possibly, the producers are remembering what a hostile reception the previous Bond, Daniel Craig, received in 2006. But the fans are getting impatient, and to placate them, Amazon-MGM is re-releasing Craig's first Bond, *Casino Royale.*

The movie was a big hit and almost everybody praised Craig's performance. But before its release, critics and fans were complaining so much that previous Bonds, from Connery to Brosnan, issued a joint statement, saying, in effect, "give the guy a chance." The opposition to Craig focused on his looks. Fans thought he was too ugly to play 007. That was harsh, but let's face it: Craig was no Brosnan.

Of course, Craig went on to a very successful five-picture run as Bond. Why did he exceed fans' low expectations? Probably because Craig wasn't playing the same Bond as his predecessors. The producers and writers reconceived the character. They made a strength of Craig's rugged looks by getting rid of the sex-god aspect of the character. Bond made his movie debut in the *Playboy* era, and he was the man no woman could resist. His frequent trysts were getting sordid by the Moore era. Craig, by contrast, kept his mind on his assignment. His affairs were fewer and more serious. The writers made Craig's job easier in other ways. He never had to deliver mordant one-liners over the bodies of people he'd just killed, or mini-lectures about fine food and wine. The droll Connery had handled these bits brilliantly, but his successors were embarrassed by them. Oddly enough, when shorn of these extraneous traits, Bond as Craig played him was much closer to the original character in the Ian Fleming novels.

You have to wonder what the writers of Bond 26 are doing with the character now. And will their ideas be good? They may be terrible. Perhaps they'll bring back the kid from Bond 25, making 007 a pre-occupied single parent. Or maybe they'll have him shave his head, like Jeff Bezos.

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News of the Neighborhood:
*PGA Meeting
*All Saints Church
*Trunk or Treat

PGA Meets

Improving the neighborhood

The fall meeting of the Parkview Gardens Association and its associated Special Business District will take place at 6 pm on Tues. Oct. 27 in Room 208 of University City Public Library. The boards will elect new members and officers, review existing programs and budgets and plan future activities. One discussion topic will be the sale of PGA-owned buildings. The meeting is free and open to the public. This neighborhood improvement group, consisting of landlords, business people and residents, was founded in 1980. Membership is $25 a year.

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