

# The Pacer

Newsletter of the Parkview Gardens Association and the Parkview Gardens Special Business District

**What's Inside...**

**March, 2017**

Whether or not

Summer splash

Turnip the covers

Presidential imposter

Novel idea

April could shower you with money.

Teen activities program includes swimming and more.

Endive into garden beds.



The movie "Dave" is available at the U. City library.

Editor talks "One Fell Swoop."



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## PGA Award

### Apply now

April 1 is the application deadline for the 2017 Parkview Gardens Association Award. This \$5,000 award is for community colleges, trade schools and four-year universities. To qualify, you must be a Parkview Gardens resident and a high school senior who has demonstrated the

ability to succeed in your studies as well as your commitment to working for the betterment of school and community. Applicants must also show financial need. For more information, consult your high school guidance counselor or call (314) 721-5357.

income guideline requirements. Parkview Gardens Association provides scholarships for those children who live in this neighborhood. Parents pay only \$25 per child. Registration opens May 1. For more information, call (314) 505-8625, or consult the spring/summer University City Recreation Guide

## Summer Fun for Kids

### With PGA scholarships

School's not out yet, but summer is just around the corner. Children ages 5-14 will have a blast at University City's Summer Camp and Teen Activities Programs, which include swimming, tennis, field trips, arts and crafts and more. The programs will run Monday-Friday for eight weeks (June 5-July 28) at Centennial Commons, 7210 Olive Blvd. Scholarships are available for University City residents who meet

## Trees & Gardens

### Some beds available

The Parkview Gardens Association SBD is sponsoring tree improvements in the medians of the western part of the neighborhood. The multi-year project is entering its second phase. The U City Forestry Dept. and Droege Tree Care will prune living trees and remove dead ones. Ash trees, doomed by the emerald ash borer, will also be taken out. Replacements will be planted. At Ackert Park, the upper



Loop Trolley car #001 has just arrived.

level beds will be renovated with a more pollinator-friendly design.

In the community gardens, some beds remain available to Parkview Gardens residents. This is a great way to meet your neighbors. Parents who belong often bring their kids, who have fun digging in the dirt. The growing season begins in March. Call (314) 727-5836. Andy Cross of the McPherson community garden will refurbish the signs of our three vegetable gardens. Clemens will have a new pergola this summer for social events. The leader of Clemens will attend the Gateway Greening garden summit, an educational event. At Syracuse, gardeners are looking forward to working on the back border trellis, which supports blackberry bushes.

## Library Events

### Neighborhood author

April 7 David Linzee discusses "One Fell Swoop" at 7 pm in the second-floor auditorium of the library, 6701 Delmar. In 20 years of editing this newsletter and living in Parkview Gardens, I have learned a lot about the neighborhood. If you want the facts, read the booklet "Parkview Gardens: Its Rise and Fall and Rise," published by the Historical Society. If you want the fiction, which is a lot more fun, come hear about my new mystery "One Fell Swoop," in which a real estate speculation in "Parkdale" leads to international intrigue involving an English opera singer, an Indian mega-criminal and the charismatic chancellor of "Adams" University.

March 18 Free health tests, 9 am.

March 22 U City Book Group discusses "My Brilliant Friend" by Elena Ferrante at 7 pm.

March 29 Alzheimer's Association: Effective Communication Strategies at 6:30 pm.

April 6 Screening of "The Scar of Shame," an early African-American film, with Rafia Zafar of Washington University at 6:30 pm.

## Trolley Car Arrives

### One step closer

Trolley car #001 arrived Feb. 16. It is one of two replica Council Crest cars from Portland that have been reconditioned by Gomaco Trolley Company in Iowa, which was the original manufacturer. Wheelchair lifts have been installed on the end platforms of each car, and the seating and layout have been changed to suit passengers. Second and third cars are on the way. Car #001 is currently being tested at Loop Trolley Headquarters on Delmar. Soon the cars will be towed along the tracks to make sure they're aligned. The Loop Trolley Company announced, "We're pleased to be making progress and look forward to being able to give the public their first glimpse of the new trolley cars out on the tracks soon."

## All Saints News

### Building renovation

The church hall on Clemens Ave. has been renovated and now has a new kitchen. To raise funds for more refurbishment, the parish is renting the hall out for parties and other events. Parkview Gardens residents qualify for special rates. Info:

[schoolhouseeventspace.vpweb.com/](http://schoolhouseeventspace.vpweb.com/)

## Spring Break

### School vacations

Washington University Mar. 12-18

University of Missouri-St. Louis Mar. 25-Apr. 3

University City Schools Mar. 11-19

## City Hall Happenings

### Timeline of recent events

There has been much activity and some contention in U City as the balance of power on the City Council shifts. In her Feb. 12 newsletter, Paulette Carr, Councilmember for Ward Two (which includes most of Parkview Gardens) recapped recent happenings in hopes of "clarifying the events and quelling gossip."

Nov. 8, 2016 Steve McMahan was elected to fill the Ward One seat left vacant by the resignation of Stephen Kraft.

Nov. 17 David Heimos, attorney for City Manager Lehman Walker, alleged that Walker had been defamed by councilmembers McMahan, Carr, Terry Crow (Ward One) and Bwayne Smotherson (Ward Three), and demanded payment of \$500,000 in return for his resignation and release of claims.

Nov. 18 The council voted to suspend Walker and elected Charles Adams, former police chief, as acting city manager, and hired John Mulligan to deal with Walker litigation.

Dec. 1 Walker filed a charge of discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and state Commission on

Human Rights against three council members.

Dec. 2 Jan Adams filed an application for a temporary restraining order against the four councilmembers. It was rejected and will be refiled. As the Pacer went to press, the court had scheduled a hearing for March 2.

Dec. 12 The council voted to amend what the four councilmembers called ambiguity in the Nov. 8 ballot by clarifying that McMahon would serve out Kraft's term.

Dec. 29 Two residents filed suit to overturn the resolution, meaning McMahon would have to run for re-election in April.

Jan 3, 2017 Walker filed suit against the city and Carr, Crow and McMahon.

To get on the mailing list for Councilmember Carr's newsletter, email [paulettcar@paulettcarr4ucity.com](mailto:paulettcar@paulettcarr4ucity.com).

## Area Events

### Arts & activities

March is Women's History Month at the St. Louis Art Museum in Forest Park. Sarah McGavran will give a talk entitled Modern European Women in the Arts at 11 am March 16 and 6 pm March 17. Jeanne M. Zaruchi will discuss The Female Gaze in French Art at 11 am March 23 and 6 pm March 24. Info: [slam.org](http://slam.org)

Spring begins officially March 20, and shortly after, opportunities multiply for family fun. Six Flags in Eureka opens March 25 (636-938-4800). The Children's Garden at Missouri Botanical Garden opens April 3 ([mobot.org](http://mobot.org)). Grant's Farm opens April 15 ([grantsfarm.com](http://grantsfarm.com)).

Meanwhile in U City, COCA presents the dance spectacle "Uptown" April 7-9. Ticket info (314) 725-6555. On the morning of National Walking Day April 5, come to Centennial Commons to get a route map for a Heman Park walk. Gifts will be given to those who complete the walk (Info 314-505-8625). The Memorial Day Run will take place May 29. The Parkview Gardens Association SBD is one of the sponsors.

## 10 & 5 Years Ago

### In the Pacer

March 2007: U City High School students assisted elderly homeowners and those with disabilities in household tasks. The American Institute of Architects announced results of a poll of Americans' favorite buildings. The Gateway Arch came in #14, and Union Station #40.

March 2012: Washington University announced construction of The Lofts, the student residence that now stands at the corner of Eastgate and Delmar.

## Free Video

### "Dave"

The Pacer continues to comb the DVD shelves of U. City library. Some may find the storyline of this movie very appealing: the President is replaced by an imposter who's quiet and modest. It is one of those warm-hearted fantasy-comedies they used to make in the early '90s--not as hilarious as "Groundhog Day," but watchable. It's a contemporary version of "The Prisoner of Zenda." Dave, a nice, ordinary guy, makes money on the side doing impressions of the President. The resemblance is so persuasive that the Secret Service

recruits him to stand in for the Chief Executive for one evening. Dave assumes the Prez has secret state business. In fact he has an assignation with a blonde. During his exertions, he suffers a stroke. The unscrupulous Chief of Staff persuades Dave to continue his impersonation. The First Lady has come to despise the phony she married. Recognizing Dave's decency, she begins to warm to him. This both delights and scares him--what if she guesses that he's an imposter?

All this is amusing and suspenseful, mostly because the First Lady is played by the majestic Sigourney Weaver. (The movie is blessed with an over-qualified cast: Kevin Kline as Dave, Frank Langella as the Chief of Staff and a young Laura Linney as the blonde.) But the movie-makers had more on their minds than romance, namely political satire. They produce a dark picture of ruthless egomaniacs ignoring the nation's real problems to grab power and destroy their enemies with scandals.

Obviously Washington has only gotten worse in the 25 years since "Dave" was made. But it's interesting to see that almost all of the real politicians and media mavens appearing in cameos have passed from the scene. As hard as they struggle for power in Washington, they can't keep it for long.

## STL in the News

### None of it good

William Lacy Clay, who represents this area in the House of Representatives, announced Feb. 20 that he is filing a First Amendment lawsuit over removal of a constituent's painting from the halls of Congress. The painting, one of the winners of

the Congressional Arts Contest, depicts the Ferguson riots and shows a pig in a police uniform. Republican lawmakers ordered its removal.

About 200 gravestones were vandalized at Chesed Shel Emeth Cemetery in University City, an outrage that was widely covered in national media Feb. 21. Police are reviewing surveillance videos in hopes of catching the perpetrators. Authorities are concerned about a rise in anti-Semitic incidents across the country. Vice President Mike Pence visited the cemetery Feb. 23.

## Vote!

### Municipal elections

Election Day is April 4. St. Louis voters in the southeastern corner of Parkview Gardens as well as those in the East Loop will choose a new mayor. The office of controller and half the seats on the board of aldermen are also on the ballot. Voters in University City will choose three members of the School Board.

#### Parkview Gardens

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