

FENCE TALK

University Heights Subdivision No. 1

universityheightsonline.com

Annual Meeting Issue

February, 2024

University Heights #1 Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 25, 2024

2:00 – 4:00 pm

The Lewis Collaborative
725 Kingsland Avenue

Agenda:

- Trustee Report and Trustee Election
- Association 2023 Report
- Association 2024 Plans
- Flood Task Force Update

Everyone is invited and we hope to see many of you there. Please join us for information and light refreshments. Potluck snacks and sweets to share with your neighbors would be very welcome. The Association will provide drinks.

*The Lewis Collaborative space is donated to us for this event courtesy of **Tech Artista**, a living and coworking space.*

Happy New Year from your Association Board

By Hope Horn, Board President (Cornell)

We are so happy to welcome in the new year and look forward to Spring in our beautiful neighborhood. The flower baskets will be up soon, and walking around the neighborhood will soon be green and bright. We on the Association Board are looking forward to another busy year. We revitalized most of the traditions within the Heights in 2023 with Fall and Winter gatherings and hope that 2024 will see even greater neighborhood participation.

At the same time, we continue to work on serious projects – the Flood Task Force has been actively pursuing new regulations as well as monitoring the work that MSD is embarking on to help mitigate further disasters along our northern border. We awarded a scholarship to a University City High School student for the second year in a row. This year, we will begin the process of updating the printed directory (first published in 2020) so that we can issue a re-print in spring of 2025.

So, with that in mind, please come to our Annual Meeting at the end of February. *(Details above)* You will hear from the Trustees and the Association and it's a great chance to let us hear from you so that we can continue to serve the neighborhood with strong communication, friendly gatherings in order to fulfill our mission of making University Heights a better place to live!

Luminaria Sale



Once again, we celebrated the Winter Solstice in University Heights by illuminating our streets with paper bag candles transforming our streets into twinkling pathways.

The 2-day sale took place on the rainy weekend of December 16-17 at the shed at the northeast corner of Dartmouth and Harvard. The kits consisted of white bags, candles, and sand. The first 10 kits were free with paid association dues. Extra kits, if needed, were subsidized by **John Vandersall**, who grew up in the neighborhood and owns Fence Dept. Thanks, John!

Your hardy band of UHA board members were there to meet your Luminaria supplies needs. Pictured here, setting up, are board members **Hope Horn, Don Fitz** and **Vito Wagner**.

Progressive Party Has Triumphant Return!

By Linda Ballard (Yale)

That University Heights continued its traditional Luminaria Night uninterrupted during the Plague Years of the recent COVID pandemic was, quite literally, a bright spot in those anxious times. However, the Neighborhood Association last held the Progressive Party, traditionally a highlight of Luminaria Night, in 2019. Out of an abundance of caution, as the epidemic waxed and waned, it was discontinued until this past December 17th. It was a great night to mark its reappearance on our calendar. We had about 90 sign up for the Progressive Dinner, including 15 kids. Every house had lots of guests which made for fun and lively parties. About 35 folks gathered afterwards for dessert outside the home of Susan and Jim DuBois at the corner of Radcliffe and Dartmouth.

The well-lit streets looked particularly lovely, and the pleasant weather made for a wonderful evening. We thank all those who participated, particularly those who opened their homes to their neighbors and hosted one of the stops on the party.

See you next solstice!



From the Trustees

By Myra Vandersall, Trustee (Yale)

It's time to elect a trustee to a six-year term at the annual meeting on February 25, 2024. According to Article 1, section G, in the Declaration of Trust, the trustees can nominate two candidates, and the Association Board can nominate two candidates. We nominate **Anil Pillai** to begin a new term as he has finished the term of **Mark Harvey**. There can be no nominations from the floor at the annual meeting. The election will be held as part of the trustee portion.

After years of dedication as a member of the neighborhood association board, Anil stepped in when asked to be the trustee associate. He has captained efforts large and small for the neighborhood including a multi-year project to access and repair the 100-year-old wiring and power to antique lamp posts and other neighborhood markers. He also works with our part-time neighborhood caretaker ensuring debris from our 450-plus neighborhood trees does not end up in the 100-year-old sewer system beneath our homes. That is no easy task given the age of the trees we all love. After serving last year as a trustee upon Mark Harvey's retirement, we enthusiastically nominate Anil to stand for election to a 6-year term.

Despite their home being flooded in 2022, Anil has been most responsive and has taken on tasks for the neighborhood. Walking the neighborhood with their pups Izzy and Castle, Anil observes many aspects that may need attention for the greater good, and sometimes it is as simple as taking care of the branches that might have fallen onto the tree lawns, or with some fresh paint including sprucing up the Ornamental lamps, or noticing the need for sidewalk concreting improvements. U Heights shed is another item that is under Anil's purview - where additional shelving was added high up to store archived U Heights documents. Anil would notice the street lights not turning on or other electrical issues during their evening/night walks (or reported to Anil by our residents) and notify Ameren or switch out the bad bulb in the ornamental lamps. Anil also works with the neighborhood caretaker who cleans out the grates/drains of our streets to prevent flooding during heavy rains. He is a vital part of our decision-making process for the betterment of University Heights.

We also welcome **Patrick Huber** (Dartmouth) as the new trustee associate.

U Heights Flood Task Force, Notes for Winter 2024

By Don Fitz (contact fitzdon@aol.com)

The Flood Task Force (FTF) has continued the work it began after being set up by the University Heights Association (UHts) board in January 2023. The FTF hosted great Flood Discussions programs throughout 2023. The most memorable were probably in September on "What Do Trees Have To Do with the Climate Crisis, Flooding, and Heat Islands?" and the October Zoom on "What Does Excess Paving Have to Do with the Climate Crisis, Flooding, and Heat Islands?" Please contact me if you have an idea for a Zoom that you can help make happen in 2024.

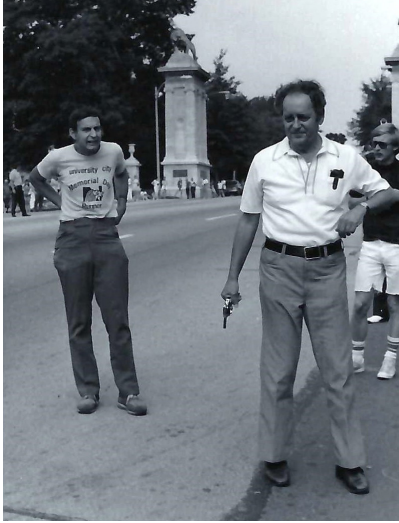
The St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) has annoyed many University Heights residents by repeated statements from several of its representatives that debris in the River des Peres (RdP) did not contribute to the July 26, 2022 flood. At the end of 2023 several Dartmouth residents became worried about letters from MSD regarding easements that could affect 35 feet (possibly more) of their back yards. The MSD letter offered \$5000 in return for the easement and gave owners a deadline of 5 weeks (in the middle of the Christmas season) to respond. The Flood Task Force offered assistance and the UHts board sent a letter to MSD expressing its concern and asking MSD to provide an explanation for the project. MSD responded that it is delaying the project and residents are waiting for the next step.

The University City Stormwater Commission took over development of a bill on pervious surfaces from the Washington University Environmental Law Center and is continuing to work on it. You can join their meetings on most first Tuesdays of the month at 3:30 pm in the Community Center.

The University City Memorial Day Run Celebrates 50th Anniversary

By Linda Ballard (Yale)

It is quite remarkable to have a community event run by volunteers still going strong half a century later. The University City Memorial Day Run began in 1974. The residents of U Heights #1 had an important part in its founding, and from the earliest days, the Fun Run for parents and their children has been held on the sheltered streets of our subdivision, as it still is.



Traditionally, the Mayor starts the Run. Mayor Nathan B. Kaufman, foreground with starting gun; one of the Run founders, Jack Frohlichstein, left; and author David Carkeet, behind the Mayor, at the start in 1977.



Tom Ballard, age 8, 1984. That Run was the first event the Library ever videotaped, using a suitcase-sized tape recorder attached to a big hand-held camera.

The City of University City had a volunteer Special Events Commission in the early 1970s that was tasked with creating several community-wide events. Some avid runners were either on the commission or approached it with the idea of organizing a road race on Memorial Day. When we moved into our house on Yale in 1977, several of my immediate neighbors, Nels and Sandra Holmberg, Sharon Clark, Dave Lazarus, and Jack Frohlichstein, on Trinity, were either on the commission or founding members of the Run. The Special Events Commission distributed any profits from entry fees to various community groups. The University City Public Library always received a portion since it helped by posting race results. Of the events the commission organized, the Run was the most successful. But after nine years, people got tired; the commission was disbanded; and the Run needed a new home.

Sharon Clark, who still lives across the street from us, told me about the possible demise of the Run in 1984. She said it was a pretty easy way to raise money (oddly, I believed her....). It seemed a shame to have a popular event die on its 10th anniversary. At that time, the Library could use extra funds, so I convinced the library director (I was a reference librarian then) to agree to take the project on. With assistance from the original founders in the early years, from 1984 until 1999, that's how things operated. The week before the Run, volunteers began showing up at the library to help. Over the weekend and on that Monday, there were often almost 100 people involved. Remarkably, some of those same volunteers still show up today.

The Run had the good fortune to have the St. Louis Post-Dispatch as our sponsor through the 1990s. They designed and paid for the t-shirts and gave us invaluable publicity. At the height of this period, when jogging was especially popular, there were up to 3,200 runners – and this was before anything was automated. In the late 1990s, the Post-Dispatch decided to discontinue its sponsorship.

The University City Children's Center organized a small run in Fall 1999 that was moderately successful. They asked to join the Library in putting the Memorial Day Run on in 2000. The two organizations joined forces, incorporated, drew up official by-laws, and shared the responsibility of finding sponsorship and organizing the event. A few years later, the Children's Center dropped out, and U City in Bloom and the Green Center joined as organizers and beneficiaries, as they remain today.

There are local families with three generations of runners who have competed – parents, children, and now the grandchildren of those who first stepped up to the start line half a century ago. Some may live in U Heights. If you are one of those who

share the Run's history, if you have stories to tell about your experience, or if you have suggestions as to how to make this Golden Anniversary memorable, the Memorial Day Run Committee wants to hear from you! Photos from past years and stories that are shared will be posted on the Memorial Day Run Facebook page.

Be a part of history – email your story to linda.ballard@gmail.com or ucitymemorialdayrun@gmail.com.

Board and Commission Openings

By Former Trustee, Mark Harvey

Here is a chart showing current and upcoming openings on City Boards and Commissions. Filling these is one of the more difficult parts of what our Councilpersons do. I serve on the **Plan Commission**. We just completed a 20 Year Plan for the City, and have overseen all of the new development including COSTO and surrounding businesses, the mass of apartments going up at 170 and Delmar, Provisions, and the Subtext Development to replace the Craft Alliance and Commerce Bank buildings in the Loop. It is on these City Boards and Commissions that we as citizens can likely have the greatest impact and influence on City decision making. **Green Practice**, for instance, has openings. We will likely be gearing up the **LRA** this year (Loan Reauthorization Authority- power to identify and move forward on condemnations and acquisitions of derelict properties.)

University Heights No.1 has a long history of strong representation on these Boards and Commissions. I hope you will consider volunteering, and encourage others you know to do the same. Contact or have them contact one of our City Councilpersons to volunteer.

1/26/202

Board and Commission Openings:

		Upcoming		
1	Arts and Letters (1 each painting, sculpture, literature, music or architecture)	2	0	
2	Board of Adjustments (Need a Engineer & a Architect w/ 5 yrs. experience)	2	0	
3	Broad of Appeals (3 Need 10 yrs. experience as Architect, builder or engineer)	4	0	
4	CALOP	3	2	September
5	Civil Service (Last 2 years residency requirement)	1	1	April
6	EDRST	2	0	
7	Green Practices (Involved in or professional experience with green practices)	2	1	August
8	Historic Preservation (2 Architects and 1 Attorney)	1	1	September
9	IDA	0	0	
10	LCRA (5 year residency required)	1	1	March
11	Library Board	0	0	
12	LSBD	0	0	
13	Park (Last 2 years residency requirement)	2	0	
14	Pension Board	2	1	July
15	Plan (Last 2 years residency requirement)	0	0	
16	Senior	2	1	November
17	Storm Water (expertise in engineering, land use, planning/zoning, water management)	0	0	
18	Traffic	2	0	
19	Urban Forestry (last 2 years residency requirement)	0	0	

Welcome To Our Newest Neighbors

We've had a few changes in our neighborhood over the past few months, including the addition of these new neighbors. Big neighborhood welcome to our newbies!!

Tiangong Sun and Chen Luo, 747 Harvard

If you are a new neighbor and would like to share an interesting fact about yourself with the neighborhood, please let us know. And if you see new neighbors moving in, or simply moving trucks in the neighborhood, please let the coordinators of our Welcome Packets, know so that they can get one to our new neighbors to help them get settled into their new home and new neighborhood. And you could always bring them a lasagna. Thank you!

WELCOME PACKET COORDINATORS:

Don Fitz (Dartmouth), 314.727.8554 fitzdon@aol.com

Claudia Moran (Amherst), 314.974.6383 c.gracemoran@gmail.com

In Memoriam



Joyce Best

December 14, 1928 - February 2, 2024

Amherst Avenue neighbors were saddened by the passing of **Joyce Best** this month. Joyce moved into University Heights with her late husband **Stephen Best** and their two children (**Jaina** and **Randy Best**) in 1960. She saw the neighborhood go through many changes and often remarked how wonderful it was to see so many young kids on bicycles again. In her long and full life she was a teacher, a school librarian, a champion for civil rights, and a long standing member of the Ethical Society of St. Louis.

Joyce and Steve were regular participants for a decade in “The Book Club” – which began in 1973! They hosted eleven times during those years. Joyce continued following the club after that and became active again several years ago, welcoming the book club to her home for a discussion in 2022.

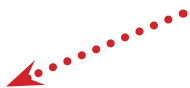
Among many other things, Joyce enjoyed watching the neighborhood go through the seasons. She had a green thumb and was often found out in the yard planting something, pruning something, or just collecting gum balls!

A memorial service will be held at a future date.

Test Your Trivia Knowledge of the 1980 Motion Picture Sci-fi Cult Classic “Flash Gordon”

By Peter Burgis (Radcliffe)

- Which rock group recorded the soundtrack for the movie?
- What is the name of Emperor Ming’s daughter?
- What was the name of the planet that Princess Aura took Flash after bringing him back to life?
- Another director was interested in making the updated version of “Flash Gordon”, but then learned that Dino De Laurentiis had bought the rights and began working on another movie that took place in space. Who’s the director and what’s the movie?
- What professional sports team did Flash Gordon play for➤ and what position did he play?
- What was the last word of dialogue in the movie, and who said it?
- In Ming’s bedchamber, what was the name of the drink that the server girl gave to Dale, just before the wedding with Ming?
- Three male actors who had main roles in Flash Gordon also starred in James Bond films. For each, name the actor, the Flash character he played, the Bond film he appeared in, and the Bond film character.
- True or False: As a child, Brian Blessed and his friends used to pretend to be characters from “Flash Gordon”, inspired by the Buster Crabbe serial films. In these childhood games, Brian would always play “Vultan”,➤ leader of the Hawkmen, the role that he ultimately played in the film and stole nearly every scene he appeared in.
- What was Vultan’s most oft quoted line that starts with the word “Flying”?
- De Laurentiis, who had his own source of financing for his films, was able to use rather unorthodox methods for movie making, quite different than the typical way that Hollywood movies usually get made, with many people reviewing casting, screenplay, and other decisions. On one occasion, when the film was being shot in London, De Lorentiis wanted ideas on how to shoot several important scenes and told the screenwriter (Semple) to go meet with someone he thought could provide helpful ideas. Who was this well known person he told Semple to meet with?
- According to the film’s screenwriter (Lorenzo Semple, Jr.), how was the decision made to cast the unknown Sam Jones in the lead role?
- True or False: The reason there was no sequel to Flash Gordon was because the main actors were not signed for multiple films, and were already committed to other projects.
- What was the name of the actor who played Ming the Merciless?
- How many pounds did the costume for Ming weigh?➤
Was it: A: 15 B: 30 C: 55 D: Over 70
- What was the next movie that Max von Sydow appeared in after Flash Gordon?
Hint – it starred both Michael Caine and Sylvester Stallone and a certain well known professional athlete, who all played Allied prisoners of war.



Flash Gordon Trivia ANSWERS:

1. Queen
2. Princess Aura
3. Arboria
4. George Lucas; Star Wars (Episode IV – A New Hope)
5. As Flash would say it: “*Flash Gordon. Quarterback, New York Jets*”
6. “*Yeah!*” Flash jumped toward the camera and said it. That was improvised by Sam Jones, who played Flash. No one knew how to end the movie.
7. It had no name.
8. Topol – Dr. Hans Zarkov – For Your Eyes Only – Milos Columbo
Max Von Sydow – Ming the Merciless – Never Say Never Again – Ernst Stavro Blofeld
Timothy Dalton – Prince Barin – Living Daylights/License to Kill– James Bond
(Note: an additional 10 actors from Flash Gordon appeared in James Bond movies.)
9. True!
10. “Flying blind on a rocket cycle?!”
11. Bob Guccione, publisher of the magazine Penthouse. Guccione took the meeting with the company of several Penthouse “playmates” and offered ideas that were not helpful.
12. The Italian producer, Dino De Laurentiis, made the decision to hire him after seeing him appear on a game show.
13. False! The movie didn’t do as well as expected, so they never seriously considered making sequels.
14. Max von Sydow
15. Answer: D. The costume was so heavy that von Sydow could only stand in it a few minutes at a time.
16. Victory. Von Sydow played the German Major Karl von Steiner

Your 2024-2025 Neighborhood Association Dues

Dear Neighbor:

The University Heights #1 Association is a voluntary organization dedicated to enhancing the sense of community among our residents. Our mission is to bring us together with regular communication, fun activities, neighborhood beautification, and to facilitate interaction between busy families. These activities are led by a group of elected neighbors that form its all-volunteer Board.

- We publish FenceTalk quarterly, chock-full of information and general interest to the neighborhood. Look for it in your email inbox.
- We distribute and maintain the neighborhood directory for all who wish to share their contact information – please see attached document in this email if you are new to the neighborhood and wish to be included in the email list (used only sparingly to publicize events) and the street directory.
- We are proud of our beautiful tree-lined streets and maintain the hanging floral baskets and entrance marker garden at the corner of Yale and Delmar.
- The Fall picnic and concert in Lewis Park is a fun family event, with live music, tables to linger at, and free beer and ice cream for all.
- During the winter solstice, we distribute luminaria kits to all, and will reprise the progressive dinner this December - a perennial favorite event in the neighborhood that will be back in 2023..
- Each spring we host an annual meeting for the neighborhood at large – a great time to meet your new neighbors, get up to date on what’s going on around us, and hear a report from our trustees.
- Check out our website: www.universityheightsonline.com

All this activity comes with a nominal annual membership fee of **\$20.00 per household**. We hope that you will use this opportunity to join! Thanks for supporting our great community in the 2023-2024 fiscal year!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email, if different from or in addition to the neighborhood directory: _____

Annual Membership for March 2024 to Feb. 2025	\$20.00
Optional Contribution to help support neighborhood activities	\$ _____
Optional Contribution for the University Heights Scholarship**	\$ _____
Total Submitted	\$ _____

Please make your check payable to University Heights Association, Inc.

Mail or drop off to: **Peter Burgis**, Treasurer, 755 Radcliffe Avenue (peterburgis@outlook.com)

If you prefer to make your payment online, please be sure to include your name and address as part of the Venmo or PayPal process.

Venmo: @University-Heights or PayPal: uhgtsassoc@gmail.com

**At our annual meeting on March 9, 2021, we passed, and the Neighborhood Association approved a resolution entitled: Apology for Racism in University Heights, documenting our apology for historic racism in our neighborhood, especially regarding housing restrictions. We began to explore ways to repair the damage caused by previous generations. The University Heights Neighborhood Association Scholarship is a direct outcome of that document. It is a \$1000.00 scholarship awarded to a University City High School graduating senior who is continuing their education past high school.

You can find the complete **Guide to Life in University Heights Subdivision No. 1**
in the *News From Our Trustees* section here:
<https://universityheightsonline.com/fencetalk>

Many thanks to our Current Trustees:

Myra Vandersall 731 Yale; myravandersall@gmail.com 314.518.1451
Frank Castiglione 6900 Cornell; f.castiglione@liftxl.com 612.578.5852
Anil Pillai 6969 Dartmouth; bloggerpillai@gmail.com 314-308-1288

University Heights Association (UHA) Board of Directors (the neighborhood association representing our community)

Hope Horn (Cornell), president
314.368.8157 hope_horn@hotmail.com

Claudia Moran (Amherst), vice-president
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Peter Burgis (Radcliffe), treasurer
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Susan DuBois (Radcliffe), secretary
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Vito Wagner (Yale), membership
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Tayebeh Hardy (Harvard), Luminaria organizer
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Jacquelyn MacMillan (Amherst), alternate
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Patrick Huber (Dartmouth), trustee liaison