





**Your Dues Are ... DUE: The UHA is Your Neighborhood Organization**

Some of you might have the mistaken impression that the **University Heights Association (UHA)**, the publisher of this newsletter is the "Trustees" who collect and spend your annual assessment. We are not. And while the UHS1 Trustees are quite important to the everyday functioning of our neighborhood, the "we" here is the **University Heights Association (UHA)** and we were **formed in 1948** to provide a voice for the residents of University Heights Subdivision #1. UHA is a voluntary organization dedicated to enhancing the sense of community among our residents. Our mission is to bring us together with regular communications, fun activities, neighborhood beautification, all of these are designed to build community and facilitate interaction between busy families. These activities are led by a group of elected neighbors that form its Board of Directors.

**More than 2/3rds of your neighbors in University Heights joined the University Heights Association (UHA) this past year. Have you?** It is now 2021 and a new membership year. **Annual dues are only \$20 per household per year** and support *FenceTalk*, Luminaria & Progressive Dinner, Welcome Packets, the Neighborhood Directory, the Annual Fall Picnic, the Annual Meeting, Halloween festivities, Zoom subscription, Beautification Projects (Marker Garden and Lamp Post Flowers), Communications (website, email distribution lists, and Nextdoor), represent your needs to the Trustees, and so much more.

Even during this past year when the coronavirus quarantine has made some of these activities harder to conduct, the Board has been creative:

- o The Board organized a group to help homebound neighbors during the stay-at-home order. Volunteers bought groceries and picked up prescriptions for those neighbors that could not leave their house
- o We used our neighborhood email list and NextDoor to let our neighbors know about porch concerts
- o We are proud of our beautiful tree-lined streets, maintaining the hanging floral baskets, tending to the entrance garden (The Marker Garden), and distributing the luminaria during the winter solstice.
- o The fall picnic or concert (COVID dependent) in Lewis Park and the progressive dinner in December are welcome events with over 125 of our neighbors attending each event.
- o The Association keeps us all connected, publishing *FenceTalk* several times a year and sending emails with pertinent information/safety issues throughout the year.
- o Each spring we host a 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.
- o Check out our website: [www.universityheightsonline.com](http://www.universityheightsonline.com)

But we can’t do any of this without your membership. Please send your \$20 for your 2021 dues to Vito Wagner, Membership Chair.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (if different from or an addition to the neighborhood directory): \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership for March 2021 to Feb. 2022.....\$ 20.00  
 Optional contribution to help support neighborhood activities .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total submitted.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to **University Heights Association, Inc.** If you prefer electronic payments, please use one of the below methods (PayPal or Venmo). **Just be sure to include your name and address:**

PayPal: [uhgtsassoc@gmail.com](mailto:uhgtsassoc@gmail.com) OR Venmo: @University-Heights

**Mail or drop off checks to: Vito Wagner, 780 Yale, Ph: [307-920-0356](tel:307-920-0356), email: [vito.wagner@gmail.com](mailto:vito.wagner@gmail.com)**



## University City News

### **Developments at the Markets at Olive Re-Development**

The *Markets at Olive* development is moving forward. Located on the western edge of University City at the intersection of Olive Boulevard and I-170, the entire development consists of approximately 50-acres along both the south and north sides of Olive Boulevard, bordered by I-170 on the west and McKnight/Woodson Road on the east. The estimated \$211-million *Markets at Olive* development is designed to accommodate a potential mix of retail, restaurants, apartments, offices, and hospitality.



The first phase of the *Markets at Olive* includes development of an anchor store, a 160,430-sq.-ft. Costco Wholesale store, on the north side of Olive Boulevard, east of I-170. Demolition of the site began in late June 2021 with site work and grading beginning in August (see above). A detailed schedule of Costco site-related work is provided below. **[Editor’s note: And btw, "abatement" as used here below means any action the City may take on public or private property necessary to remove or alleviate a nuisance (including but not limited to demolition, removal, repair, boarding, and securing or replacement of property). Attorneys talk like this a lot.]**

This development does include the use of tax increment financing (TIF) to help pay project costs including land acquisition, site work, and infrastructure improvements to improve the quality of housing, streets, landscaping, lighting, safety, and enhance the overall quality of life in the designated area. More information about the TIF process is available by visiting the [Olive and 170 TIF](#) webpage.

#### **Costco Site-Related Timeline**

Award Abatement Work	May 14, 2021
Notices to St. Louis County for Abatement Beginning	May 17, 2021
Commencement of Abatement Work	May 31, 2021
Completion of Abatement	July 26, 2021
Commencement of Demolition	June 24, 2021
Completion of all Demolition	August 31, 2021
Commencement of Site Work & Grading	August 5, 2021
Commencement of Cut and Hall to South Stockpile	September 15, 2021
All Weather Access Roads and Temp. Utilities	October 1, 2021
Costco Access Roads	December 31, 2021
Completion of South Stockpile	January 10, 2022
Site Utilities: Storm and Sanitary Sewers	January 18, 2022
Completion of Costco Pad	January 10, 2022
Inspect and Adjust Costco Pad for Final Acceptance	February 10, 2022
All On-Site Work Complete	February 10, 2022
U-City and Other Approvals as Needed	February 25, 2022
Turn Over Pad to Costco	February 15, 2022

Once the pad is turned over to Costco, construction of the building will begin.



**University Heights Today: How Do Trees Improve Our Lives? by Barb Chicherio (Harvard), President of the University Heights Association (our neighborhood association)**

In 1999, I was a member of the **University City Urban Forest Commission**. During that time, I and another member of the **Commission** wrote an informational brochure just to remind UCity residents of our history as a member of **Tree City USA** and what an important role trees play in our urban landscape. Unfortunately, sometimes storms bring down trees and large limbs in our neighborhood. The accompanying headaches and expense of clean up can be daunting. With this in mind, I thought it was a good idea to put a positive note in for our trees.

University City itself is home to more than 30,000 trees. Since 1980, UCity has consistently been named as a **Tree City USA** by a national public/private partnership, honoring the City's commitment to our urban forest. Although we were one of the first in Missouri to earn the **Tree City USA** designation, more than 100 Missouri cities and towns now have that status. Plus, UCity earned a **Tree City USA Growth Award** in recognition of our environmental improvement and higher levels of tree care. **Tree City USA** has been greening up cities and towns across America since 1976 and other nationwide movements support communities in managing and expanding their urban forests.

**But why does UCity place such an importance on our trees?**

Why do trees increase the value of your home?

- 🌳 Mature trees in a well-landscaped yard can increase the value of a house by 7% to 19%.
- 🌳 Trees make property more attractive and increase curb appeal.
- 🌳 Trees decrease energy cost by slowing cold wind in winter and providing cooling shade in summer.
- 🌳 Trees provide natural shade and are the least expensive way to enjoy outdoor activity in warm months.
- 🌳 Trees do not make property more vulnerable to crime, while shrubs and bushes might.

How do trees improve the quality of our lives?

- 🌳 Trees improve the environment and are nature's best defense against climate change.
- 🌳 Trees absorb carbon and release oxygen, cleaning the air.
- 🌳 Trees and vegetation reduce greenhouse gases, store carbon, and improve air quality.
- 🌳 Trees reduce noise pollution.
- 🌳 Trees provide shelter and food for wildlife, especially birds and butterflies.
- 🌳 Trees have a calming effect on people, especially children with attention problems.
- 🌳 Trees improve health, lower anxiety, and produce more sociable neighborhoods.

What can be grown in a shaded yard?

Here are a few examples: hostas, native woodland wildflowers, ferns, mosses, lichens, grasses, sedges, and understory trees and shrubs can be combined to create a tranquil shade garden sanctuary. Here are links to more:

- <http://grownative.org/help-with-my-garden/>
- <http://mowildflowers.net/>

Just a reminder: In University Heights, your annual assessment pays for management of the trees on our tree lawns and our Trustees are charged with this task. Thank you to our Trustees for keeping University Heights a lovely, shady place to live!

**The Trustees Report by Myra Vandersall (Yale), Trustee**

It was a dark and stormy night; the rain fell in torrents — except at occasional intervals, when it was checked by a violent gust of wind which swept up the streets\* in U. Heights this summer. Two great storms, accompanied by thunder and lightning challenged us to action.

On Thursday, August 12, a storm swept through the St. Louis region. U. Heights was no exception. Winds brought down tree limbs into the street and a tulip tree fell on a homeowner’s house on Cornell. Many people were involved in the clean-up, starting early the morning of Friday, August 13.

They included Judy Harmon, neighborhood resident tree expert; the Droege Tree Care crew with arborist Colleen Baum; resident and maintenance guy Chris Galarnyk and his son Mason; and Kimmey Gable, maintenance and handy person, plus many neighbors who cleared the streets in front of their properties, including new property owners Heather and Dave Jacus at 6945 Cornell, who helped make the street passable. This group did a huge amount of cleanup work on Friday, the weekend and more on Monday.

Judy assessed the storm damage that evening, as did the trustees, with special concern for the house (6946 Cornell) where a tree was uprooted and fell onto the house. Judy and Colleen contacted John Uhlemann and Droege returned early Friday morning to remove the tree and continue with cleanup. By Saturday morning most of the debris was cleared and the streets were passable.

That was the second time in a week Droege did an emergency tree removal on Cornell. A week before, a large tulip tree in front of Judy’s house was struck by lightning in a huge explosion around 1:00a. The crew was out the next morning and removed the tree canopy, and the large, badly damaged trunk was gone in two days.

Sincere thanks and appreciation go to the residents for their help and willingness to clear the streets and Droege Tree care for their quick, professional response. It was quite a week!

**Assessments (Again)**

If you have not paid your 2020 assessment you can make payments and send a check to University Heights Subdivision No. 1, c/o DNI Properties Inc. P. O. Box 105007, Atlanta GA 30348-5007 or online - visit [www.DNIProperties.com](http://www.DNIProperties.com) and choose Homeowners/pay my dues/pay my dues. The next round of assessments will be sent to property owners the first week in November. Assessments are due December 1 and considered delinquent after December 31.

**Bulk Trash Day**

Bulk trash day for the east section of University City begins Monday, September 13. That includes University Heights. Place three large or seven small items on the curb Sunday for pickup. No yard waste, brush or branches, construction materials, televisions or computers, oil, tires. Acceptable material includes sofas, chairs, mattresses, stoves, refrigerators (doors must be removed), dishwashers, fans, lamps, carpet, tables, rugs, washers and dryers.

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\*Attributed to Edward Bulwer-Lytton and his 1830 novel, *Paul Clifford*.



## Getting To Know You (Better): Carlos Diaz-Granados (Princeton)

Editor's note: Big thank you to Carlos for agreeing to be one of our University Heights neighbors profiled here in *FenceTalk*.



Dr. Carlos Javier Diaz-Granados has lived at 16 Princeton Avenue for 14 years with his wife Fawn Diaz-Granados, daughter Ana Lisa, and son Javier. Their home was built in 1920.

He is a lifelong resident of University City as he grew up on the 7400 block of Amherst, just west of UHS1. He even remembers loving his walks through UHS1 and admiring the architecture and history of this neighborhood. "Before I met my wife (Fawn), she was working at a law firm in University City, and she too remembers admiring this neighborhood. Neither of us ever thought that we would actually live here one day." And now ... they do.

Here's some more responses to my interview questions in "The Lightning Round."

### Living & Traveling

6. What was it that attracted you to your home when you first saw it? **We were drawn to the location, big yard, architecture, and character of our home.**
9. If you could change one thing about our neighborhood, what would that be? **There is nothing I would change about the neighborhood. Well, maybe if there were something that could be done about the gumball trees. [Editor's note: YES!!!]**
11. Where did you live before? (city+state or neighborhood+city+state, not exact address) **With the exception of a couple of years in North County right after college, I have always lived in University City.**
13. What countries/states have you visited? **Colombia, South America; Mexico City, Mexico; and all over the United States.**
14. Where would you like to live next? **California.**

### Education & Work

15. What high school did you attend/graduate? (classic St. Louis question) **University City Senior High School Class of 1987.**
16. What colleges did you attend/graduate? Majors? **Webster University, BA and University of Missouri – St. Louis, MA, PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. [Editor's note: An exceptional dissertation titled *District Within a District: DeFacto Segregation and White Flight Into and Out of the School District of University City (1967-1991)*.**
17. What kind of work do/did you do? **I am the principal at Pond Elementary School in the Rockwood School District and Adjunct Professor at Lindenwood University.**
19. How technologically savvy do you consider yourself? **About a 2 on a scale of 1-10.**

### Family

20. Tell us your life story—from childhood until now (in three sentences). **I was born and raised in St. Louis, the second of four boys. My parents divorced when I was in elementary school. I grew up to have two amazing kids (Ani and Javi) with my wife, Fawn.**
22. What are some important life events/peak experiences that you have had? **Getting married and having kids are at the top of the list, for me.**
25. What is the greatest accomplishment of your life? **My kids!**

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### Favorites

36. What is your favorite music? **I listen to so many different kinds of music that it would be hard to narrow it down. Reggae has consistently been a go to for me for as long as I can remember. My wife has gotten me to listen to more country music as of late, which I have grown to appreciate. My kids have turned me on to Starcrawler and Pusha T, who I listen to quite a bit now.**
28. What are your favorite television shows? **The Sopranos, Game of Thrones, Anne of Green Gables, Narcos, Breaking Bad.**
29. What are your favorite books? **100 Years of Solitude, The Godfather, Beloved, Glory of Their Times.**
30. What are your hobbies and leisure activities? **Collecting records, especially jazz and blues.**
32. What were your most and least favorite high school subjects? **Most favorite: Art, History; Least Favorite: Math**
33. What sports do you like most? Least? **I especially love baseball and soccer! There is not a sport that I don't enjoy watching, or would not try playing.**
38. What is your favorite kind of food and your favorite place to get it? **I am not hard to please when it comes to food. I will eat just about anything. My favorite is the Mexican cuisine from El Toluco in Manchester.**
39. Even if you already have pets, what pets do you wish you had? **I wish we had another Bernedoodle to go with the one we already have.**

### Insights

27. What is your secret power? **Patience.**
26. What is something you don't find acceptable to joke about? **Anything that is painful for others.**
21. How would a person (who knows you very well and likes you) describe you? **People who know and like me would describe me as quiet, and surprisingly silly.**
35. Is there a culture or religious tradition that you've always been interested in learning more about? What is it and what is it about that culture or religious tradition that appeals to you? **I am drawn to anything that is outside of my norm and am always curious to learn about culture/religion from others.**

### Close to Final Thoughts

37. What do you do for fun? **For fun, I play soccer in a recreational league.**
34. Is there anything you've always wanted to do but haven't? Why not? **I've always wanted to go skydiving. I really don't have a good excuse for not having already taken the plunge. Maybe this will be the year!**
23. What is a recent lesson that you've learned that you wish you could share with others? **Recently, I failed to replace the filter for our air conditioner and had to call a repairman to get me out of that mess. Filters are very cheap and easy to install. Don't fail to replace your AC filter periodically!**

### Personally Speaking

40. What advice would you give to your 20-year-old self? **Don't burn bridges.**
31. What are your favorite sayings? **"It's not what you know, it's what you can prove" and "If you think you can do a thing or think you can't do a thing, you are right".**
41. What question do you wish that I had asked of you? **What is your Zodiac sign? I'm a Scorpio (October 31). [Editor's note: A Halloween baby. Very special.]**

**Don't forget the University City Farmers Market!**  
**Saturdays (April 10-December 11, closed Nov 27)**  
**8:30a-12:30p, The Loop, behind 6655 Delmar Blvd.**

**Electric Power Outages in University Heights (Again) & Ameren Missouri Requests a Rate Increase by Mark Pope (Yale), FenceTalk Editor**

Ok, so it's my ox that has been gored. In fact, four times over this summer, as our electricity on Yale (sometimes only on our side, the east side of Yale, by the way) has unexpectedly gone out. One time, like on 8/23, only for an hour or so, but on another occasion for several days. FYI: I keep track of such life events: 6/20/2021 1:30a-4:30a; 6/29/2021 3:30p-1:30a; 7/9/2021 1:09a – 7/11/2021 11:00a; and 8/23/2021 9:51p-11:06p.

I understand that these things happen, we can't control Mother Nature, you can't control everything (read "anything"), that everything happens for a reason, live every day like it's your last, it takes more muscles to frown than it does to smile, and life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain, and a bunch of other cliched platitudes offered by my Mom and other people who write greeting cards (so sorry, especially if that is your real job).

And, yes ... it was certainly worse back on April 22, 2011, when a big tornado hit the airport (STL, St. Louis Lambert International Airport) and destroyed hundreds of buildings all over our region. And the electricity went out here in our neighborhood for over a week. Yes, let me repeat that ... "OVER A WEEK". Ameren Missouri decided after that to prune the trees ... heavily. And we had no substantial power outages again, until this summer. Now, it is happening once again. (Please note that I am not saying that heavy pruning will fix it this time, but ... maybe.)

You never quite understand how dependent you are on electricity for quality of life until you don't have it. It is certainly annoying to not have access to your lights, air conditioning (my observation: it always happens in the summer), computer, fan, sewing machine, television, radio, toaster, can opener, air purifier, or ... massager. But it's even more unsettling when your life or health depends on it, like for power wheelchairs or mobility scooters, or oxygen, suction, or dialysis equipment, or respirators, ventilators, or sleep apnea machines.

Yes, my CPAP machine has been my lifeline for the past 20 years, ensuring that I get 6-9 hours of sleep per night, every night. At first I thought, after I had been using it uninterruptedly for several years, that I could do without it, certainly for only one night. I wasn't going to be addicted to a machine for my survival, I said (as I pounded on the table for emphasis). And so, when I inadvertently did not take it with me on a trip down to Poplar Bluff for our annual family Thanksgiving celebration, I wasn't too worried. Ok, I was worried enough, once I had discovered that I didn't have it, to call the medical equipment provider and see if they had one that I could borrow for one or two nights. I was told that, if I could come to Cape Girardeau (82.1 miles away), then they could get me one, but it was the night before Thanksgiving and ... well, all of their people were already on vacation. I told them that I understood – and I did understand. I really didn't want to bother someone while they were on vacation, so I accepted that I would not have a machine that night. And I tried to sleep, but the sleep was rare and fragmented and fitful. And at dawn, I had a very bad sore throat and horrible headache and I felt like I had been run over by a quite large Ford 350 double cab pickup truck. Mario said that, when I did sleep any that night, I awoke a lot, each time gasping for breath, and he was scared that I was having a heart attack. Thank goodness no heart attack that night, but it was an exceptionally miserable next day. In fact, we decided to cut our Thanksgiving vacation short and go home on Thanksgiving after we had food and as much extraversion as I could stand from my family.

In fact, these dangers have even been recognized by big national organizations who have developed a "fact sheet" titled "Emergency Power Planning for People Who Use Electricity and Battery-Dependent Assistive Technology and Medical Devices." Quite a mouthful, but certainly descriptive. And to be sure that I'm not kidding, just take a moment and click on this link <https://adata.org/factsheet/emergency-power>.

And we've been trained (traumatized) enough now by the previous outages, that the first thing that Mario and I do when we hear on the local weather that a storm is coming, is to plug our phones into our super fast chargers. At least we'll be able to use the flashlight app to not bump into the furniture or fall down the stairs. (And yes, there are other devices I hear that can do the same thing with AA or D batteries. Interesting.) But I've also learned that, when the electricity goes out, it's just better to go into my office at home where I can sit upright and at least

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breathe on a regular basis, and wait for it to come back on. Miserable. At least, armed with a fully charged phone, I can call Ameren every hour or so and see what progress they are making. Keep Hope Alive!

And then, to add insult to these injuries and also to my big (huge, unthinkable) surprise, I get a letter in the mail this week from Ameren Missouri (reminder: our electricity provider) asking for a RATE INCREASE. It was titled "Local Public Hearing Notice". This letter informed us that this big public utility (Ameren Missouri) needed an increase of almost \$300 billion **per year** and that they could have asked for more, but out of the goodness of their hearts, they chose not to do so. This would result in a "raise (to) a typical residential customer's bill by approximately 11.97% (me: why not approximately 12%?), translating to an approximately \$11.78 monthly increase." [And I want to say (showing that I am not always a "nattering nabob of negativity") that I have called Ameren on the phone at each outage occurrence and they have a relatively user-friendly automated system to allow me to report my outage. Sometimes they even know about it before I call (magic?), which is good. But their reasons for the outage are always "unknown at this time" and their message always tells how many others are also suffering along with us, something like "there are 9,977,126 residential customers without power at this time." Rarely do they update this recording with the correct reason even when the electricity comes back on, but I am always thankful when it does. And I truly appreciate this attempt to provide communications to us, their customers.]

I want Ameren to survive and have money to develop other sources of power (research & development). But I also want **reliable** energy to power my CPAP machine, recharge my phone, and run my air conditioner and maybe at some point, charge my electric vehicle (when I get one) ... all at reasonable rates to me as a consumer. You should also know that Ameren Corporation is a public utility, but one what is held by shareholders.

I suggest that you attend the upcoming "local public comment hearings" on this rate increase and let Warner L. Baxter, the Ameren Corporation's Chairman, President, and CEO know what you think. You might just want to read the 2020 annual report before you attend so that you'll be informed and here's a link to that: [https://s21.q4cdn.com/448935352/files/doc\\_financials/2020/ar/2020-AEE-Annual-Report.pdf](https://s21.q4cdn.com/448935352/files/doc_financials/2020/ar/2020-AEE-Annual-Report.pdf). FYI Mr. Baxter makes a salary of \$9,719,000 per year (with substantial percentage raises per year, I imagine; maybe even "approximately 11.97%").

The local public comment hearings are organized by the Missouri Public Service Commission (MPSC) and scheduled for St. Louis County residents [https://psc.mo.gov/General/Upcoming\\_Local\\_Public\\_Hearings](https://psc.mo.gov/General/Upcoming_Local_Public_Hearings) on Wednesday, 10/6, 6p, and Thursday, 10/7, Noon, as well as for all electric customers on Thursday, 10/7, 6p, and Friday, 10/8, 6p. You may attend only virtually either via telephone (855.718.6621) or via the Cisco WebEx Meetings application, using the following info:

Date/Time	Access Code	Password
Wednesday, 10/6, 6p	177 830 6711	0240
Thursday, 10/7, Noon	177 613 6270	0240
Thursday, 10/7, 6p	177 571 9008	0240
Friday, 10/8, 6p	177 698 0394	0240

There will also be evidentiary hearings live at the offices of the MPSC in Jefferson City on 11/29-30, 12/1-3, and 12/6-10, beginning each day at 8:30a. For disability accommodations, please call the MPSC Hotline at 800.392.4211.

You might want to know more about who is working to provide oversight on such public utilities in Missouri and here's a couple of organizations that do that for us:

- Consumers Council of Missouri (CCM) <https://moconsumers.org/>
- Missouri Public Interest Research Group (MO-PIRG) <https://mopirg.org/>

Done, for now.

**Been vaccinated (yet)? Tomorrow is a good day.  
Our local Walgreens and CVS can do it quickly and safely.**

**Culture Quad: Arts, Gardens/Parks, Historical Interest, Dining by Mark Pope**

*Editor’s note: In each installment of “Culture Quad”, we’ll highlight four aspects of our community: Arts, Gardens & Parks, Historical Interest, and Dining Out (i.e. “out” hopefully). We hope to describe and review some of the various pieces that make up the many-faceted culture of University City and our neighborhood.*

**Arts: The Gates of Opportunity aka Lions Gate (sculpture)**

First up, **the Arts**, as we continue to examine outdoor sculpture in University City, this time it’s a pair of historic pieces that guard the entrance to University City (or UHS1 maybe? More about that later.) at the southeast corner of UHS1, called **The Gates of Opportunity** aka Lions Gate created by noted Romanian sculptor, George Julian Solnay (Gyula Zsolnay) (for more biographical and historical perspective on Solnay see the “Historical Interest” section of **Culture Quad** below, p. 15).

On either side of Delmar Blvd., just west of The Loop, stand these gatekeepers to University City. Perched on their 40-foot hollow limestone pylons, two massive feline figures (each 9 feet high by 10 feet deep by 15 feet long) keep watch high above the heads of pedestrians and motorists alike. These two lions (the male on the southern pylon and the female on the northern pylon) were two of the only structures visible for miles at the time University City was first being subdivided from acres of pasture land when they were installed in 1909 (see photo below).

E. G. Lewis, the founder of University City, decided that giant lions should guard the entrance to his dream city. He hired Thomas Young of Eames and Young Architects to design the 40-foot pylons of limestone and commissioned Zolnay to create the monolithic lions. Zolnay began work on **The Gates of Opportunity** by first creating an 18-inch-tall plaster model from which his assistants made the full-size clay animals (again, 9’x10’x15’). Zolnay himself later added the final surface details. Plaster molds were then made of each animal; however, the statues were so large that they required 26 different sectional pieces to just make the molds. And then Zolnay insisted that the largest pieces be cast *in place*, on top of the pylons. Iron armatures were then constructed to his specifications and buckets of wet concrete were manually lifted and poured on site into the molds. When completed, the statues weighed nearly eight tons each. And in this case, only supported by hollow limestone pylons.

As you can imagine, this construction process has required attention to these sculptures over the last 100+ years. Here’s a timeline:

In 1974, the badly deteriorated lions were leaning dramatically on their hollow stone pylons. The University City Council requested plans for repair and was close to implementing the lowest bid option which was cutting the pylons down to 14 feet above ground level, but the alterations were not completed.

In 1989, the lions were recast using molds created from the original sculptures and remade with a modern material - polymer composition concrete - and the pylons were straightened. The original concrete lions are now part of the collection of the Missouri Historical Society.

In 1994, city residents voted for a bond issue for additional restoration.

In 2009, University City had a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary party for these sculptures. Along with a number of events leading up to the date of the official celebration, nine artists were engaged to each “dress” a life-sized fiberglass lion (like the Cows of Chicago (remember the cow that started the Chicago Fire?)). In fact, those lions were manufactured by a company called “Cow Painters, Inc.” (You just cannot make this stuff up.)

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Above: Sixty-five women, almost all members of the American Woman's League, from Edwardsville and East St. Louis, Illinois visited University City and League headquarters on May 7, 1909. On the left, the Lion Gates are under construction. One is complete and the lion has been installed. The other pylon is still surrounded by scaffolding. This photograph appeared in "The Woman's National Daily" on May 10, 1909. (From the University City Public Library Collection.)



From a news report: "One day last week, traffic jammed up at North and South Boulevard and Carleton Avenue, where people were slowing down to admire a newly installed life-size fiberglass lion sculpture decorated by artist Mary Engelbreit. It's covered with painted flowers and wearing painted black patent leather shoes and white socks. "It's so pretty, I think it's so cool," said a five-year-old. The other eight sculptures - including "Read between the Lions" at the library - also are drawing affection and attention from passers-by." A website, [www.lionsbirthdaybash.org](http://www.lionsbirthdaybash.org), had photos of the lion sculptures and included a full listing of lion-inspired events.

In 2014, from a press release issued by the City of University City: "The Gates of Opportunity - Lion and Lioness Sculptures located at Delmar Boulevard and Trinity Avenue will be getting some much needed attention! The original sculptures were erected in 1909 and have experienced weathering over the years. A restoration sculptor has been engaged by the City to repair and restore these important monuments and will begin Thursday, October 23. The north sculpture will be worked on first. A boom truck will be used to reach the monument and will slightly block traffic. (Warning signs and cones will be placed at the work site.) When the north lion work is complete, the contractor will move to the south side of Delmar. The goal is to complete the entire project in eight weeks, but is completely dependent on good weather. Keep your fingers crossed!"



© Chris Naffziger, St. Louis Patina

Some disputes exist to this day about these sculptures, such as:

1) Are there two lions atop the pylons or are these figures in reality a lion and a tiger? (Editor's note: Thank goodness there wasn't a bear too or there would be many more perverse and/or paranoid origin theories. Oh my!) (Don't forget to get vaccinated! ☺)

2) Are the **Gates of Opportunity** sculptures the gates to University City (for example, running your own business) or gates to University Heights Subdivision #1 (for example, the dream of home ownership)?

Evidence for #1 is that in his book *The University City Civic Plaza*, Esley Hamilton said that - contrary to popular belief - the lioness actually is a tiger. "Look at the whiskers," said Hamilton, who is St. Louis County's preservation historian. But that fact is not enough for the public, or even University City officials, to call them anything but ... the "Lions".

Evidence for #2 is "which way are the lions looking?" If they are the entrance to University City, which part of the lion are you looking at as you travel east along Delmar into the Civic Plaza and The Loop? Not a particularly welcoming sight, eh? And have you ever looked at the plaques at the base of the pylons? Well, here's one:

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Hmmm ... but no matter which side you choose to believe, these sculptures stand as remarkable landmarks in the political and cultural history of University City and of our neighborhood, University Heights Subdivision #1.

**Gardens & Parks: Fogerty Park**

Next, **Gardens & Parks**, we take a look at **Fogerty Park** at the northern edge of University City at 1540 N. 82<sup>nd</sup> Street, just south of Page Avenue.



**Fogerty Park** is quite a large neighborhood park just north of the Barbara C. Jordan Elementary School, that includes a picnic area that has a covered shelter (so good for both rain and bright sun), grills, a full-sized baseball diamond, a youth soccer field, a nice children’s playground, half-mile jogging trail, and even restrooms. It sets on 11.81 acres and was acquired in 1928. What I especially I like about this park are the picnic tables outside of the sheltered area, they look like they were made in the 1940s, with a pebble/concrete mix. Here’s a photo of one of them (above). They are well-constructed and

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practical. Very unusual as many parks these days have picnic tables that are constructed of metal. Not that there is anything wrong with that, but these older picnic tables have an authenticity to them, like they were made by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and 1940s during the Great Depression. It's a park born of that era and it holds up well even after all these years.

Another piece of this park that I found especially interesting was not even exactly in the park itself, but instead was right across the street from and overlooking **Fogerty Park**. It was an historic architectural neighborhood. As Mario and I were leaving Fogerty Park, we noticed that many of the houses on the west side of 82<sup>nd</sup> Street were of one particular style of construction. No, not brick, that would have been too expected. These small box-like bungalow homes were made of "slabrock," a masonry technique in which flat stones are placed on edge between wooden forms, which are then filled with concrete to create a solid wall.



There were a few brick houses among these (only 11 to be exact, among the 65 homes), but the overwhelming majority were slabrock. A little research turned up information about this neighborhood. It is called the "Subdivision of Lots 10, 11, and 12 of Waltdale" and it was developed by William O. Schuermann and his sons Norman R. and Frederick A. This family was especially well known as developers of single-family neighborhoods for homeowners of modest means. This neighborhood is located in the 8200 blocks of Montreal and Paramount, with the east boundary at 82<sup>nd</sup> Street. Built in 1947, Waltdale presents an almost perfect picture of the post-World War II suburban ideal which was rapidly filling up the western half of University City, except for this unusual construction technique used here. The slabrock technique is better known from studies of it done in south central Missouri, but the Schuermanns had used it before the war in Velda Village and Velda Village Hills" (Hamilton & Wong, 1993, p. 6).

Esley Hamilton & Chun-Hsi Wong. (1993). *Northside University City: Inventory of historic buildings*. Funded by a grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and prepared in conjunction with the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation.

### **Historical Interests: George Julian Zolnay**

George Julian Zolnay (Gyula Zsolnay) (July 4, 1863-May 1, 1949) was born in Hungary, grew up and was educated in Romania, and chose to do much of his most important work as a citizen of the United States.

His legacy includes statues of Sequoyah, the developer of the Cherokee alphabet; of Edgar Allen Poe, one of the greatest American writers of the short story; of Pierre Laclede, founder of the city of St. Louis; and of Jefferson Davis, the only president of the Confederate States; as well as numerous wildlife and architectural sculptures over his lifetime, including *The Gates of Opportunity* in University City, Missouri.

Zolnay came to New York in 1892 after studying at the Imperial Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna and the Royal Academy in Bucharest. Zolnay studied and graduated from the National School of Fine Arts of Bucharest where he learned under Karl

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Stork. He then went to Paris, France to study under William-Adolphe Bouguereau and Alexandre Falguiere, and then on to the Imperial Academy of Fine Arts of Vienna, Austria, where he studied under Edmund von Hellmer and Carl Kundmann, and received a Grand Prix for his work. His high ranking at Vienna gave him a grant for his own art studio along with a cash allowance.

Zolnay came to the United States in 1893 to attend the World's Columbian Exposition, at the behest of the U.S. consul-general to Vienna. He intended to return home, but chose New York City for his new home in 1894, eventually becoming an American citizen.

He became a favorite sculptor of Southerners in 1897 after he sculpted a statue of Sam Davis, a Confederate spy who was executed. As no pictures of Davis survived, Zolnay based the likeness on Davis' relatives. He would become famous for his numerous art pieces which were scattered throughout the South. Many of which depicted Confederate soldiers and politicians. Much of this artwork has now been removed from its public places over the last years.



In 1898 Zolnay was one of the eight men led by Charles DeKay who founded the National Arts Club, becoming its first vice-president.

Zolnay was first described as the "sculptor of the Confederacy" as early as July 1899, in a *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* article about the Jefferson Davis memorial. He had already "received so many commissions from the South" to earn the name, which was repeated in subsequent coverage. The widow of Jefferson Davis and former First Lady of the Confederate States, Varina Davis, had moved to New York City that same year, and was quoted in the article with kind words for Zolnay, with whom she'd collaborated for six months on the statue. For verisimilitude, she had loaned Zolnay the clothes in which Davis had been captured by soldiers of the Union Army. Family sources and Zolnay's biographer describe his friendship with Varina Davis, and access to the social circle she built in New York City, as the foundation of a whole phase of his American career. In 1902 while on a visit to Romania, he was received by King Carol I of Romania in a one-hour private audience at Peles Castle in Sinaia. Later on, the king awarded Zolnay the Knight's Cross of the Order of the Crown. His artistic legacy in Romania includes the statue of Tudor Vladimirescu in Targu-Jiu and a bust of poet Grigore Alexandrescu. The sculpture of the Saracen boy decorating the fountain in Pecs was made by George Zsolnay.

In 1903 Zolnay moved to St. Louis to head the sculpture department of the St. Louis School of Fine Arts, taking the place of Robert P. Bringhurst, and teaching there several years while continuing to pursue commissions. Among Zolnay's students in St. Louis were noted artists Caroline Risque, Nancy Coonsman, and Adele Schulenburg Gleeson. As of November 19, 1903, Zolnay was the instructor of modeling at the school, curator of sculpture in its associated Museum of Fine Arts, and had just been appointed to the three-person board overseeing the Art Department at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition, a role in which he would report to Halsey Ives, who had founded the school 20 years prior. Zolnay also contributed two significant figures for the Transportation Building at the fair.

In the same years Zolnay and his studio assistants received a large commission for the two eight-ton each lion and tiger, to be placed on top of 40-foot columns, flanking the Delmar Avenue entrance to newly-founded University City, Missouri, an inner suburb developed in parallel with the 1904 fair. Their client was the founder and first mayor of University City, promoter and publisher Edward Gardner Lewis.

After the lion and tiger were completed in 1909, Zolnay left the St. Louis School of Fine Arts, and went to work for his client Lewis, taking at least two of his student proteges (Coonsman and Risque) along. Mr. Lewis was a font of interlocking schemes on a national scale, and the head of a lucrative publishing empire. He made Zolnay the head of the sculptural program at the Art Academy of the People's University of the American Women's League, which meant contributing to an ongoing building program in U. City, devising sculptural education material suitable for correspondence courses, and designing a hearth sculpture for a proposed national network of League chapter houses of the League, such as the completed example in the Katy Hamman-Stricker Library, Calvert, Texas.

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In 1913 Zolnay moved his studios to Washington, DC. Beside his sculptural activity, and holding sculpture classes at the Zolnay Atelier, he also delivered lectures on Romania, illustrated with traditional Romanian music and by lantern slides, at the Smithsonian Institution and did illustration work for the two volumes of the book *The Roumanians and Their Lands* issued by the Roumanian Relief Committee of America in 1919.

Zolnay died on May 1, 1949 at his residence on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, New York City.

Local Art Work in St. Louis and Missouri (selected)

- concrete lions at the *Gates of Opportunity* and other work around the Woman's Magazine Building, University City, Missouri, 1903-09
- two seated figures for the Transportation Building, and other work, at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis
- bronze of Pierre Laclède on the grounds of the St. Louis City Hall, 1914
- Memorial to the Confederate Dead, Forest Park, St. Louis, 1914 (removed 2017)
- bronze, Dr. Andrew Taylor Still, founder of the world's first osteopathic medical university, Kirksville, Missouri 1917

Other Art Work Outside of St. Louis and Missouri (selected)

- developed models for the Parthenon replica in Nashville, Tennessee, figures for the Terminal Building and the Education and Hygiene Building, and other work, for the Tennessee Centennial and International Exposition, Centennial Park, Nashville, Tennessee, 1895
- fountain at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition, Omaha, Nebraska, 1898
- *Ye Shall Know the Truth, and the Truth Shall Make You Free*, stamped concrete pediment sculpture, Cabell Hall at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, 1898
- Jefferson Davis, bronze on granite pedestal, Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia, 1899 (removed 2020)
- *Angel of Grief*, Varina Anne "Winnie" Davis Memorial, Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia, 1899
- bronze bust of Edgar Allan Poe, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, 1899
- bust of Confederate veteran Edmund William Cole, Kirkland Hall, administration building of [Vanderbilt University](http://Vanderbilt University), Nashville, Tennessee, 1900 (destroyed in 1905, when Kirkland Hall was burned down in a fire)
- elaborate interior work with multiple caryatids and groups, James R. Browning United States Court of Appeals Building, San Francisco, for architect James Knox Taylor, 1905
- Nathaniel Parker Willis Monument, bronze, Oak Hill Cemetery, Crawfordsville, Indiana, 1909
- bronze Sam Davis statue, *Boy Hero of the Confederacy*, on the grounds of the Tennessee State Capitol, in Nashville, Tennessee, 1909 (removed 2020)
- Confederate Private Monument, Centennial Park, Nashville, Tennessee, dedicated 1909 (vandalized 2019)
- Hoo Hoo Monument, Gurdon, Arkansas, 1909
- *bas relief* on Vinnie Ream's grave monument, Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, 1914
- Barnard Monument, Buttonwood Park Historic District, New Bedford, Massachusetts, 1914
- frieze, Central High School (now Cardozo Senior High School), Washington DC, 1916
- Statue of Sequoyah, an Oklahoma entry for the National Statuary Hall Collection, a commission inherited from sculptor Vinnie Ream (the youngest artist and first woman to receive a commission as an artist from the U.S. government) for a statue after her death, 1917

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**Dining Out (if you can): Cate Zone Chinese Cafe**

**Editor's note:** *Dining Out* is a favorite past time of University Heights neighbors and University City is the home of a *mélange* of cultural dining delights from all over the world, and at all price points. We'll try to review a different venue (or so) each issue and help move you into the adventures of eating whether it's food from China (even various kinds of this), Thailand, India, Vietnam, Japan, Korea to Mexico and fusions of all these; a variety of Middle Eastern cuisines, to homemade root beer (and its accompanying floats), to Italy and Greece, to Ethiopia and local soul food, BBQ, seafood, and pure American diner. It's all here. We'll take them one (or so) at a time. **The Covid pandemic has made it very rough for local eateries, so please go out and dine in. They need you and we need them.**

In this issue we'll explore a thriving contribution to the many Asian cuisines that grace UCity streets. This time it's a small storefront on Olive (8148 Olive Blvd. University City, MO 63130 (314) 738-9923). Before it was a restaurant, it was a quite good Chinese bakery (J&W Bakery) with all kinds of bao (like pork buns) and other breads. But then along came the **Cate Zone Chinese Cafe**. An odd name for a Chinese restaurant with walls covered with black and white names of New York City's subway stations. (According to Dave Lowry at St. Louis Magazine "The restaurant's name, in Chinese, *Shu Du Kong Jian*, means... Okay, not easy but let's go with 'A place of dimensions in eating.' In English, it's called **Cate Zone Café**. Which means 'I think we got it wrong,' the owner admits. 'We thought *Cate* means something like *delicious* in English.' But, by the time they'd discovered the mistake, there was the restaurant's sign already made and erected and all those t-shirts for the servers, one of whom joked that 'Cate' was his former girlfriend." Now, it's just quaint.)



640 × 480

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In St. Louis in particular, we find a number of culinary traditions represented out of the many great cuisines of China. There may not be a whole bunch of each, but there are a bunch of a few and a few of most of the others. In the “popular versus unknown” continuum of Chinese cuisines, the largest number of Chinese restaurants in our area (and in most countries outside of China) are of Guangdong/Cantonese in origin, for this is the godzilla of all Chinese cuisines (please forgive my mixed cultural metaphor). The foods of this region are marked by flavors that are sweeter, favoring braising and stewing, adding various mild sauces. Guangdong Province (formerly called Canton) is in the southeast part of China near Hong Kong which shares much of the food of this cuisine. Wonton King is a prime example of Cantonese cuisine, but many of the smaller hole-in-the-wall Chinese restaurants are too, like China King and Hon’s Wok (all on Olive).

At the opposite end of this “popular” versus “unknown” continuous scale lies Dongbei cuisine, the anchor for the “unknown”, at least for much of America. The Dongbei region (东北, dōngběi) - previously known as Manchuria - consists of three Chinese provinces: Liaoning, Jilin, and Heilongjiang. And you really must want to get there to get there. Not many international tourists, however, get up to China’s northernmost arm due to its undeserved reputation as an “inhospitable wasteland.” Yet, with its immense swaths of fertile fields and huge mineral resources, Dongbei is a treasure trove. It is economically and politically among the most important regions of China, and, for much of its history, these areas have been fiercely contested by Manchus, Nationalists, Russians, Japanese, and Mao’s Communist rebels. This region is most famous historically as the military launching point for the communist takeover of the country beginning in late 1948, as well as the industrial base of Maoist China.

The geographic distance between the Quandong and Dongbei areas is over a thousand miles, from the southeast part of China to the very northeast corner of China. It is 42 hours by car, ferry, and train (yes, you can certainly fly, but please ... take the train). A quite beautiful ride over 1200 miles of the most exquisite countryside you will see in China.

These 1200 miles are also representative of the vast distance between their cuisines. Cantonese cuisine draws much inspiration from the local southern and more temperate environments of Hong Kong and Guangzhou (the main city of Quandong), while Dongbei shares international borders with Mongolia, Russian Siberia, and North Korea – less than hospitable climates, requiring reliance on local northern staples of pickling, wheat, Sichuan peppercorns, and CRISPY everything. The fusion of these four national neighbors make for an enticing world mélange of many different and unusual flavors and textures.

Here in St. Louis, however, at least geographically, the distance from Cantonese cuisine to Dongbei cuisine is not very far at all. In fact, the parking lots of Wonton King and **Cate Zone** sit side by side. Daniel Ma and Quincy Lin (the owners of **Cate Zone**) have brought their exquisite take on Dongbei style Chinese food here. Thank goodness! Spurred on by their work at other Chinese eateries here, like Joy Luck Buffet on Manchester at Hanley, they wanted to bring their take on their home town cuisine to St. Louis. And they wanted to bet that they could keep those original tastes and flavors and still be successful. The lines out the door are a testament to their vision and quality.

A sample of a couple of their best.

Sweet and sour pork. Wait, stop, hear me out on this. I am willing to bet that you have never had sweet and sour pork like this. Never. Most of the Cantonese versions are big blobs of pork, heavily coated with thick batter, deep fried, with gobs of “red mostly sweet, tinged with sour” sauce poured over it, swimming (drowning, better). This Dongbei version is exactly the opposite of that. Oh so thin slices of pork, dredged in cornstarch (that’s the way to get CRISP), deep fried in strips, piled so high on your plate that it reaches to heaven, drizzled with a reddish orange very light, more sour than sweet, but sweet too, that you can pick up and eat like a hot (to the touch) crispiest chip of pork. I’m telling you that this is not like any sweet and sour pork that you have EVER had.



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Hot Crisp Fish. This is not O'Jan's Hot Fish that you get in Grafton, Illinois, on the one weekend per month that you go to the Grafton Flea Market. It's filets of buttery whitefish dredged in flour and some more cornstarch (remember: CRISP), then cooked so perfectly they melt in your mouth. Then they dip the fish in chili oil, then blanket it in piles of four different types of peppers, including those little Sichuan peppercorns that look like black peppercorns, but scarier. This sea of red little buddies (the other three kinds of Chinese chilis on the plate) are not really all that hot, but the Sichuan p-corns are more of a tingly heat than burning, because they are tongue- and lip-numbingly spicy. And I've had spicy. Remind me to tell you about the long bean dish at the Banana Leaf in Singapore! (Warning: to lessen the spiciness after the fact, eat steamed rice or white bread which absorb the chili oil, do NOT (repeat: do NOT!) drink water as it just spreads the chili oil around any of the rest of your mouth, that you can still feel.)

Other dishes that look and sound good include Crisp Pumpkin with Egg Sauce, Cumin-Calamari Fried Rice, Szechuan Spicy Shrimp, Twice-Cooked Pork (again, a different take), Malatang (or hot-pot style bowls of goodness), Korean Cold Noodle, Chengdu Spicy Chicken, Chinese Sour Cabbage with Pork Belly, Deep Fried Shrimp with Preserved Egg in Special Sauce, skewers of meats and seafood, and so much more. Adventurous eaters unite!

*And (again) remember to support our local restaurants all the time, but especially during the pandemic. Please do call to be sure that they are open and how they are handling all this.*

**We'll have another "Culture Quad" section in the next issue of *FenceTalk* with four new cultural finds. Thank you for reading.**

**Upcoming *FenceTalks* (2021-2022)**

12/1/2021 (Luminaria & Progressive Dinner issue)

2/1/2022 (Annual Meeting issue)

5/1/2022 (Summer Activities issue)

8/1/2022 (Annual Picnic & Halloween issue)

11/1/2022 (Luminaria & Progressive Dinner issue)

**Blast From the Past: "Camp Lewis" & Original Home Prices**

With the World's Fair opening soon, Lewis wanted people to take notice of his new venture and to buy property in the new subdivision. Thus he developed Camp Lewis, a tent city built on both sides of what is now Princeton. To subscribers to his publications who wished to visit the World's Fair, it offered reasonably-priced lodging in small tents with board floors, electric lights, and comfortable beds. A dining tent for meals, a hospital, a barbershop, a nursery, and transportation to and from the Fair were also provided. At least 80,000 people visited University Heights that summer and fall of 1904. They were especially attracted at night, when Lewis turned on the giant searchlight atop the 135 foot octagonal tower of his headquarters (now University City's City Hall) and swept the fairgrounds with it. This carbon-arc searchlight is still used by University City on special occasions today.

[From *Our History* at universityheightsonline.net]

The minimum costs that were originally set ranged from \$6,000 at the south end of the subdivision to \$1,500 on the north side of Dartmouth and north end of Yale. These minimums were increased in 1921 to range from \$10,000 to \$2,500 with somewhat greater intermediate differentiation. Inflation after the 1930s permitted later houses to be built to a scale and finish somewhat inferior to their neighbors, but these constitute a very small percentage of the total and are mostly concentrated on Dartmouth. Lot sizes were originally designed with these minimums in mind; smaller houses had smaller lots. Accordingly, short Amherst has 25 houses while longer Princeton has only 21.

[From the June 1, 1977 application of UHS1 for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, prepared by Constance H. Lennahan, Coordinator, University Heights Garden Club, 711 Yale Avenue, University City, Missouri 63130. (That application was approved in 1981.)]



**Editor's note: This flyer from the St. Louis Audubon Society is designed to be used with the University Heights Task Force on Pesticide flyer that was in *FenceTalk* 2021.2-May (p. 18). And is presented here with the permission of the St. Louis Audubon Society.**



## **Why pesticides are bad for birds (and other wildlife):**

- Pesticides are often not specific in their activity and kill both “good” and “bad” insects.
- Indiscriminate use of pesticides reduces insect populations that are an important food source for birds and other wildlife, especially when birds are raising young. Insects are a vital protein and often required for the correct development and growth of nestlings.
- Some pesticides are also lethal to fish and aquatic insects. Some bird species rely on aquatic insects as a food source.
- Run-off from pesticide application in yards contaminates local streams and the broader watershed thus impacting birds and wildlife beyond the boundaries of a single property or even a neighborhood.
- Pesticide use is linked to declines in grassland bird populations.
- Pesticides can harm birds through direct contact or through birds consuming seeds or prey treated with pesticides.
- Neonicotinoids (neonics) have been reported to have the following effects in birds:
  - Ingestion of seeds coated with neonics can cause death.
  - Neonics can also disrupt the migratory pathways of birds.
  - Neonics can cause emaciation in birds.
  - Neonics can impair reproduction in birds.
- Not using pesticides can add up to making our neighborhoods a safer place for humans, birds, and the associated wildlife that they depend upon.

### **List of commonly used products for yards that contain neonics:**

[https://www.beyondpesticides.org/assets/media/documents/pollinators/documents/pesticide\\_list\\_final.pdf](https://www.beyondpesticides.org/assets/media/documents/pollinators/documents/pesticide_list_final.pdf)

[https://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/files/bee\\_toxic\\_fact-sheet\\_73518.pdf](https://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/files/bee_toxic_fact-sheet_73518.pdf)

### **Additional websites and resources on the effects of pesticides on birds:**

<https://abcbirds.org/program/pesticides/>

<https://abcbirds.org/neonics>

<https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/seven-simple-actions-to-help-birds/>

<https://ny.audubon.org/conservation/lawn-pesticides> - includes alternative pest control methods for lawns

**Info You Can't Live (Here) Without: Calendar 2021-2022**

\* highlights a UHA-sponsored event.

\*\* highlights a UHS1 event.

**Recurring**

**Saturdays (April 10-Dec 11, closed Nov 27)** - UCity Farmers Market 8:30a-12:30p, The Loop, behind 6655 Delmar Blvd.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday (May-Sept)** – The Loop Roadshow, Leland Ave next to Vintage Vinyl, a street market featuring local vintage businesses and artisans

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday (monthly)** – UCity City Council meeting (virtual until it isn't) (always on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays, but 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays meetings are cancelled for July, August, & December, best to check in advance at 314.505.8605) (times: generally Study Sessions begin at 5:30p followed by Regular Meeting at 6:30p)

**September 2021**

9/1-30 – Loop in Motion + Style in the Loop, a month-long event highlighting avant garde St. Louis fashion, independent designers, music, and models. Perfect!

\*9/1 - FenceTalk Newsletter (2021, Issue 3, Annual Picnic & Halloween issue)

9/12 – UCity Bulk Items Pickup (East Zone, for the week of)

9/13 – UCity Public Library online discussion of *A Pale Light in the Black* by K.B. Wagers.  
[reference@ucitylibrary.org](mailto:reference@ucitylibrary.org) for Zoom info.

9/18 – 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Forest Park Balloon Race (The Glow on 9/17) 🍎

9/18 – UCity Paper Shredding Event, 9a-noon, Centennial Commons (Recreation Center), 7210 Olive Blvd, limited to 5 bankers' boxes per car.

\*9/21 - UHA Board of Directors meeting (Note: this is a change from the previously published 9/14)

9/22 – UCity Public Library online discussion of *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie.  
[reference@ucitylibrary.org](mailto:reference@ucitylibrary.org) for Zoom info.

9/26 – UCity in Bloom Garden Tour and "Paint U. City" Plein Air Festival.

9/26 – Plein Air Art Reception, outside Flynn Park School (west side), 5-7p

TBD - UCity Outdoor Yard Sale/Resource Fair

TBC - UCity National Make A Difference Day

**October**

\*10/10 – **The University Heights Annual Picnic (come join us for this traditional neighborhood gathering on this Sunday afternoon 4-7p)**

\*10/12 - UHA Board of Directors meeting

10/23 – UCity Electronics Recycling Event, 9a-noon, Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania Avenue.

\*10/31 - **Halloween (6-8p) (Great Pumpkin Awards for decorations) (it's on a Sunday night this year)**

TBD - UCity in Bloom, Bulb Sale

**November**

\*11/8 - UHA Board of Directors meeting

**December**

\*12/1 – FenceTalk Newsletter (2021, Issue 4, Luminaria & Progressive Dinner issue)

\*\*12/1 – UHS1 Assessments due (late fee assessed after 12/31)

\*12/12 - **Luminaria & Progressive Dinner**

\*12/14 - UHA Board of Directors meeting

12/21 – Winter Solstice (9:59a)

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\*\*\*\*\* **Happy New Year 2022** \*\*\*\*\*

### **January 2022**

- \*1/11 - UHA Board of Directors meeting (7-9p) (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday)
- TBD – Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
- TBD - The Loop Ice Carnival

### **February**

- \*2/1 – *FenceTalk* Newsletter (2022, Issue 1, Welcome Issue)
- \*\*2/6 – **The University Heights Annual Meeting (2-4p) (pay UHA dues \$20/year)**
- \*2/8 - UHA Board of Directors meeting
- TBD – UCity Go Red For Women

### **March**

- No UHA Board of Directors meeting

### **April**

- 4/12 – UCity Bulk Items Pickup (East Zone, for the week of)
- \*4/12 - UHA Board of Directors meeting
- TBD – University City Wine Fest

### **May**

- \*5/1 – *FenceTalk* Newsletter (2022, Issue 2, Summer Activities Issue)
- 5/1-2 – UCity in Bloom Annual Plant Sale
- 5/5 – Cinco De Maio Celebrations
- \*5/10 - UHA Board of Directors meeting
- 5/31 – UCity Memorial Day Run
- TBD – 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Mannequins on the Loop
- TBD - Taste of UCity
- TBD - UCity National Kids to Park Day

### **June**

- \*6/14 - UHA Board of Directors meeting
- 6/19 – Juneteenth Celebration
- TBD - Fair UCity, Heman Park
- TBD - UCity Jazz Festival, Heman Park
- TBD - UCity Starlight Concert Series, Heman Park (thru August)
- TBD - UCity Summer Band Concert Series, Heman Park (thru August)
- TBD - UCity Movies in the Park, Heman Park (thru August)

### **July**

- \*7/4 – **Second Annual University Heights Bike Parade.** Bring your bikes (or trikes for the smaller set). Kicks off at **9:00am promptly** starting at 6935 Amherst Avenue.
- No UHA Board of Directors meeting

### **August**

- \*8/1 - *FenceTalk* Newsletter (2022, Issue 3, Annual Picnic & Halloween issue)
- \*8/9 - UHA Board of Directors meeting
- TBD - UCity National Night Out Against Crime



## Info You Can't Live (Here) Without: Contact Us

### **University Heights Subdivision #1 (UHS1) Trustees (have the legal responsibility for UHS1)**

Frank Castiglione (Cornell) 612.578.6852 [f.castiglione@liftxl.com](mailto:f.castiglione@liftxl.com)  
Myra Vandersall (Yale) 314.518.1451 [myravandersall@gmail.com](mailto:myravandersall@gmail.com)  
Mark Harvey (Harvard) 314.398.7485 [markcharvey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:markcharvey@sbcglobal.net)  
Anil Pillai (Dartmouth), trustee intern 314.308.1288 [bloggerpillai@gmail.com](mailto:bloggerpillai@gmail.com)

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

Barb Chicherio (Harvard), president 314.727.8554 [chicherio@aol.com](mailto:chicherio@aol.com)  
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### **Important Numbers (Government (City/County), Board of Elections, Utilities)**

#### **Emergency 911**

UCity City Hall 314.862.6767  
UCity Police (non-emergency) 314.725.2211  
UCity Fire Department (non-emergency) 314.505.8768  
UCity Public Library 314.727.3150  
St. Louis County Government 314.615.5000  
St. Louis County Board of Elections 314.615.1800

#### **Utilities**

Ameren Missouri (electricity) (report an outage) 800.552.7583/314.342.1111  
Metropolitan Sewer District 866.281.5737  
Missouri American Water 866.430.0820  
Spire (natural gas) 800.887.4173  
UCity Trash, Recycling, Yard Waste, & Leaf Collection 314.505.8560

Missouri Public Utilities Commission **800.DIG.RITE** (Call before you dig on your property and someone will come and mark where there are utility lines on your property – free service – “dig safely, it’s the law”) 800.344.7483 (800.DIG.RITE) (or 811 on your cellphone)