



FenceTalk Moves to Electronic Format Only

Over the last few years, you may have noticed that *FenceTalk*, our neighborhood newsletter, has been distributed to you in a variety of ways (paper and electronic) and published somewhat intermittently. It is quite a task to prepare and distribute such a regular publication. Due to the cost, energy, and content limits that are inherent in publishing anything in a paper format these days, we have decided to make a change that will enhance the scope of our beloved *FenceTalk*.

Beginning with this issue, *FenceTalk* will no longer be published in a paper format, only in an electronic format. We know that there are some of you who will not like this decision. We will, however, do everything that we can to continue to make *FenceTalk* readily available to you, as ***FenceTalk* will be regularly distributed in 3 different ways:** 1) your official **email** (the one noted in the 2021 edition of the *Neighborhood Directory*); 2) our **website** at <https://UniversityHeightsOnline.com/FenceTalk>, and 3) on **Nextdoor** (in our section of this social media site for our neighborhood). We hope that you will enjoy the new format and new content that will be available to you as we transcend the bounds of an 8.5"x11" sheet of paper (or even four sheets). Please know that we treasure the traditions and history of our neighborhood and this new format will give us the opportunity to do that even better. Just give us a couple of issues of *FenceTalk* to show you what we have in mind. Here's the contents of this our first issue of 2021

And stay tuned. →

And as a final note on the new electronic format: If you do not have an email address nor reliable access to the Internet, please contact Barb Chicherio (University Heights Association President, 720 Harvard, 314.727.8554) to make alternate arrangements as we do not want to leave anyone in our neighborhood unable to receive these important communications.

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Editor's Note:

If you are interested especially in the **Architectural Standards & Local Historic District issue**, please read the "Protecting Our Historic Neighborhood: The Plan & The Process" section of **The Trustees Report** by Myra Vandersall (Yale) in this issue. Further, it is my plan that the next issue of *FenceTalk* will have substantial pieces devoted to discussions on these important community issues. The publication date of this *FenceTalk* issue is scheduled for July 1.

Building Community: The New Editor by Mark Pope

What did you notice the first time you came into our neighborhood? Do you remember that first time? Was it the “Marker Garden” with “University Heights National Historic District” carved into a block of granite sitting majestically at that entrance proclaiming boldly who we are? Was it the curving streets that seemed to have no end, with ever changing vistas? Was it the beautiful homes, each one different with well-kept lawns and people waving to you or looking up as you drove past and smiling? Was it the towering trees overhanging those streets, shading those homes? When you looked into your first home here, what did you see that made you want that place, that made it special? What exactly was it for you?

For me, it was all of those ... and also what our neighborhood wasn't. It wasn't neatly packaged stamp-like cookie cutter lots with homes that remind you of those on Wisteria Lane in Marc Cherry's *Desperate Housewives* (not that there's anything wrong with that, if that's what you're into). Mario and I just didn't want to live in Cherry's land. We wanted to live in an urban area, in a city, one with lots of charm, but still a city. With the amenities of a city and the ambience of a small town, but with lots of urban air. A place that was different and special.

What I hope that I can do as editor of our newsletter is to find a way to remind us of that first day, of what drew us here the first time, of what made us want to live here. A place like this is special. It's our neighborhood. That's why our newsletter is titled *FenceTalk*. It's what neighbors do ... talk over our garden fences as we go about our spring time gardening, or 4th of July barbeque, or raking those damn never-ending leaves in the fall, or just sitting out and enjoying the sun, the birds, our little piece of nature.

And in the new edition of *FenceTalk*, we've institutionalized that a bit more for the busy-ness of urban life. You can't get to know all of your neighbors from your own back or front yard (although Mario seems to have done a pretty good job of that from ours), but what I hope that *FenceTalk* can continue to be is a window to our whole neighborhood, to aid in developing and maintaining that sense of community that can be missing in the faster pace of urban life, to help feed that sense of connection to each other and to our neighborhood. Because without us, yes, those people who inhabit these little unique boxes on curvy streets, it's only just another house, on another street, somewhere.

We hope that you'll join us in this ongoing process of building community. Whether it's our annual picnic, or our Luminaria, or even just the annual meeting, we'll tell you about it here in *FenceTalk* and (hopefully) entice each of you to come and just hang out with us, your neighbors. You can dip your toe in as much or as little as you want, but we hope that you'll dip and stay a little while. I'm telling you - it's intoxicating and only slightly addicting. Smile. We hope to be seeing you. We welcome your comments. Thank you for reading this.

Mark Pope, new *FenceTalk* Editor
742 Yale Avenue
drmarkpope@gmail.com

Ways We Communicate in University Heights

Face-to-Face (preferred)	UniversityHeightsOnline.com (website)
Telephone (in the directory)	UniversityHeights1.Nextdoor.com (online community)
Email (in the directory)	UniversityHeightsOnline.com/FenceTalk (newsletter)

Common Abbreviations We Use In *FenceTalk*

UHS1 = University Heights Subdivision No. 1
UHA = University Heights Association, Inc.

**UHA Today: A Thank You Message To University Heights by Barb Chicherio (Harvard),
President of the University Heights Neighborhood Association (and Scout, Trusted Assistant)**

I once read that it is considered dull to state the obvious but here goes: This has been a trying year. This has been a difficult year for all of us coping with the COVID pandemic and the accompanying isolation. And this has been a difficult year with the emerging understanding of our country's struggle to deal with our legacy of racism. The renewed acknowledgement that this legacy is not a thing of the past has literally brought people into the streets in a shared display of hurt and anger. It has been tumultuous but appears to be pushing us all towards a more just society.

Personally, during this past year, I lost my brother-in-law to COVID pneumonia in January and my dog Scout had ACL surgery last September. Her recovery has not been easy. After Scout was able to walk again, her veterinarian ordered frequent walks for her physical therapy. She and I have walked a lot. We walk two to three times a day. The good news is that she no longer limps and her leg is getting stronger. The other positive outcome is my renewed appreciation for our neighborhood.

I seldom walk without running into at least one friend, usually more. Sometimes we stop and chat and sometimes we just wave, but I have many friends that are also my neighbors. When my husband and I bought our house on Harvard in 1986, we were simply looking for a house. Over the years it has become clear that we landed in a community. The experience of living in a place where neighbors know and care for one another is exceptional in the current social climate.

Here are other observations. I noticed trees being planted. I asked one of the Droege workers (our neighborhood tree service) how many trees have been planted this spring in the Heights? He told me between 25 or 30! This made me ridiculously happy. I noticed lots of people walking, walking dogs, riding bicycles and sitting on their porches on warm days. I have also noticed that we once again have many children living and playing in our neighborhood. There are new softball base plates in the vacant lot and the idea of a new generation of children growing up in the Heights is wonderful. Fairy Gardens are magically springing up. When Scout and I walk through Lewis Park, there are usually children and families enjoying the beautiful space.

Our neighborhood community not only cares for itself, we embrace a responsibility of caring for others and social justice. At this year's annual neighborhood meeting, we passed a resolution documenting our *Apology For Historic Racism in University Heights*. For those of you who are not aware, our original indenture forbade African Americans and people of color from living in our neighborhood. The language was removed from the indenture but our neighborhood voted to make a formal apology and our University Heights Association Board is now discussing how to make the apology into a real outcome. We are exploring grants for programs or scholarships for minority students at University City High School. We will keep the neighborhood informed about our decision.

So, now I return to my thank you to University Heights. As difficult as this year has been, living in this neighborhood community has been comforting. I never felt isolated or alienated. I knew I was living among friends and I knew I was living in a caring space. I think I have known this for quite awhile, but the challenges of this past year have brought this reality into a clear focus. Thank you, University Heights, for supporting us during this past year. Thank you neighbors who spontaneously hosted food drives from their porches, thank you neighbors for the front yard and front porch concerts, thank many of you for the many acts of kindness that I know nothing about, and thank you to the anonymous donor who helped make our neighborhood sparkle with luminaries on the shortest, darkest day of a very dark year.

Welcome To Our UHA Board Officers and Our Newest UHA Board Members

At our recent annual meeting, new board members were elected to the UHA Board of Directors and that Board elected the new UHA Officers. Please congratulate them and welcome them to our Board. They are here to serve and make our neighborhood even better. Contact information is included in the UHA Board of Directors section near the back of this issue on page 15.

Our new UHA Officers are: Barbara Chicherio (President, Yale), Peter Burgis (Vice-President, Radcliffe), Judith Gainer (Secretary, Harvard), Hope Horn (Treasurer, Cornell), Vito Wagner (Membership, Yale), Mark Pope (*FenceTalk* Editor, Yale).

Our newest UHA Board members that we just elected as our recent annual meeting in March are: Hope Horn (Cornell), Claudia Moran (Amherst), Mark Pope (Yale), Vito Wagner (Yale), and Heather Zimmerman (Yale).

Continuing UHA Board members are: Mario Carlos (Yale), Tayebah Hardy (Harvard), Tom Hardy (Harvard), Franco Jimenez (Trinity), Louis Lankford (Yale), Anil Pillai (Dartmouth), Phil Slavin (Cornell), Amanda Summer (Cornell).

A great group of people who give back to our community through this important service.

Removing Pesticides from Our Public Spaces: Report of the Webinar

UHA was one of 34 co-sponsors of this presentation on April 8. Public areas such as parks, playgrounds, and schoolyards are routinely sprayed with various chemicals to control insects and plants. Evidence has mounted showing that these chemicals damage human health. Pesticides tend to be used disproportionately in African American communities. These chemicals also have unintended consequences for humans, animals, and plants. The webinar explored the health concerns associated with pesticides, alternatives to their use, and most importantly, what communities have done to reduce the use of unhealthy chemicals. This was a Zoom presentation.

Got THE New & Improved Spring 2021 Neighborhood Directory?

We hope that you did, as back in March, a band of our merry neighbors fanned out across University Heights Subdivision No. 1 with stacks of the bright yellow, hot-off-the-press new neighborhood Directory, with the publication date of “Spring 2021”.

As you can imagine, a publication of this type by an all-volunteer group is not an easy feat. Your UHA Board started talking about a printed directory over four years ago. After several attempts at doing it, Greg Phillips (Cornell) (bless you) volunteered to lead the project. The brainstorming, organizing, production, and distribution of this Directory was complicated too. The last published Directory was in 2012 and luckily we were able to find two people associated with the production of that Directory (Linda Ballard and Judy Baernstein) who were able to provide those older data files as an initial starting point. Those data files were expanded to allow for including additional cell phone numbers and email addresses. In order to verify the information for the Directory and much like the US Census, email solicitations were made, phone calls were made, and volunteer canvassers knocked on the doors of neighbors who did not respond to requests for updated information. In the end, more than 95% of our neighbors responded and new neighbors were being added even until the printing began. The 5% whose information is not included are noted as “Resident,” but we tried.

It was a herculean task, but an important one for our neighborhood. You never know when you’re going to need to call the person who lives down the street to tell them something important like “please stop your dog from barking.” Smile.

A big thanks to all those who helped produce the directory including:

Reviewers: Linda Ballard (Yale), Marilyn Cathcart (Columbia), Barb Chicherio (Harvard).

Canvassers: Barb Chicherio (Harvard), Mary Harvey (Harvard), Tayebah Hardy (Harvard), Tom Hardy (Harvard), Anil Pillai (Dartmouth), Phil Slavin (Cornell), Amanda Summer (Cornell).

Database: Mark Harvey (Harvard), Myra Vandersall (Yale).

2012 Managing Editors: Linda Ballard (Yale) & Judy Baernstein (Seattle).

2021 Managing Editor: Greg Phillips (Cornell).

Printer: Justin Skaggs at Hi Tech who was very helpful and patient throughout the entire process.

If, by chance, you did not get yours, please contact Barb Chicherio (Harvard) at 314.727.8554 and we’ll cheerfully get one to you.

The Trustees Report by Myra Vandersall (Yale), Trustee

Protecting Our Historic Neighborhood: The Plan and the Process

A major topic of conversation for the last few months in University Heights Subdivision No. 1 is how we protect our historic neighborhood as we move forward and the best and most equitable method to do this. The trustees, as promised during the annual meeting have engaged on behalf of the neighborhood Community Mediation Services (CMS) of St. Louis County. We met with the CMS facilitators and are in the process of scheduling the promised discussion groups with neighborhood residents. These group discussions will be Zoom events and open to all interested property owners. Everyone will be notified via email and on Nextdoor of the dates and times of the discussion groups.

Some neighbors have inquired about the process of changing our indenture, especially focusing on managing demolition and construction of new homes (infill) which may not enhance our historic neighborhood. To that end, our attorney, Scott Pummel of Lashly & Baer P.C., researched the possibility of changing the indenture. Neighbors who are on the trustee email blast have received this document. It can also be found on our website, universityheightsonline.com, where you will find many more relevant documents. We believe it is important that residents read this research report so all of us have a clear picture of the indenture adjustments.

Unpaid Homeowner Assessments

Outreach continues to collect the \$30,000 in late assessments that remain due. The average outstanding assessment is \$808 and the minimum due is \$301. Since the annual meeting, we have collected \$4,500. When a property owner's delinquent assessments reach \$1,000, including late fees and interest, the trustees will place a lien on the property. There are three convenient ways to pay your neighborhood assessment.

1. Payments via check should sent to: University Heights Subdivision No. 1, c/o DNI Properties Inc 758, P. O. Box 105007 Atlanta GA 30348-5007

2. <https://dniproperties.com/pay-my-dues/>. Select "Homeowners/pay my dues". For additional information about DNI, please visit www.DNIProperties.com.

3. To pay online via Union Bank, use the following link: <https://www.hoabankservices.com/OnlinePayments/payment.aspx>. You can pay as a guest – one time. If you use a credit or debit card the bank will charge you \$14.99, but if you use your bank routing and account number, they do not charge the fee.

Our Beautiful Forest

Neighborhood volunteer Judy Harmon and our arborist Colleen Baum from Droege Tree Care have been busy plotting the locations for new trees in University Heights. This spring 33 new trees have been planted.

Judy Harmon reports:

On our late summer tree walk last year, we identified about 50 spots where new trees could be planted. We tried to contact all these homeowners to see if they wanted a new tree, and if they would be able to take care of it. Some homeowners we were unable to contact, and others said no. We did not plant a tree if a house was vacant or for sale. (Keep in mind, this was before our wonderful new neighborhood directory came out - huge thanks to Greg Phillips!) Those who wanted a tree and agreed to take care of it, got a tree.

Colleen placed flags in the locations where she thought the trees should go. She is an arborist so there are a lot of things she takes into consideration: the size, variety, age, and location of the surrounding trees; location of driveways, street lights, power lines, front doors, how the tree will look in front of the house. Then Dig-Rite needs to check the location for utilities. She chooses the particular variety of tree for all the above reasons, also the availability and condition of trees. Colleen deals with particular growers that she trusts and chooses each tree individually.

Here's a breakdown of the trees that were planted this spring:

Oaks: three cherrybark oaks, two chinkapin oaks, two overcup oaks, one white oak

Magnolias: four cucumber magnolias, three magnolia ‘Daybreak’, one sweet bay magnolia, one magnolia ‘Lois’

Other trees include three lacebark elms, two blackgum ‘Wildfire’, two tulip poplars, two dawn redwood ‘Jade Prince’, two pond cypress ‘Debonaire’, one silver linden, one pecan, one London plane, one catalpa, and one zelkova.

There were more flowering trees planted this year, magnolias. I believe the reason is that new varieties are available now that are more upright, single-stemmed, so more useful as street trees.

Homeowner Cooperation for New Trees in Front of Your Home

The expectation of all homeowners is that they will take care of these new trees at the front of their homes. Trees need water of course, at least 1” of water each week during spring, summer, and fall. If the weather is hot, dry, or very windy, trees need more water. Keep weed whackers and lawn mowers away from the tree so the stem and bark are not injured. Mulch should be kept on the tree roots, but NOT up to the base of the tree, as too much moisture at this vulnerable location will cause rot, and insect infestation. Care should be taken that in-ground watering systems don’t spray water all the time on the trunk of the tree, as this will injure and possibly kill the tree. Trustee Mark Harvey has instruction sheets for new tree planting and care. If you want one, contact Mark at markcharvey@sbcglobal.net.

Judy has “gator bags” if anyone would like to use them for watering. The homeowner will need a hose long enough to reach the tree, and the gator bags should be used no longer than two years. Judy has some reservations about them, which she can discuss with anyone who would like one.

Any questions, folks can contact Judy Harmon, preferably by email heyjude6984@att.net, or Colleen Baum at Droege Tree Care. She is always happy discussing trees!

Judy has had some requests for a list of our subdivision street trees. She will make that available soon, now that all the new trees have been planted for this year.

Also, if any neighbor is not on the trustee email blast but would like to receive occasional news about the neighborhood, please contact Myra Vandersall at myravandersall@gmail.com.

Is Your Home 100 Years Old (Or Even Older)?

When University City was founded more than 100 years ago, an early priority was the development of new subdivisions and construction of houses (witness our own UHS1). Each year more of these houses are reaching the century mark, and all of these houses have stories to tell...the architects, the builders, and the people who have lived there. The **Historical Society of University City (HSUC)** is proud to offer the **Century Home Program** to today’s owners of University City houses 100 years or older. More than 40 homes have been designated so far in University City and the list grows each year. Thirty of those are in UHS1 and are distributed (by street): Amherst (3), Columbia (2), Cornell (3), Dartmouth (0), Delmar (2), Harvard (5), Princeton (5), Radcliffe (2), Trinity (1), Yale (7), built from 1905-1919 (no 1920 builds yet?). Obviously, once again Yale has beaten both Harvard and Princeton for Ivy League supremacy. Boola boola. (Sorry, couldn’t help myself.)

It is really quite a simple process to apply for this historical status. Just complete the “application form” at the link below with some basic information on your home. <http://www.ucityhistory.org/century-homes.html>. The status is free, but the unique handcrafted plaque (11” x 8.5”), a hearty little brass number, is merely \$250 (\$225 for HSUC members). Priceless!

Questions? Please contact Liz Beall, program coordinator, at ucityhistory@hotmail.com.

U-City Need-To-Know News

Watch for New Recycling “Monitors” Coming in May: UCity Calls It “Feet on the Street” Recycling Education Campaign

To help achieve waste diversion goals and better serve residents, the Department of Public Works is kicking off a new city-wide campaign in May called “Feet on the Street” to improve the quantity and quality of recyclables collected from homes across the City. The broad-based “Feet on the Street” education campaign includes **sending a team of trained workers wearing official vests to examine residential recycling carts and identify contamination.** If contamination is found, an “Oops” tag will be left on the recycling cart and **your recycling pick up will be postponed until the following week** after the contamination has been removed. *ROARS*, the UCity newsletter (2021, Spring, p. 4). **Editor’s note: Please consult <http://www.ucitymo.org/691/Recycling> to be certain what is recyclable (or not).**

University City Receives Three Million Dollars for Third Ward Improvements

The City of University City announced that property for the Costco phase of the **Markets at Olive** development was transferred on March 31, 2021 to Costco Wholesale. As a result of the purchase, the city has received \$3 million which is earmarked for improving the Third Ward. The \$3 million represents the first part of \$10 million total that the UCity Mayor Terry Crow and City Council are allocating to improving the Third Ward. The \$10 million is being generated from the **Markets at Olive** development revenues. “For too long home values in the Third Ward have trailed the rest of our community. This injection of funds will enable us to begin the process of addressing this gap,” said Mayor Terry Crow. “Greater capital investment is needed in the Third Ward that would be a stimulus for owner-occupied homes to be renovated and provide renters a path to home ownership,” said City Manager Gregory Rose. “I will be recommending that the Mayor and Council consider creating a Task Force to work with staff in identifying the components and priorities of a housing program.”

All Properties Purchased for *Markets at Olive* Economic Development Project

All of the property for the first phase of the **Markets at Olive** Development have been acquired. The first phase is located within a 16-acre area that has been rezoned for a proposed Costco Wholesale store. Costco’s plans are to demolish existing buildings to construct a 160,430-square-foot, free-standing building, a fueling facility, 727 parking spaces, and landscaping. The Costco site is just one portion of the first phase of Novus’ \$189.4 million mixed-use development in University City called **Markets at Olive** that was approved in June 2019 as part of an economic redevelopment plan spanning approximately 50-acres between the intersection of Olive and I-170 and McKnight/Woodson Roads. The entire development would include a mix of retail, apartments, offices, and potentially a hotel. This is the first of the three long-range redevelopment and reinvestment projects identified by University City and the only project that involves Novus Development.

New Ameren Missouri Solar Facility Nearby

Ameren Missouri has been approved to start construction of its largest-ever solar facility in Montgomery County, MO. Montgomery County is located just west of Warrenton, MO on I-70. Construction will begin Summer 2021 and start harnessing power from the sun by the end of the year. @AmerenMissouri on Twitter 3/24/2021.

Vaccinated for Coronavirus (Yet)?

If you are eligible for a vaccination for anything, but particularly for CoViD-19, please do get it done. The sooner we are all vaccinated and this virus is relegated to the dustbin of history, the sooner we can all return to some semblance of normalcy. Here’s some relevant contact info to schedule an appointment in the St. Louis Region.

A Missouri state-run website that will help residents find vaccine clinics and events is:

<https://covidvaccine.mo.gov/navigator/>.

A list of mass vaccination events for the St. Louis region: https://covidvaccine.mo.gov/events/#region_c (Residents without computer or internet access can call the state COVID-19 hotline at 877-435-8411 for registration assistance.)

St. Louis County has vaccine appointment scheduling available online at: www.stlcorona.com.

Contact BJC, SSM, Mercy, St. Luke’s Hospital directly for appointments/walk-ins, as well as the pharmacies at Walgreens, CVS, Wal-Mart, and others. Much vaccine is available out there now. No excuses.

Getting To Know You (Better): Cheryl Faber (Yale)

Editor's note: Big thank you to Cheryl for agreeing to be the first of our University Heights neighbors to be profiled (in a good way) here in *FenceTalk*.



Dr. Cheryl Faber has lived at 748 Yale Avenue since 2000 (yes, 21 years) with her husband, Dr. Ani Acharya. Their two amazing and talented young daughters (Devi Acharya and Maya Acharya) have moved off to college and career in Santa Cruz, CA and New Orleans, LA respectively. Their house is guarded by two ferocious “girl mutts” (her description) Kira and Keiko. And she is especially famous for hosting her annual Halloween Party and decorating her home appropriately. Their home was built in our neighborhood 101 years ago (and so they just became eligible for the Historical Society of University City Century Homes Program plaque. See article on p. 6 in this issue of *FenceTalk*.)

Cheryl says that the THREE bathrooms in her home were what first attracted her to their house and that she “loves all of the mature trees and the laid back but thoughtful approach that her neighbors here in University Heights have to yard maintenance.” When asked what keeps her here, she replied “my great neighbors! I mean that.”

Here's some more responses to my interview questions. We call it “The Lightning Round.”

Living and Traveling:

- 10. Where did you grow up? [Wichita, Kansas](#)
- 11. Where did you live before? [Lawrence, Kansas and Kansas City, Kansas](#)
- 14. Where would you like to live next? [I would hate to leave our home and neighbors, but we have always thought about retiring to New Mexico.](#)
- 13. What countries/states have you visited? [Taiwan \(where my mother is from\), India \(where Ani's parents are from\), Spain, Iceland, Mexico, France, Great Britain, Canada, and various states of the Union.](#)

Education & Work:

- 15. What high school did you attend/graduate? (a classic St. Louis question) [Nowhere that you would know. A horrible Catholic High School in Wichita, KS called Bishop Carroll H.S.](#)
- 16. What colleges did you attend/graduate? Majors? [University of Kansas \(Lawrence, KS\), dual major/degree in cell biology and English. Then went to Medical School at University of Kansas in Kansas City.](#)
- 17. What kind of work do/did you do? [I am a neurologist for BJC, working at Missouri Baptist Hospital with a wonderful group called Neurology Associates.](#)
- 18. Are you retired? [Not yet!](#)

Insights:

- 27. What is your secret power? [Making amazing sourdough crackers. They are the best. Oh, and I make a pretty mean homemade ice cream.](#)
- 30. What are your hobbies and leisure activities? [I knit and spin my own yarn. I also handcraft books from found objects, old paper, old fabric, etc. I am a maker of many things. I love to garden and grow my own food. I also love playing games and doing puzzles.](#)
- 23. What is a recent lesson that you've learned that you wish you could share with others? [Hey, it's really easy to compost! I should have started 20 years ago.](#)
- 35. Is there a culture or religious tradition that you've always been interested in learning more about? [Buddhism is pretty awesome. I like that it is generally non-militant and sees value in all living things.](#)

Favorites:

8. What event in our neighborhood is your favorite? I love the spontaneous musical events that have sprung up during the pandemic. The marching band made me smile!
28. What are your favorite television shows? Star Trek, of course. Deep Space Nine is my fav.
28. What are your favorite books? I am a scifi/fantasy geek. Ray Bradbury, Tamora Pierce, Margaret Atwood, Octavia Butler. Reading some weird nautical fantasy stuff right now by R. J. Barker.
38. What is your favorite kind of food and your favorite place to get it? I would have to say Ethiopian food, at Meskerem on Grand.
31. What are your favorite sayings? My family crest would say: "I can make that!"
36. What is your favorite music? I have a wide range of musical interest. I would say my favorite band is Pink Floyd but mostly I listen to Indy Rock circa 1980s and 1990s like Radiohead, Modest Mouse, The Police, Violent Femmes, etc.
33. What sports do you like? Not really a sports person. Sorry. Soccer is pretty cool, I guess.

Close To Final Thoughts:

19. How technologically savvy do you consider yourself? Okay for a 50 year old person who grew up without computers. I am, however, rather skittish about social media. I have a very limited social media footprint ... on purpose.
26. What is something you don't find acceptable to joke about? I think you can joke about anything, if you do it right. I do not, however, claim to be a comedian.

"You Never Asked About Pets"

37. What do you do for fun? If I had a free day, I would ideally crash on my couch with a cup of chai, a good book, and snuggle with my two dogs.
34. Is there anything you've always wanted to do but haven't? Why not? I want backyard chickens, two goats, and alpaca. My backyard is, however, too small.
39. Even if you already have pets, what pets do you wish you had? As previously stated, I hope to have chicken, goats, and alpaca in my life. Oh, and always more dogs.
41. What question do you wish that I had asked of you? You didn't ask if I have any pets, although I threw that in there anyway [Editor's note: ... several times. Smile.].

Personally Speaking:

25. What is the greatest accomplishment of your life? Of course, birthing and raising my two girls. But ... I think I like most of all having them as grown up human beings that I can share my life with.
40. What advice would you give to your 20-year-old self? Yes, your skin will clear up. And that Ani guy will turn out pretty good. Go for it.
21. How would a person (who knows you very well and likes you) describe you? My coworkers and patients would describe me as a friendly, kind person who is easy to get along with. My friends and family would describe me as the crotchety old "witch" I really am. [Editor's note: I'm pretty sure this is a Halloween reference. Wicked sense of humor is another way they might describe her.]

Welcome To Our Newest Neighbors

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

- Lanell Brooks and Lawanda Brooks, 6939 Delmar
- Rebecca Esrock, 6949 Cornell
- Anthony Robinson and Emily Robinson, 6939 Columbia
- Robert Siefert, 6942 Dartmouth
- Emily Steiner and Scott McHenry, 793 Yale
- Matthew Mannenbach and Jamie Mannenbach, 738 Yale

If you see new neighbors moving in (or simply moving trucks) in the neighborhood, please let Amanda Summer (Cornell) 314.440.6065 or amandasummer@aol.com know as she is the coordinator of our Welcome Packets, so that she can get one to our new neighbors to help them get settled into their new home and new neighborhood. Thank you!

Blast from the Past – Tidbits from FenceTalk 2001.1-March-April

Editor's note: A piece of the puzzle from 20 years ago (*FenceTalk* 2001 issue 1 (March-April)). When I read it, I thought “we’ve been here before.” This will be an irregularly appearing section, but I hope you find it interesting and relevant. All from page 1 of that issue. April 17 was the date of the neighborhood annual meeting that year and it was from 7-9pm at (drumroll) the University City Library (of course). Enjoy!

From the Editor's column:

After a slight hiatus, FENCETALK is back, and so is spring! University Heights survived the winter. We stacked luminarias on snow piles, Dartmouth residents went without water on Christmas Eve. Thanks to the Trustees and their contractor, everyone was able to navigate the streets despite the snow and ice. Best of all is the long awaited return of our ornamental street lights in working order. Thank you trustees, especially Ron Scott for all the time and effort to make that happen.

From the Trustees' column:

Most of the signatures needed to amend our indenture have been obtained. The Trustees will be proceeding with the ‘friendly lawsuit’ needed to amend the document. Petitions will be available at the meeting on April 17th, and we can expect a report from the Trustees on the status of the amendment and other subdivision matters.

From an article titled “Expanded Recycling – Almost on our Doorstep” (obviously before our curbside little blue bins):

A bright green Donohue recycling bin has been installed at the school (near the drive circle across from the fire department). So now it is as easy as dropping the kids off at school or making a quick stop on your way to the University City Public Library. The library also has smaller blue recycle bins inside the library for the public's convenience.

*The “school” here is Delmar-Harvard School.

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 Interests, 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: Fish on a Bicycle (sculpture)

First up, **the Arts**, especially outdoor sculpture, and it’s one that is close to home. It’s called “Fish on a Bicycle” by Steven Gregory.



“Fish on a Bicycle” had its conceptual origin in the feminist era in the 1960 and 1970s when Gloria Steinem, Betty Friedan, Flo Kennedy, and so many other women were questioning the dominant paradigm, especially as a reaction to male chauvinism of the 1950s represented by the television series “Mad Men.” In a January 1975 issue of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, it was reported that this phrase was found scrawled on a wall: “**A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle**”. It was attributed to Irina Dunn, an Australian social activist, and frequently quoted by Gloria Steinem. It would soon thereafter be found on political buttons and bumper strips before there was any such thing as the Internet or Facebook.

This piece of art appears to pedal around the pond and is the work of London-based sculptor Steven Gregory, who is known for his affinity for the wry and absurd. A sneaky smile spreads across the fish’s bronze face, as if it’s delighted by its own cleverness. The unusual cyclist was first installed in 1997 and quickly became a local favorite. It has been maintained by the Gateway Foundation’s public art program ever since.

And it sits in our very own **Lewis Park** on the southern boundary of our neighborhood along Delmar which also hosts our National Historic District marker and garden.

Gardens & Parks: Lewis Park

Next, **Gardens & Parks**, and we stay in **Lewis Park**, as the transition from the sculpture to the park is just too easy. (We’ll not stay so geographically bound in the next *FenceTalk*.)



Lewis Park is small but mighty, sitting on four acres of spontaneous greenery, sloping from Delmar to a pond, bicycle and hiking trails, picnic areas, a woodland garden, and even a small playground, with an east entrance off of Yale Avenue, a north entrance on Vassar Avenue, and wide open to Delmar at Yale (and it is the location of our annual picnic in the fall each

year). It is named in memory of our neighborhood’s founder and developer, Edward Gardner Lewis, who also served as University City’s first mayor. (More below on E.G. Lewis.) In August, 2013, the *Lewis Park – Needs Assessment Study: Final Concept Master Plan* was published and a vision of what the newly renovated park would look like was proposed. Several initial steps have already been accomplished in that transformation.

Historical Interests: Edward Gardner Lewis

And, for the **History** piece for this issue, we’ll also stay in Lewis Park. E. G. Lewis was, depending on whom you spoke to, a visionary leader, a magazine publisher, political activist for women’s right to vote, and rapscallion. University City was the first of the two planned communities (both now fully formed cities) that he founded (the other Atascadero, CA). The first home that he built in his University Heights Subdivision No. 1 was

Culture Quad (continued)

at the northwest corner of Yale and Delmar around 1907. This particular lot in the new subdivision was swampy and contained a large natural spring, which Lewis turned into an asset by diverting it into a pond (see the **Arts** section above) at the rear of his property. His three-story Tudor style home was erected on the site and included formal gardens, a stable, several fountains, a greenhouse, and a marble swimming pool. The Lewis house burned years later and the majority of the site became incorporated into what is now **Lewis Park**, at the southwest corner of University Heights. Circle of life and all that.

Dining Out (if you can): Finest Dim Sum (in our own back yard, Olive Street)

And finally for this issue something totally different, **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 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 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.**

We'll look at a dining "experience" rather than one particular restaurant this time – the time-honored Chinese tradition of *dim sum*. And we are oh so lucky to have four dim sum restaurants in University City that are the finest in all of the St. Louis metropolitan region (some even ranked in the top Chinese restaurants in North America): **LuLu's Seafood & Dim Sum, Mandarin House, Wei Hong Bakery and Seafood Restaurant, and Wonton King** – all within four blocks of each other on Olive.

First, a basic primer of the history of *dim sum*. It all began on the Silk Road as a tea and snack service at rest stops along the arduous 4,000 mile trail. Dim sum aka "Yum Cha" or "drink tea" in Cantonese is the time from late morning to lunchtime where families traditionally gather regularly to drink tea, play mahjong, and catch up with friends. It is also referred to as "Dian Xin", or "touch the heart" in Mandarin Chinese (the national dialect of China and Taiwan). In the 10th century, Guangzhou (aka Canton, across from Hong Kong) developed a thriving teahouse culture. In the 20th century these teahouses morphed into the highest expression of dim sum and spread to Hong Kong, where flowers blossomed.

Dim sum is a meal made up of small plates of dumplings, bao (buns), and many other small portion dishes (literally hundreds) and is usually accompanied by tea. The dishes are shared among family and friends and are brought to the tables by servers pushing carts (or sometimes carrying trays) loaded with these selections of delicacies. You point, they serve, and (when you are full) you pay, based on the plates (size, pattern, etc.). These days it's a paper ticket with marks on it, but the idea is the same. Simple.

Here's some of my traditional favorites found on those small plates: (please forgive my Anglicized spellings, but phonetically they are close)

- Deep fried pork balls (aka salt water dumplings) in sweet glutinous rice shell) = hom sui gok
- Steamed prawn dumpling with thicker partially transparent rice (or tapioca) flour skin = har gau (or how)
- Fried taro dumplings = wu gok
- Steamed pork soup dumplings = xiao long bao
- Baked pork bun = char siu bao (I like the baked one, not so much the steamed one)
- Potstickers = jiaozi
- Steamed dumpling (pork and shrimp in wonton wrapped) = siu mai, shumai, shaomai, or siomay
- Shark's fin dumplings (or siu mai) (no shark meat, but the shape reminds of a shark fin) = yu chi gow
- Green onion (or scallion) pancake = cong you bing
- Egg custard tart = daan taat
- Sweet tofu = dow fu fah
- Steamed chicken feet = fong djau

Culture Quad (continued)

Many of these exquisite morsels are to be found in each of these four restaurants, but each is also a bit different. Oh, and they seem to trade places regularly at #1 on the *Riverfront Times* and *Feast Dining Out* special issues. **But do call ahead to be sure they are now serving dim sum during the Covid pandemic. Sure, there are dim sum items on the takeout or delivery menus, but it's truly not the same. Hold out for the dining in experience.** Generally, most only serve dine-in dim sum on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, from 11a-2p or so. And they are especially busy during the Chinese New Year (of course).

LuLu's Seafood & Dim Sum (8224 Olive Blvd, 314.997.3108, luluseafooddimsum.com) has award winning chefs from Hong Kong, Shanghai, Sichuan, Beijing, and Hunan. Best atmosphere. Real carts!

Mandarin House (8004 Olive Blvd, 314.427.8070, mandarinhousestlouis.com) opened in 1979 and the venerable grandparent of all these eateries. Best cashier/checkout (you tell them how many diners you had and they divide the bill up automatically at the cash register via their software).

Wei Hong Bakery and Seafood (7740 Olive Blvd, 314.726.0363, weihongseafoodrestaurant.com) during Dim Sum everything is fresh and piping hot. Best pork bun (ever), but also the roasted duck and roasted pork are special. (Also on South Grand.)

Wonton King (8116 Olive Blvd, 314.995.6982, wontonkingstl.com) is the truest Hong Kong style and for purists that's the traditional one.

Enjoy!! And (again) remember to support our local restaurants all the time, but especially during the pandemic.

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

Missing Newsletter Archive: We Need Your Help

Well, not all are missing. We are, however, missing a number of back issues of our neighborhood newsletter. We call it *FenceTalk* now (and unsure of what it might have been originally called). We do have a number of the more current issues online at universityheightsonline.com, but certainly not all. We want to complete our newsletter archive by getting copies of those early newsletters that we are missing, turning them into electronic format, and adding them to our online archive. So ... if you have copies of any of those for which we are missing (see the "Missing *FenceTalks* (or University Heights Newsletters)" list below), contact Mark Pope (Yale) at drmarkpope@gmail.com or 314.910.0969 and he'll talk to you about the process. And we promise it will be a relatively easy and pain-free process. Thank you for helping us make our *FenceTalk* archive complete.

Missing FenceTalks (or University Heights Newsletters)

We are looking for issues of *FenceTalk* or other University Heights newsletters from the following years. Thank you in advance for your help. We use the year for the volume number and the number of issues each year varies (from 1 to 12). We'll take anything you got.

Missing Year/Volume (Issues)

2016 (all)	2008 (4 or December)	2003 (January thru October)
2015 (all)	2007 (3 and 4)	2002 (all)
2014 (all)	2006 (January thru August)	2001 (January thru March,
2013 (all)	2005 (January thru September)	September, November)
2012 (all)	2004 (January thru March and	1998 (January or February)
2011 (3)	September thru	And all issues from 1997 to
2010 (all)	December)	1948.

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

May 2021

- 5/1 – FenceTalk Newsletter (2021, Issue 1, Welcome Issue)
- 5/1-2 – U City in Bloom Annual Plant Sale
- 5/11 - UHA Board of Directors meeting
- 5/31 – UCity Memorial Day Run
- TBD - Taste of UCity
- TBD - UCity National Kids to Park Day

June

- 6/8 - UHA Board of Directors meeting
- TBD - Fair UCity, Heman Park
- TBD - UCity Jazz Festival, Heman Park
- UCity Starlight Concert Series, Heman Park (thru August)
- UCity Summer Band Concert Series, Heman Park (thru August)
- UCity Movies in the Park, Heman Park (thru August)

July

- 7/1 - FenceTalk Newsletter (2021, Issue 2, Summer Activities)
- No UHA Board of Directors meeting

August

- 8/10 - UHA Board of Directors meeting
- TBD - UCity National Night Out Against Crime

September

- 9/1 - FenceTalk Newsletter (2021, Issue 3, Annual Picnic & Halloween)
- 9/12 – UCity Bulk Items Pickup (East Zone, for the week of)
- 9/14 - UHA Board of Directors meeting
- 9/18 – 49th Annual Great Forest Park Balloon Race (The Glow on 9/17)
- TBD - University Heights Annual Picnic (some Sunday afternoon in Lewis Park)

- 9/26 – U City in Bloom Garden Tour and Plein Air Event
- TBD - UCity Outdoor Yard Sale/Resource Fair
- TBC - UCity National Make A Difference Day

October

- 10/12 - UHA Board of Directors meeting
- 10/31 - Halloween (6-8p) (Great Pumpkin Awards for decorations)
- 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)
- 12/1 – UHS1 Assessments due (late fee assessed after 12/31)
- 12/14 - UHA Board of Directors meeting
- TBD - Luminaria & Progressive Dinner
- 12/21 – Winter Solstice (9:59a)

January 2022

- 1/12 - UHA Board of Directors meeting (7-9p) (2nd Tuesday)
- TBD – Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
- TBD - The Loop Ice Carnival

February

- 2/9 - UHA Board of Directors meeting
- 2/21 - Annual Meeting (2-4p) (pay UHA dues \$20/year)
- 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)
- 4/13 - UHA Board of Directors meeting

Upcoming FenceTalks (2021-2022)

- 5/1/2021 (Welcome issue)
- 7/1/2021 (Summer issue)
- 9/1/2021 (Annual Picnic & Halloween issue)
- 12/1/2021 (Luminaria & Progressive Party issue)
- 2/1/2022 (Annual Meeting issue)
- 5/1/2022 (Summer activities issue)
- 9/1/2022 (Annual Picnic & Halloween issue)
- 12/1/2021(Luminaria & Progressive Party issue)

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

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

Frank Castiglione (Cornell) Myra Vandersall (Yale)
312.578.6852 f.castiglione@liftxl.com 314.518.1451 myravandersall@gmail.com

Mark Harvey (Harvard) Anil Pillai (Dartmouth), trustee intern
314.398.7485 markcharvey@sbcglobal.net 314.308.1288 bloggerpillai@gmail.com

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

Barb Chicherio (Harvard), president Franco Jimenez (Trinity)
314.727.8554 chicherio@aol.com 917.664.2161 francojr86@icloud.com

Peter Burgis (Radcliffe), vice president Louis Lankford (Yale)
310.871.8471 peterburgis@outlook.com 314.616.6231 louislankford52@gmail.com

Judy Gainer (Harvard), secretary Tayebah Hardy (Harvard), Luminaria organizer
314.721.6079 judithgainer@sbcglobal.net 314.477.5693 tayebah_mz23@yahoo.com

Hope Horn (Cornell), treasurer Claudia Moran (Amherst)
314.368.8157 hope_horn@hotmail.com 314.974.6383 c.gracemorán@gmail.com

Vito Wagner (Yale), membership Anil Pillai (Dartmouth), trustee intern
307.920.0356 vito.wagner@gmail.com 314.308.1288 bloggerpillai@gmail.com

Mark Pope (Yale), *FenceTalk* editor Philip Slavin (Cornell)
314.910.0969 drmarkpope@gmail.com 314.707.3715 phslavin@gmail.com

Mario Carlos (Yale), Lamp Post signs & Marker Garden Amanda Summer (Cornell), Welcome Packets
314.910.0972 solracm91@gmail.com 314.440.6065 amandasummer@aol.com

Thomas Hardy (Harvard), Luminaria organizer Heather Zimmerman (Yale)
314.482.9328 tmoobear@aol.com 240.682.2094 runyon.heatherm@gmail.com

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)

(Sooner or Later) We All Must Pay Our Dues: The UHA is Your Neighborhood Organization

Some of you might have the mistaken impression that we are 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, we are 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 communication, fun activities, neighborhood beautification, facilitate interaction between busy families, and build community. These activities are led by a group of elected neighbors that form its Board.

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

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 **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