



Luminaria in University Heights Redux by Hope Horn (Cornell)

Over half of our neighbors took part in lighting up the sidewalks with Luminaria on Sunday, December 11, 2021. As we did in 2020, the University Heights Association offered the Luminaria kits free to all so that we could celebrate the winter solstice and enjoy our beautiful neighborhood. For the second year in a row, Covid interrupted our annual Progressive Dinner on that night, but we brought holiday cheer by asking musicians from University City High School (UCHS) to serenade our neighborhood with a strolling brass band with a finale of a combined orchestral and brass mini concert on the Dubois' front porch on the corner of Radcliffe and Dartmouth.

We enjoyed sweets and hot cider curbside during the concert and many of our neighborhood's families and children joined us in these festivities.

Thank you so much for the hospitality of the Dubois, the generous contribution of sweets baked by some of our residents, and the organizational skills of Judy Gainer (Harvard) who put together the refreshments and orchestrated (pun intended) the UCHS Music Department collaboration.

We also thank everyone who paid their dues when they picked up the Luminaria supplies and the generous donations we received over and above. Last and not least, we thank the warm weather that helped make the evening possible.

Here's looking forward to a return of the Progressive Dinner next year, and hopefully an encore of the strolling UCHS musicians in our neighborhood. Our strength is not only within our small tight community, but also in our connection with the larger city!

**The Annual State of University City Address
by Mayor Terry Crow and City Manager
Gregory Rose - 3/2/2022 7p Zoom**

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Mayor Terry Crow and City Manager Gregory Rose will present the annual State of University City on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at 7p via Zoom. This event is hosted by the Historical Society of University City and occurs on or near the birthday of E. G. Lewis, the founder and first mayor of University City in 1906.

Live Stream via YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyN1EJ_-Q22918E9EZimWoQ

or

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82840359045?pwd=Tmp4aWovTjdQeWFFc1RCQVpyUXFwdz09> Passcode: 502003

Annual Meeting Roundup

Welcome To Returning UHS1 Trustee Myra Vandersall (Yale)

At our recent annual meeting in February, current UHS1 Trustee Myra Vandersall (Yale) was re-elected to another six-year term. No other UHS1 residents were nominated for this important role in our neighborhood. Other current Trustees include Mark Harvey (Harvard) and Frank Castiglione (Cornell) with Anil Pillai (Dartmouth) continuing as the Trustee Intern. Thank you to our Trustees who fill an important leadership role in the functioning of our neighborhood.

Welcome & Farewell To UHA Board Members

At our recent annual meeting in February, new board members were elected to the UHA Board of Directors. 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.

Our newest UHA Board members who were just elected as our recent annual meeting in February are: Susan DuBois (Radcliffe), Don Fitz (Dartmouth), and Claudia Moran (Amherst).

Other continuing UHA Board members are: Peter Burgis (Radcliffe), reelected to 2nd three-year term), Mario Carlos (Yale), Tayebah Hardy (Harvard), Tom Hardy (Harvard), Hope Horn (Cornell), Anil Pillai (Dartmouth), Mark Pope (Yale), Amanda Summer (Cornell), Vito Wagner (Yale), and Heather Zimmerman (Yale).

And we bid a fond adieu and thank you to several Board members who have completed their terms on the UHA Board including Barb Chicherio (Dartmouth), Judith Gainer (Harvard), Franco Jimenez (Trinity), Peter Klarmann (Cornell), and Louis Lankford (Yale). This is a tremendously dedicated group of people who have given back to our neighborhood through this important service. We will miss them so much.

Annual Meeting Highlights

The annual meeting of residents of UHS1 was held on Sunday, 2/6/2022 at 2:00p. Once again it was a Zoom exclusive meeting with no actual face-to-face gathering this year due to the spike in cases of the Omicron variant of Covid. Hopefully next year.

Barb Chicherio (Harvard) opened the meeting as the current UHA President. The agenda items included introductions of the UHA Board and the UHS1 Trustees; thank you's to outgoing UHA Board officers and members (Barb Chicherio, Judy Gainer, Franco Jimenez, Pete Klarmann, and Louis Lankford); and elections of new or second term UHA Board members (Peter Burgis (second term), Susan Dubois, Don Fitz, and Claudia Moran). Barb also presented a summary of the UHA activities for 2021 including the annual picnic (again socially distanced, but with music and Anheuser-Busch products and ice cream; no other food sharing this year), and Luminaria (with a band from UCHS strolling through the neighbor and providing a concert as a finale, and lots of amazing lights lining our streets). Other events included the 4th of July Bike Parade initiated and organized by Lauren Duff (Amherst), the care and feeding of the marker garden at the entrance to our neighborhood and the making/posting of the physical announcement signs at our UHS1 entrances both done by Mario Carlos (Yale), the welcome packets by Amanda Summer (Cornell), the advanced Anheuser-Busch products donated by Franco Jimenez (Trinity) and Heather Zimmermann (Yale) for the annual picnic, Judy Gainer (Harvard) for her work with the UCHS Department of Music to provide music for Luminaria, Claudia Moran (Amherst) and Lewis Langford (Yale) for their work on the new UHS1 Scholarship for UCHS students working with their school counselor (Kimberly Merrill), Don Fitz (Harvard) and Barb Chicherio (Harvard) for their work on stopping the herbicide use at Lewis Center, and all the many hours of work that go on behind the scenes to make our neighborhood so very special. And special thank you to the Brothers Lazaroff for their neighborhood porch concerts to help get us all through this very difficult last year. Thanks to all for helping. We know that it takes time and energy to serve our neighbor in all these ways and we want you to know how appreciated you are.

Hope Horn (Cornell) presented the treasurer's report on the financial condition of UHA (in sum, good). Claudia Moran (Amherst) reported on the University City High School scholarship that the neighborhood is sponsoring this year for the first time.

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Then, the Trustees convened their portion of the agenda led by Frank Castiglione (Cornell). He led the process for the election of a Trustee (result: Myra Vandersall (Yale) was elected to another six-year term) and presented the financial report (in sum, good). There were some additional questions from neighbors in attendance and the Trustees responded to those (see the article “UHS1 Annual Meeting Q&A Clarifications” below in this *FenceTalk* issue for additional information). The full financial presentation is available on our website at www.universityheightsonline.com).

The meeting adjourned. Hope to see you all next year and in person at that time.

Editor’s note: To provide some context. As a result of our annual meeting this past February, I requested further clarification from our Trustees on some of our neighbors’ queries during the Q&A section of their Report. Their responses are below. I appreciate the Trustees taking questions, their responses during the annual meeting, and here. Thank you for your cooperation and informative responses. Much appreciated.

UHS1 Annual Meeting Q&A Clarifications by Mark Harvey (Harvard), Trustee

Get Involved in University City Future 2040

University City has begun a new 20-year Comprehensive Planning Process. *Future IQ* is wrapping up a survey process, and about to launch a series of public meetings. Sessions were held February 24 and 26. More will be scheduled. Citizens often complain that the City does not engage citizens adequately in planning. THIS is where it happens. Consider signing up! Learn more and register at <https://lab2.future-iq.com/university-citys-community-visioning-project/>

After these citizen participation sessions *Future IQ* will write up their report and *Planning Next* will pick up from there to develop the technical 20-year Plan. A cross-commission steering committee is advising the process. The City Plan Commission will receive and deliberate upon the report and make a recommendation to the City Council.

The Plan Commission...

...meets at least monthly to review every commercial or industrial development proposal and make a recommendation to the City Council. Developers may ask for “work sessions” prior to formal design submission. The Plan Commission includes 2 Council-person appointed representatives of each City ward, and one at-large appointed (by the mayor) member. Trustee Mark Harvey currently represents Ward 2. We seek to ensure that a representative from University Heights No.1 is on the Commission. You may serve on this or another Commission. Here is the form for Registration: <https://www.ucitymo.org/DocumentCenter/View/7830>

The Building Approval Process in University City

Any city, including ours, has codes, rules and restrictions governing construction within its’ boundaries, whether residential, commercial, industrial or public use. University City has a revised 20-year plan for development including zoning for type of development allowed in specific areas. Development by type must happen in a zone allowing that type of development unless the City Council approves a change in zoning or an allowed variance. Developers submit plans to Code Reviewer Mark Zaiantz. His role is to strictly apply all rules and codes. The Plan Commission reviews and recommends. The Council makes final decisions. Inspectors track construction and do final inspections before allowing occupancy. While the City Council has final say for all projects, the Community Development Director is trusted to recommend, and his/her recommendations are seldom rejected. University City currently has no staff-person in that position. Planning Director John Wagner plays the role in interim.

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A Historic Preservation Commission...

... weighs in for all development in designated local historic districts and registered national historic places (such as University Heights Subdivision No.1). Citizens in an historic area desiring to have their own regulations beyond City Codes may apply to become a Local Historic District. An affirmative vote of the area’s citizens and City Council approval would be required. This new Local Historic District (LHD) would write their own guidelines, to be approved and administered under advice of the Historic Preservation Commission. University Heights Subdivision No.1 is NOT a designated Local Historic District (LHD) but IS a registered National Historic Place. This designation gives no local protections.

The Infill Review Board...

...can be activated by the Community Development Director, or by a group of citizens owning property within 350 feet of a proposed development in the event that the proposal involves demolition of an existing structure and/or construction of a new building replacing an old one. Any time a residential development is proposed which “may significantly affect the nature of an existing neighborhood”, City Staff draw a circle with 350 foot radius on the map surrounding the outside corners of the property in question, and send a letter by registered mail to each property owner with property within this perimeter. The property owners have ten days from the date of mailing to circulate a petition and acquire signatures of owners of no less than 60% of properties within the perimeter to call for a public hearing before the Infill Review Board.

“The Infill Review Board (IRB) will field complaints in matters of residential infill to ascertain whether the desires of the neighboring property owners and the applicant can be brought closer together. The IRB shall have no power to adopt, enforce, or administer any regulation or ordinance. Their occasional advisory reports will be presented to the Plan Commission and City Council. Their primary advice will be to suggest ways in which a proposed infill building can be brought into harmony with the existing neighborhood.” (from City Code) Currently University City does not have a sitting Infill Review Board. The appointed Plan Commission serves as the Board.

Recent Infill Review History in UHS1

The City sent out such a letter upon submission of the plan for 6936 Amherst. Your trustees pointed out that City staff had failed to do so upon submittal of the plan for demolition of 6932 Amherst and again with the proposal of construction of the new home at 6932 Amherst. Instead at that point the City depended only upon a recommendation from your trustees. We assure you this will not happen again. We will instead uphold the City’s own Infill Review Board ordinance and hold them accountable to do the same. When the plan for 6936 Amherst was submitted, we requested of City staff that the Infill Review Board Process be implemented. It was. The designated owners received letters by registered mail. Your trustees initiated a meeting at the library, though it was not our job to do so. Neighbors who did attend chose NOT to petition for an Infill Review Board hearing. While demolition and infill development were considered for 6920 Amherst following the fire, the purchaser decided instead to restore. No approval was required of the trustees. No Infill Review was needed.

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.

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

Your 2022 Dues Are Now Officially 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 2022 and the membership year is ending. **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 our Lazaroff Brothers 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 (next year) 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 2022 dues along with any other voluntary contributions to our UCHS scholarship or to provide additional support the our neighborhood activities to Vito Wagner, Membership Chair, vito.wagner@gmail.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

Annual Membership for March 2022 to Feb. 2023.....	\$ 20.00
Voluntary contribution to help support neighborhood activities	\$ _____
Voluntary contribution to help support the UCHS scholarship	\$ _____
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

University City News

University City Public Library Renovation Update

In 2021, contractor R.G. Ross carried out most of the exterior renovations, including repairing the brick and stonework, sealing the building to prevent leaks, and replacing most of the windows (the last four are tentatively scheduled for replacement in March, due to supply chain issues).

Additionally, UCPL staff and movers cleared out the permanent location at 6701 Delmar, preparing for the demolition phase of the renovation project, and set up shop temporarily at 6900 Delmar. (Our storage and staff office location throughout renovation is at University United Methodist Church.) We anticipate remaining at this temporary location through late fall of 2022.

For 2022, the renovations will be completed and the Library will reopen in late 2022 including:

Hazardous materials abatement is scheduled to begin early in February. Raineri Construction will then begin removing the ceilings, the lights, the electrical panels, and the HVAC system in preparation for installation of new systems. The Library Board of Trustees awarded the demolition contract to Raineri in November. The first-floor bathrooms will also be completely demolished prior to rebuilding.

The contract for the interior construction went out to bid on Jan. 12, and the Library Board was planning to choose a contractor at its Feb. 9 meeting. The hope is that the interior renovation will start not long after.

Meanwhile, UCPL staff members continue to work with Bond Architects to plan interior finishes and features, including new carpet, lighting, furniture, and more. That said, the plan is to maintain the midcentury feel of the building's architecture, and maintain the many features that patrons have come to know and love.

In late 2022, those interior elements will be installed and the move back in will be completed.

The Continuing Saga of the Loop Trolley

Bi-State Development on Friday, February 18, took a step toward operating the troubled Delmar Loop Trolley, as its board voted for a proposal to manage the streetcar line. Bi-State's CEO, Taulby Roach, said in a statement that the plan "involves no transfer of Loop Trolley assets or liability and allows us to financially isolate the Loop Trolley project." But Roach conceded during a meeting Friday that the trolley would eventually require \$1.26 million in federal highway funds to operate long-term. East-West Gateway Council of Governments, the region's planning organization, previously rejected awarding those funds to the trolley's taxing district, but is being asked to reconsider.

East-West Gateway's leader, Executive Director Jim Wild, said Friday that its board could vote on the grant, which comes from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program, in August, with funds then coming available sometime from October to December. Until then, he said, it's his understanding that the trolley's taxing district, which collects a 1% sales tax in the Delmar Loop, "has enough money to operate it for a little while."

Roach said next steps involve an assessment of trolley assets, plus negotiation with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) about providing limited service and when that would begin. Roach said **free service** on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, totaling 32 hours a week, is being contemplated. **(Editor's note: YAY!! At least get people used to using it.)**

Bi-State's board in 2020 rejected a takeover of the trolley. Under that proposal, Bi-State would have become the owner of the trolley's assets, rather than solely a manager. But Bi-State's board has also changed since that vote, with new members including Debra Moore, Nate Johnson and Sam Gladney.

The long-delayed trolley debuted in November 2018, offering service from the Delmar Boulevard entertainment district to Forest Park. But it fell far short of expectations and after less than a year in service, its operators were seeking additional funds to avoid insolvency. The Federal Transit Administration in December 2021 threatened to force St. Louis to repay federal grants used to construct the \$52 million trolley if it was not running by June. St. Louis Mayor Tishaura Jones has said that could cost \$22 million, and has pushed to create a plan to avoid default.

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Reviving the Trolley will prevent the Federal Government from potentially clawing back millions of dollars in funding for St. Louis. iNeighborhoods and Blossom, two St. Louis area technology companies, have developed a proposal to do exactly that, and have delivered it to The Loop Trolley Company. iNeighborhoods and Blossom have already installed digital infrastructure along the Trolley route, which will enable making the Trolley into a viable undertaking with greatly increased ridership. What's more, iNeighborhoods' and Blossom's digital vision includes repurposing the Trolley as an exciting, and truly inclusive cultural, educational, and entrepreneurial tool. This can all build on progress being made in St. Louis and reinforce that our city is a great place to live, work, visit, or start a business. Our proposal is being reviewed by Kevin Barbeau, Executive Director of The Loop Trolley Company, as well as by Mr. Joe Edwards and the St. Louis County Executive, the Mayor of the City of St. Louis, the Mayor of University City, and the Bi-State Development Corporation.

Stay tuned.

UCity Summer Youth Baseball/Softball Registration Is Officially Open

UCity youth baseball/softball registration is OPEN!! Sign-ups are starting for K-6th grade baseball/softball players through the UCity Youth Athletic Club.

Practices start in March and the 8-game season begins early April and ends in early June. Last year 135 kids played on 10 U City-based teams in the Clayton Rec League. Register online:

<https://ucityathletics.squadfusion.com> Fee: \$92. Scholarships are available for U City residents. **Registration closes Feb. 19 or when teams fill.** No try-outs, everybody plays.

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!! (Some of these are repeats, but repetition is how we learn. Smile.

Justine Guyton and Robert Bence, 6930 Columbia
Terry and Pam Beachey, 728 Yale
Allen, Stephanie, and little Harry Brizee, 6925 Cornell
Andrew Doing and Hannah Vineyard, 788 Yale
Jacob Fessler, 764 Yale
Curran Merlee Living Trust, 6915 Dartmouth
Robert and Beth Camp, 728 Trinity
Phil Williams and Li Hung, 6924 Amherst

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!

Changes in FenceTalk by Mark Pope (Yale), FenceTalk Editor

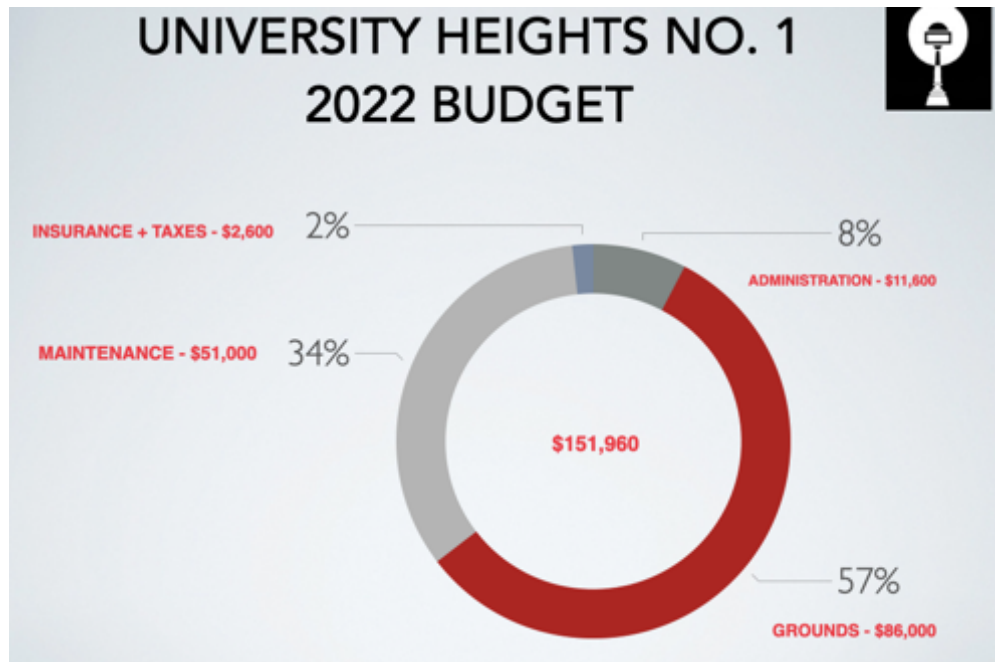
This is the first issue of my second year as *FenceTalk* editor. First years are about trying new ways of doing what was done in the past. Second years are about securing what has worked. We made a few changes with this issue: moving the full Culture Quad section into an occasional feature category (but keeping the "Dining Out (if you can)" section); the "Getting to Know You (Better)" profile of a neighbor needs to be reworked a bit (but we're definitely keeping it); the Calendar was a 3-month calendar, then an annual calendar, now we've settled on a 3-4 month calendar in each issue and the parameters may need adjusting (recurring vs. one-time events); and finally we've adjusted the publication dates to more accurately reflect the ebb and flow of the neighborhood. I imagine that we'll do more changes and make more adjustments as we go along. Hope that you are enjoying your newsletter. Please feel to contact me directly if you have questions or suggestions (drmarkpope@gmail.com)

The Trustees Report by Myra Vandersall (Yale), Trustee

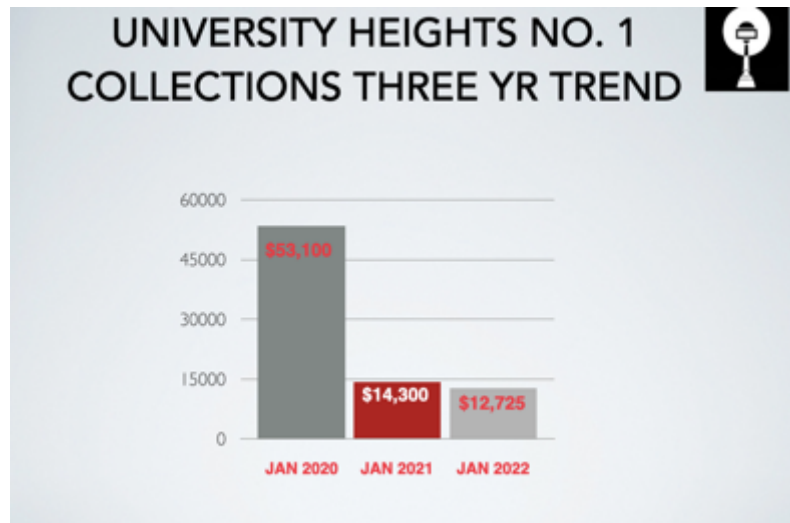
Per the indenture requirements the trustees reported on the financial condition of University Heights No.1 at the annual meeting on February 6, 2022. As reported, the neighborhood sits in good standing financially and has made significant inroads in accruing dollars for future capital-intensive programs like street replacement as well as immediate needs like storage shed electrification, tree care and neighborhood maintenance. In other business Myra Vandersall (Yale) was re-elected to a second 6-year term. The neighborhood association board did not nominate a candidate.

The 2022 budget for the neighborhood represents a spend of \$151,960.00. Income (assessment collections) is on pace to exceed recent years, helping provide the neighborhood with resources to complete upkeep of the of grounds and maintenance of the neighborhood. Current year billed assessments and outstanding payments as of February 1, 2022, are as follows:

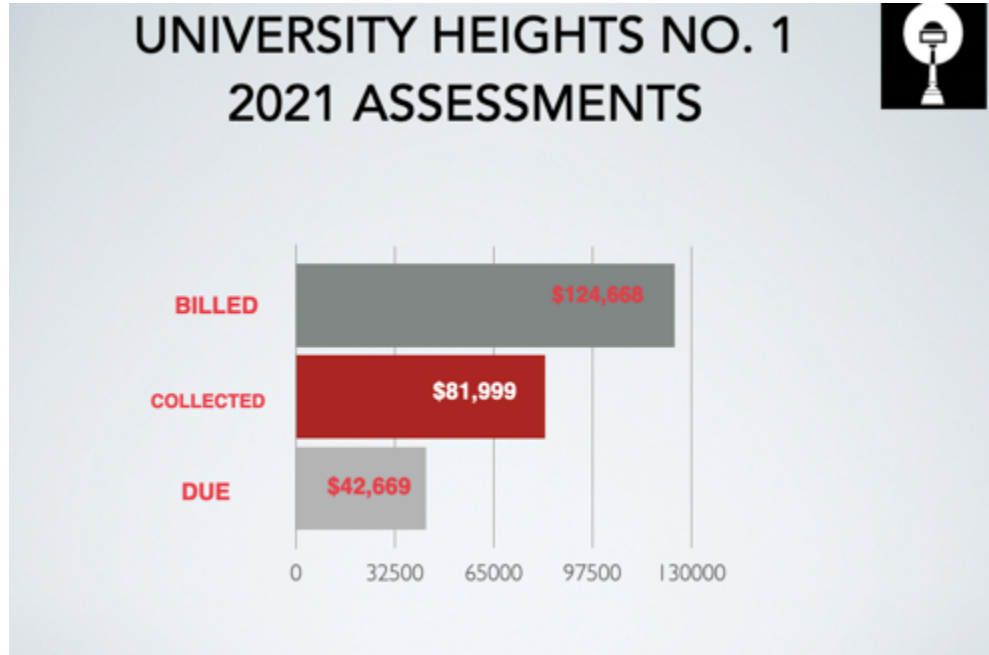
University Heights Subdivision No. 1 2022 Budget



Unpaid Annual Assessment Collections Trends 2020-2022



UHS1 Annual Assessments as of 2/1/2022



Future considerations include budget expenditure for care of an increasingly older tree population which will put pressure on future budgets. Current inflation pressures will require the neighborhood to ensure investment strategies are selected to keep up with inflation rates. The trustees are formulating a policy for recouping damage costs from contractors that damage neighborhood property (tree lawns, neighborhood owned trees, driveway aprons, etc.) during construction remodels and infills. Lastly website posting of property address with placed liens for unpaid assessments will begin by 7.1.2022. The budget presentation from the annual meeting is available for review on the website www.universityheightsonline.com.

Spring city leaf collection

The spring leaf collection begins Monday, March 14 for the eastern section, which includes our subdivision. Rake your leaves—no brush, limbs, twigs, grass—to the curb by Sunday, March 13. The city will make one pass on each street. Please **DO NOT** rake your leaves into the street before the weekend of March 13. This has become a very big problem during the last fall collection. On some streets, there were so many leaf piles in the street it was difficult to maneuver a vehicle on the street. Other than this is bad for our elderly sewers and rain washes the leaves to the bottom of the subdivision, it’s just the courteous thing to do. Any leaves raked into the street after the collection will stay there until you remove them.

And the junk

Spring bulk collection begins in the east area (us) on Monday, April 11. Trucks will make one pass on each street. Acceptable items include large furniture and appliances (stoves, refrigerators, water heaters, washer, dryers, microwaves, rugs, carpet, doors/windows (wrapped in cardboard), small air conditioning units, etc.). Place three large or five small items on curb. Collection does NOT include computers or related technology products, televisions or hazardous materials. For a complete list of what is and what is not acceptable or to confirm your area, please visit www.ucitymo.org or call 314-505-8560

Cinco de Mayo: Everything You Always Wanted To Know

Let's start by clearing the biggest misconception: Cinco de Mayo is **not** the Mexican Independence Day. But, that does not mean it's neither less important nor notable for Mexico.

Back On May 5, 1862

An economically struggling Mexico was invaded by the French (for the second time) who had hoped to gain control of the Latin American country under the rule of Napoleon III. The French General, Charles de Lorencez, directed his army towards the capital of Mexico City, with the intent to overthrow the president of Mexico, Benito Juarez.

But things didn't go as planned, as they encountered heavy resistance, culminating at the **Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862**. Even if their forces had half the numbers of their opponents, the Mexican Army, led by Ignacio Zaragoza, managed to successfully win over the French army at Puebla, a city just 70 miles from Mexico City. Four days later, on May 9, President Juárez declared Cinco de Mayo a national holiday.

While the battle in itself was not a major strategic win, and the French took control of Mexico in 1864, it served to lift the spirits of resistance forces and helped them to gain an alliance with the Americans to successfully make Napoleon's forces withdraw. Since it is believed the French would have likely aided the Confederacy at the Civil War, Mexico's resistance likely changed the history of the United States.

Pro-Union Mexican citizens in the state of California heavily celebrated the victory at the Battle of Puebla viewing it as a victory for the Union's cause, later formalizing and spreading the annual celebrations across all of California, and Mexican-Americans all around.

Flash Forward To The 2020s Or So

In Mexico, the majority of the Cinco de Mayo celebrations occur in Puebla, where the battle had taken place. People dress up either as French and Mexican soldiers or in colorful outfits to participate in large parades. Patriotic clothing is sold by vendors for people to wear and stalls selling Mexican food are also found everywhere. Although tacos and margaritas are consumed the most on this holiday, as well as mole poblano, which is the official dish of Cinco de Mayo. The battle is also sometimes reenacted for locals and tourists to witness the Mexicans' grand victory against the French troops.

Cinco de Mayo is also observed in the United States. Costume parties are hosted for friends and family, with the colors of the Mexican flag (red, white, and green) used in decorations. Mexican folk music is played and danced to. The celebrations are also taken to the streets with large parades and special promotions on Mexican food.

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Timeline

May 5, 1862 - The Battle of Puebla is held and Mexico triumphs over French forces.

May 27, 1862 - The first Cinco de Mayo parties in the US take place in Columbia, California as residing Mexican miners get news of the battle.

May 5, 1863 - Formal celebrations happen for the first time in Sonora and spread to other California cities, like San Francisco and Los Angeles

June 7, 2005 - The United States Congress called for the observance of Cinco de Mayo.

By the Numbers

2,000 – the number of Mexican soldiers who defended the town of Puebla against 6,000 invading French forces.

16.7% – the percentage of U.S. residents of Mexican origin.

25.7 – the median age of people of Mexican origin in the United States in 2011.

700,000 – the number of U.S. military veterans of Mexican origin.

42% – the percentage of the world’s production of tortillas that Mexico accounts for.

87 million pounds – the number of avocados purchased for Cinco de Mayo.

\$38,884 – the annual median income of households with a member of Mexican origin in 2011.

1925 – the year Corona Extra, Mexico’s best-selling beer, was first brewed.

20 – the types of Mexican cheeses to be feasted on — Oaxaca, a white cheese from Southern Mexico, is the most prominent.

60% – the percentage of Mexican farmers who produce corn, mostly used in the production of tortillas and beans.

Where and When to Celebrate (more)

May 7, 2022 (Saturday) - Cinco de Mayo: A Cherokee Street Festival returns after a two-year Covid hiatus -- 6 City Blocks - 3 Stages of Live Music - Over 100 Food and Beverage Vendors - Lucha Libre Wrestling - Mechanical Bull Rides - Kids Zone.

May 5-7, 2022 – Almost any Mexican/Latin American restaurant and/or bar in the St. Louis metro area.

Don't forget the University City Farmers Market!

Saturdays (April 9-December 10, closed Nov 26)

9a-1p, The Loop, behind 6655 Delmar Blvd

Upcoming FenceTalks (2022 updated)

3/1/2022 (Annual Meeting & Welcome issue)

6/1/2022 (Summer Activities issue)

9/1/2022 (Annual Picnic & Halloween issue)

12/1/2022 (Luminaria & Progressive Dinner issue)

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

Editor's note: "Culture Quad" is moving to an "occasional" status. But we'll still include the "Dining Out (if you can)" section. Stay tuned.

Dining Out (if you can)

*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.***

Dining in our region: According to George Mahe, the intrepid dining guru at St. Louis Magazine, in January 2022, only four restaurants closed in the St. Louis metro region while 16 opened or re-opened. Here's some of the nearby or unusual ones:

Pho Long: moved to 8435 Olive, February 1, just down the street from where it was

9 Mile Garden: 9375 Gravois, March 1 reopening for season (watch for another one of these across the river (Missouri) in St. Charles)

Texas de Brazil: 156 Saint Louis Galleria, closed January 14, 2022

More Kudos to St. Louis Dining Scene

(Excerpted from "St. Louis' vibrant dining scene featured this week in articles in BBC.com and Eater" by George Mahe, *St. Louis Magazine*)

...This morning, the main story on [EATER](#) was "[Where to Eat in 2022](#)," a list of a dozen destinations across the globe known for vibrant food scenes. In the U.S., St. Louis was mentioned (along with Clarkston, Georgia; Orange County, California; and the Berkshires in Massachusetts), an eye-opener for many readers, to be sure.

EATER staffer and *SLM* contributor Holly Fann recalls a discussion that she had with renowned restaurateur (and former St. Louisan) Danny Meyer. "St. Louis has snuck its way into the top 15 restaurant destinations in America. The reason is that the chef and restaurateur community is so tight and aligned on making their city shine," she quotes Meyer as saying.

The article links to Fann's list of "[26 Essential St. Louis Restaurants](#)," which originally published in EATER in June 2021. The original list of 20 has since been updated and now includes [Bowood by Niche](#), [Juniper](#), [Louie](#), as well as [Izumi](#), a mini food truck, and [Switchgrass Spirits](#), which "almost exclusively" uses local ingredients and Missouri white oak for its aging barrels.

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.

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

* denotes a UHA-sponsored event.

** denotes a UHSI event.

Recurring

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

2nd & 4th Monday (monthly) – UCity City Council meeting (virtual until isn't) (always on the 2nd Mondays, but 4th 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)

First Saturday – Artist Market Pop-Up, Live artists creating their work. Come watch. Componere Gallery of Art, 6509 Delmar Blvd. 11a-8p. www.componere.com

8/1/2020-6/5/2022 – Beyond the Ballot: St. Louis and Suffrage Exhibit, Missouri History Museum. Women, often portrayed as secondary characters in the city's formation, were actually key to the establishment, survival, and growth of St. Louis. *Beyond the Ballot: St. Louis and Suffrage* showcases women who made an impact in St. Louis before gaining the vote in 1920. <https://mohistory.org/exhibits/beyond-the-ballot>

8/28/2021-1/22/2023 – The St. Louis Sound Exhibit, Missouri History Museum. A 6,000-square-foot special exhibit that explores the history of popular music in St. Louis from the dawn of recorded sound in the late 1800s to the turn of the 21st century. Nearly 200 artifacts are on display from important venues, local legends, and national stars like Ike & Tina Turner, Miles Davis, Chuck Berry, Nelly, the “Velvet Bulldozer” Albert King, the “Black Venus” Josephine Baker, and the *original* “king” of pop music, Scott Joplin.. <https://mohistory.org/exhibits/st-louis-sound>

11/1/2021-10/31/2022 – Gateway to Pride Virtual Exhibit, Missouri History Museum. LGBTQIA+ communities have been contributing to St. Louis's history for centuries. Now the *Gateway to Pride* virtual exhibit will begin to uncover the rarely-shared or often untold stories of St. Louis's LGBTQIA+ communities. <https://mohistory.org/exhibits/gateway-to-pride>

March 2022

No UHA Board of Directors meeting

*3/1 – *FenceTalk* Newsletter (2022, Issue 1, Welcome Issue)

3/2 – State of the City (University City), 7p, Zoom: click on this link and enter the passcode 502003 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82840359045?pwd=Tmp44aWovTjdQeWFFc1RCQVpyUXFwdz09>

3/14-18 – UCity leaf collection for us (East Area), during the week of, watch for sign post announcements

thru-3/31 – Making History: Kansas City and the Rise of Gay Rights (A Traveling Exhibit), 6388 Delmar Blvd. <https://exploreucity.com/events/making-history-kansas-city-and-the-rise-of-gay-rights/>

April

4/5 – Municipal elections (6a-7p) <https://stlouiscountymmo.gov/st-louis-county-government/board-of-elections/>

4/11-15 – UCity Bulk Items Pickup for us (East Zone), during the week of)

*4/12 - UHA Board of Directors meeting

4/29 – UCity in Bloom Night Party and Plant Sale (5-7p)

4/30-5/1 – U City in Bloom Annual Plant Sale (Saturday 4/30 9a-1p; Sunday 5/1 11a-1p)

4/30-5/7 – The Loop Restaurant Week, in The Loop

TBD – University City Wine Fest (for 2022, moved to the Fall)

May

5/5 – Cinco De Mayo Celebrations

*5/10 - UHA Board of Directors meeting

5/30 – UCity Memorial Day Run, <https://www.ucitymemorialdayrun.org/>

TBD – 14th Annual Mannequins on the Loop

TBD - Taste of UCity

TBD - UCity National Kids to Park Day

June

*6/1 – *FenceTalk* Newsletter (2022, Issue 2, Summer Activities Issue)

*6/14 - UHA Board of Directors meeting

6/11 – Juneteenth II Celebration, The Loop, Noon-5pm, 5900 Delmar Blvd 63112 – art, music, and food

6/19 – Juneteenth

TBD - Fair UCity, 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)

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

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

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

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

(Editor's note: New officers for this year were not yet elected at the time of publication.)

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	Heather Zimmerman (Yale) 240.682.2094 runyon.heatherm@gmail.com

Important Numbers (Government (City/County), Board of Elections, Utilities)

Emergency 911

UCity City Hall 314.862.6767	Utilities
UCity Police (non-emergency) 314.725.2211	Ameren Missouri (electricity) (report an outage) 800.552.7583/314.342.1111
UCity Fire Department (non-emergency) 314.505.8768	Metropolitan Sewer District 866.281.5737
UCity Public Library 314.727.3150	Missouri American Water 866.430.0820
St. Louis County Government 314.615.5000	Spire (natural gas) 800.887.4173
St. Louis County Board of Elections 314.615.1800	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)	