



Luminaria, Yes

The University Heights Association Board voted unanimously to continue the tradition of Luminaria in our neighborhood on the evening of Sunday, December 11. Historically, Luminaria (Spanish for “festival light”) has been held for many years at the same time as our Progressive Dinner, but this year, as last year too, we have decided that the Progressive Dinner will not, however, be held because of the Covid pandemic.

Here’s what you need to know about Luminaria in the Heights:

Purchase Luminaria supplies (white bags, votive candles, and sand (to keep the bags in place)) at ***The Shed on Saturday 12/10 from 10a to 4p and on Sunday 12/11 from 10a-2p**. First 10 sets of supplies are free to each UHA-dues paying household, with additional sets at \$1 each. Your hardy band of UHA board members will be there to meet your Luminaria supplies needs. Please do come early as supplies are limited.

Begins at dusk on Sunday, December 11, when you place and light your luminarias on your sidewalks in front of your home (see below for photos).

At 6p **gather** for music provided by musicians from the University City High School outside of the home of Susan and James DuBois, 780 Radcliffe. Dress appropriately (probably, warmly). Hot beverages provided & you are invited to bring baked goods to share with your neighbors.

Remember to collect the bags later that night or the next morning and dispose of them properly.

 ***The Shed**, 6875 Dartmouth, is located at the northeast corner of UHS1, where Dartmouth, Harvard, and Trinity meet.

<i>FenceTalk</i>	
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What Is Luminaria?

(Reprinted from *FenceTalk* 2021.4)

Luminaria is celebrated around the world in a number of different cultural traditions, but originated in The Philippines after colonization by the Spanish and was brought to the Americas via the *Manila Galleons* (an annual trade route between Manila (transporting goods from Asia via The Philippines) to Acapulco, Mexico (transporting goods from the Americas back to Asia via The Philippines)). One tradition that came along with such trade was the *parol* or *farol* or *farolitos* or *luminarias* - as these little lanterns came to be known as they even reached as far north in the Americas as what would become northern New Mexico in the US. University Heights has celebrated the Luminaria tradition for several decades.

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In our neighborhood, Luminaria is a beautiful and enchanting evening when our neighbors line their sidewalks and walkways to their home with luminaria – small white paper bags illuminated by votive candles with sand in the bottom to keep them in place. These luminaria are a symbol of unity and caring which are important values in our neighborhood and celebrated as an observance of the winter solstice. As lovely as these holidays can be, they can also be a little divisive, especially in families with mixed spiritual and cultural beliefs. That’s why we love the idea of celebrating the solstice. For some, Luminaria has had a Christian religious connotation. For others, it is a pagan festival, mistletoe and all. For other others, it’s a celebration of the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year and the imminent return of the sun – purely scientific and meteorological (the day the earth’s poles are at their maximum tilt). Conundrum solved!



As dusk falls upon our neighborhood on Sunday, December 11, 2022, we ask that you light your luminarias and place them along your sidewalks and along the entrances to your home to welcome and guide travelers through our neighborhood on this special night.

Then we all gather in front of Susan and James DuBois’ home at 780 Radcliffe for music by musicians from our University City High School along with cookies and hot beverages. Please dress appropriately for the weather.

In previous years, we have had a Progressive Dinner where neighbors in University Heights have opened their doors to other neighbors to greet, meet, and eat, first at one neighbor’s home for appetizers, then to another’s home for dinner, and finally to another’s home for desserts. It is a shared experience that commemorates the holidays, the end of the year, and the winter solstice, all rolled up into one big bag of friendship, joy, and communion. Unfortunately, at this time, going to a lot of different people’s homes to share food may not be the smartest thing to do, even masked and fully vaccinated and boosted. We’ll revisit this tradition next year. Stay tuned.

In the meantime, enjoy our Luminaria celebration!!

What! You Missed the Annual Picnic?: A Retrospective

The **University Heights Annual Picnic** was held on Sunday, October 2 from 4-7pm in Lewis Park. The Cosmic Cowboys performed, people danced, food and drinks were shared, and a good time was had by all. By our headcount, we had nearly 150 neighbors in attendance over the three hours of the event. Lots of children, lots of neighbors, and lots of masks, as appropriate.

Such an event doesn’t just happen. There’s wrangling with the city for permits and fees. There’s sending out notes via the distribution list. There’s a table and chairs for the welcome table. There’s an ice cream truck to contact and organize. There’s beverages to assemble and tote. There are signs to be made, put up, and taken down. There’s preparing materials for the welcome table like lists of neighbors, cash box, receipt book, and copious membership materials. And a lot of other operational type of activities that go unnoticed and unheralded.

A BIG thank you to the UHA Board of Directors (and those who love them) for all their help in making this happen and especially to former Board members Franco Jimenez for donating adult beverages (Anheuser-Busch products), to Claudia Moran for organizing and supporting the ice cream truck (yes, a whole truck of ice cream treats), and to all who freely donated their time to make this important event happen.

The Mystery of the Blue Streak: Solved

In the last issue of *FenceTalk*, we had an article on the streak of blue that mysteriously appeared on several of the streets in our neighborhood (see below for graphic evidence), most prominently on the entire length of Yale, but also on Cornell and even Amherst (where it turned an off-white).

Your fearless editor asked that anyone having knowledge of how these mysterious blue streaks suddenly appeared in our neighborhood please text your most curious *FenceTalk* editor Mark Pope at 314.910.0969.

Thanks to the attention and diligence and observation of you, our neighbors, I received a number of replies including this:

“I watched the blue paint drip out of the back of the garbage truck... The big splotches are where the truck stopped to pick up trash bins.”

Simple. So, it seems that one of our neighbors put a can of blue paint in their trash bin that somehow came open during the pickup process and dripped from the truck as it was driven up and down our streets. Hmmm...

My sole observation is that we should all be more careful in disposing of paint in our trash bins. (Or pick the complementary color to blue on your next paint disposal – btw that would be orange.) Smile. Big thank you to all those who took the time to reply to my query. You are appreciated.



The Trustees Report by Myra Vandersall (Yale), Trustee

It's assessment time again

Assessment invoices were mailed to property owners at the end of October. Assessments are due by December 1, 2022 and delinquent after December 31, 2022. Mail your assessment with the coupon to the address listed there, or you can pay online at <https://quickpay.frontsteps.com/?mgmtid=5029> Please keep a copy of your assessment and mark it with the date paid and a check number. The trustees **do not have** that information and DNI Properties **does not keep copies of the invoices**. If you have difficulty paying your annual assessment, please contact a trustee or DNI Property management to develop a payment plan.

Where does my money go?

Your assessments maintain our historic neighborhood and support improvements. U. Heights is noteworthy for our trees. We manage them with the assistance of arborist Colleen Baum of Droege Tree Service. She and Cornell resident Judy Harmon assess the health of our trees, plan for removal when necessary, plants new trees and trim branches.

Each year we continue a concrete surface upgrade, removing old, severely cracked sidewalks and pouring new aprons to replace the old asphalt driveways. Your assessments help maintain our streets, recently a challenge considering how many public utilities have dug holes in the streets. We try to work with the utilities to encourage faster hole and surface repair.

Your assessments helped provide Dartmouth, Harvard and Trinity residents with community dumpsters during the aftermath of the July 26 flooding.

We maintain all common grounds, including Central Park at Radcliffe and Columbia and the bridge area at Dartmouth and Harvard.

Who helps us?

We are fortunate to work with two skilled men who keep this neighborhood looking good. Longtime Yale Ave. resident Chris Galarnyk keeps the streets plowed during the winter, contracts with other companies to salt during the winter, mows the common areas during the summer, retrieves large limbs and other obstructions and repairs our antique lamp posts. This is a tedious, lengthy procedure. We are fortunate to have no damage for the last two years after a series of accidents that brought down three lamp posts and Chris brought them back to life.

Also with us is Kimmey Gable, who does general maintenance for the subdivision. He has been with us for five years. You will see Kimmey removing debris from street grates, picking up brush, maintaining the area around the shed, doing some low tree trimming and any task necessary to benefit the neighborhood streetscape.

When you see Chris in his maroon truck and Kimmy with his black Kia, sometimes towing a trailer, offer your thanks. Without them, U. Heights would have a very different look.

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We have a responsibility to adhere to the 1904 trust indenture and, if needed, the trustees are responsible for speaking with and hiring legal counsel on our behalf. If you would like a copy of the current neighborhood budget, contact trustee Mark Harvey at harveymk2222@gmail.com. All information about the trustees and much more is available at universityheightsonline.com

Here is a report of assessments from trustee Frank Castiglione. We look at outstanding assessments with two lenses:

1. Outstanding assessments due by category
2. Aging of the outstanding assessments due so we can gauge the likelihood of them being paid.

Generally, the longer outstanding, the less likely to be paid or only paid at time of house sale.

Outstanding Dues by Category – 9.30.2022

Regular Assessment	\$9,320.81
Special Assessment	\$ 706.36
Interest + Late Fees + Legal Fees	<u>\$3,920.55</u>
TOTAL	\$13,947.72

Outstanding Aging Report - 9.30.2022

30 Days Late	\$52.65
60 Days Late	\$50.94
90 Days Late	<u>\$13,844.13</u>
TOTAL	\$13,947.72

Currently there are 10 property addresses that represent the total outstanding amount of delinquent assessments. Thank you to those homeowners who recently paid their outstanding assessments.

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!!

- Josh Blatter, 6945 Cornell
- Matthew Rohlfing, 6930 Cornell
- Terrill & Dana Smith, 6958 Dartmouth
- Elaine Spector, 6945 Cornell

If you see new neighbors moving in or simply moving trucks in the neighborhood, please let Don Fitz (Dartmouth), 314.727.8554 fitzdon@aol.com or Claudia Moran (Amherst), 314.974.6383, c.gracemoran@gmail.com know as they are the coordinators of our **Welcome Packets**, so that they can get one to our new neighbors to help them get settled into their new home and new neighborhood. And you could always bring them a tuna casserole. Smile. Thank you!

University Heights Association Today by Hope Horn (Cornell), UHA President

It was such a pleasure to see so many families out in Lewis Park on Sunday, October 2nd for our **Annual Picnic** – this was the first one where we’ve been able to grill and share food and congregate around the picnic tables and, boy, that felt good! So many new families with kids and long-term residents getting together tells the story of our eclectic neighborhood.

I would like to shout out special thanks to those who helped us with goods or services – **Franco Jiminez** (Trinity) for the adult beverages from Anheuser Busch, **Bart Stewart** (Harvard) and **Chris Fan** (Amherst) for the grills, **Claudia Moran** (Amherst) for donating the Ice Cream Truck and hours setting up, and many others who helped with the set up and clean up and all the minutia that encompasses putting on such an event. We couldn’t do it without the hours and dedication from our UHA Board members. Oh, also, the weather was pretty cooperative 😊

As we move into the winter season, we are always excited about the winter solstice **Luminaria** and festivities in December. This year we will reprise our **Luminaria** set-ups that we distribute from the shed at the north-end base of Harvard. The first 10 sets will be free and additional ones can be purchased for \$1.00 per set. The **Luminaria** evening is scheduled for **Sunday 12/11**, and we will be at **The Shed** (6875 Dartmouth, is located at the northeast corner of UHS1, where Dartmouth, Harvard, and Trinity meet.) on Saturday and Sunday 12/10 – 11 distributing the set-ups. We also are arranging for musical entertainment from the University City High School on the porch at the Dubois’s home (780 Radcliffe) with food and drinks at that corner that evening.

We hope to return to the progressive dinner in 2023 after several years of Covid protocol!

Lastly, we are already working on the 2023 **Scholarship** of \$1,000.00 to a deserving U City High School graduating senior to use for their future education. Last year, our very first award went to Aniya Foley who was preparing to go into Nursing at St. Louis Community College. We are proud to be able to contribute to the University City community and especially connect with students from the High School.

I do want to remind us all that the **Annual Picnic** and **Luminaria** are all funded by the annual voluntary dues of \$20.00 per household. If you have not contributed, but would like to, you can pay via the form and instructions in this issue of *FenceTalk* or pay in December when you pick up the **Luminaria** supplies. We are also taking donations to go towards the scholarship mentioned above!

We wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and wonderful Holiday season!

Your Neighborhood Organization – The University Heights Association

Dear Neighbor:

The University Heights Association (UHA) is a voluntary organization dedicated to enhancing the sense of community among our residents of University Heights Subdivision #1. Our mission is to bring us together with regular communication, fun activities, neighborhood beautification, and to facilitate interaction between busy families. These activities are led by a group of elected neighbors that form its all-volunteer Board. Covid-19 made some of these activities harder to conduct in the past two years, but we are happy to announce that many of the regular activities will be back up and running in 2022!

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

All this activity comes with a nominal annual membership fee of **\$20.00 per household**. We hope that you will use this opportunity to join! Thanks for supporting our great community in the 2022-2023 fiscal year!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

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

Annual Membership for March 2022 to Feb. 2023	\$ 20.00
<i>Optional</i> Contribution to help support neighborhood activities	\$ _____
Optional Contribution for the University Heights Scholarship**	\$ _____

Total Submitted	\$ _____

Please print and complete this form, make your check payable to **University Heights Association, Inc.**, and include both of these pieces in an envelope. You can then mail or drop off that envelope to:

Peter Burgis, UHA Treasurer, 755 Radcliffe Avenue.

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

Venmo: @University-Heights

PayPal: uhgtsassoc@gmail.com

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At our annual meeting on March 9, 2021, we passed, and the Neighborhood Association approved a resolution entitled: *Apology for Racism in University Heights*, documenting our apology for historic racism in our neighborhood, especially regarding housing restrictions. We began to explore ways to repair the damage caused by previous generations. **The University Heights Neighborhood Association Scholarship is a direct outcome of that document. It is a \$1,000.00 scholarship awarded to a University City High School graduating senior who is continuing their education past high school.

Looking For A Few Good People ... Openings on the University Heights Association (UHA) Board

You say you have some time and would like to serve our historic neighborhood? Then, we have a deal for you.

We will have openings for three full members of the **UHA Board** and several alternate members that will begin in 2023. Board member terms are three years with the possibility of three additional years for a second term. You get to work with a great group of people for the good of our neighborhood. There are monthly Zoom meetings (but we skip a couple), and we have been doing these via Zoom for the past year or so. Previously these meetings were held at board members' homes with a potluck being part of the benefit of attending. And the potlucks were glorious (or so I have heard).

What are we looking for in new Board members? A neighborhood association like the UHA is a group of neighbors who work together for changes and improvements such as beautification, social activities, neighborhood safety, and others. It is also a great way to get to know your neighbors.

If you think you'd want to serve on this Board, then just contact Hope Horn (Cornell), UHA President, at hope_horn@hotmail.com or 314.368.8157.

Note on Your UHS1 Annual Assessment & The Annual Meeting

Please note that you should have already received your **University Heights Subdivision No. 1 annual assessment statement** from DNI Properties (our bookkeepers) mailed 11/1 and that it is due on 12/1 (late fees assessed if postmarked after 12/31/2021). For questions, contact one of our Trustees who are listed in the back of *FenceTalk*, in "Info You Can't Live (Here) Without: Contact Us."

And our **Annual Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, February 26, 2023 (tentative date), at 2:00p**. We were planning to do it live, but the University City Public Library where we usually hold our annual meeting is still under renovation. We are exploring other possibilities, but as of the publication of this issue of *FenceTalk* (11/15/2022), nothing was finalized. We do expect, however, to have a Zoom feed to this meeting for our neighbors who are unable to attend the live event. Wherever it will be physically held, you are strongly encouraged to attend (either live or via Zoom). It is our one time each year where all of the residents of UHS1 get together and talk about what has happened this past eventful year and where are we going next. There might even be some discussion on historic preservation, or election of new University Heights Association Board members, or new gates, or planting sequoias, or a new roller derby rink going in at the corner of Radcliffe and Columbia, or who knows what (insert smiley face emoticon about here). We just wanted to be sure that you have it on your calendar and we'll be sure to let you know where it will held via posts on our email distribution list and on the University Heights section of Nextdoor. Stay tuned!

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.

A Journey Through Costco-Land: University City Edition by Mark Pope (Yale)

If you haven't yet heard, there is a new Costco Warehouse in UCity. As of 10/25/2022, it officially opened. And as one of the newest members of Costco (10/24/2022), I thought I'd provide a bit of a guide to my first visit to this new University City location.

See, I've only been in one other Costco in my whole life. Not that I'm opposed to Costco as an establishment, but most of the local St. Louis Costco's are rather distant from my regular beaten paths. And then there was the whole "you must be a member to enter" thing. I was somewhat put-off by that too. It seemed rather complicated. And then, since there are only two of us (Mario and me) in our family unit, I wasn't sure it made any sense to buy 5 lbs. of chicken salad at a time (even if it's quite good chicken salad).

No matter, after doing some research on policies regarding "membership", availability of mobility scooters for shopping, and how they treat their employees, and since they were going to be in our neighborhood (broadly defined) (which took away one of my original concerns), Mario and I decided to invest in a \$60 basic membership, so that we could get our collective foot in the door. (Oh, they also only accept cash, checks, debit cards, and Visa credit cards, so plan accordingly. Just put your American Express card away.)

We chose to go on a Thursday morning to miss the crowds, as we had driven by on the previous Saturday and noted that the parking lot was full ... really, really full. On Thursday at 10a (when they open), it was not bad. Still lots of shoppers, but no big lines (yet). I was able to get a motorized shopping cart without waiting for one to be returned. Thank you.

Then I planned my strategy as to how to approach this journey. I thought I'd try to do a little comparison shopping to get a sense of how serious their discounts are. I am a regular user of the Kirkland brand (Costco's store brand) of "Flonase" (a nasal spray for allergies, generic is "fluticasone propionate") which I had always purchased through Amazon. I thought I would "compare shop" for prices to see what the difference might be. Regular brand name Flonase was \$21.30/bottle (that's why I don't use it), but the Kirkland brand of the generic fluticasone propionate at Amazon was only \$27.06 for a 5-pack (\$5.41/bottle) and at the local Costco it was only \$19.99 for a 5-pack (about \$4/bottle). Nice!

Then I began to crisscross the aisles of the store from south to north and then from east to west. Okay, not exactly, but I did go to the sections of the store in which I was most interested: liquor, seafood, meat, frozen foods, snacks (see, a quite varied diet, eh?). The comment on chicken salad at the beginning of this article was true, but the chicken salad did look so good that I almost bought it anyway. Note: "almost".

What I did buy was: Dungeness crab, pork belly, gyro meat, basil pesto, hopia cakes (a Filipino/Vietnamese snack cake, Durian flavor (so good, btw, and only \$5 for a whole bag of individually-wrapped bite-sized cakes)), and of course the generic Kirkland Flonase (they call it "Aller Flo", catchy, eh?).

I also had lunch at the "food court". I think of a food court as bigger and grander with lots of options. What they call a food court is really a counter with automated ordering and some tables. Not what I personally would call a food "court". But the best item by far was the hot dog and fountain soda for \$1.50. Hot moist bun, tasty 8" long weiner, and Pepsi products. Oh, and the relish in the big pump bottles was seriously good. Tried the pizza (for \$2, not bad at all) and churro (ok) too. I was looking for some Mexican (not the churro) or Chinese food delicacies, but not at this "food court".

There were a lot of clothes for winter and books and dairy and produce and tv's and a lot of stuff. There were also a tire center and gas pumps (good prices) and an eyeglasses area and a whole pharmacy.

Oh by the way, don't forget to bring cloth/paper/plastic bags to pack your purchases in, and then to carry them to your car and into your home. Costco only has some empty boxes you can use (when they are available), but that's it. A bit annoying, but come prepared.

All in all it was a fun adventure in Costco-Land. Was it worth \$60/year? That remains to be seen. But it's nice to have such a place so convenient to our lives. I was so glad back when St. Louis got an Ikea, and Trader Joe's, and World Market, and here in UCity, a soon to be QT gas station on Olive at North-South Road and so many other places that connect us to the world. Now if we could just get a Golden Corral near to the Costco (my needs are few and simple). Pay attention Mayor Crow! Smile.

University City News

University City's Facade Improvement Program Is Back!

The City of University City's Facade Improvement Program is back! The program offers financial assistance in the form of a matching grant up to \$15,000 to commercial property owners or business owners seeking to revitalize their building facades. The application for the program will be posted soon for commercial businesses to apply. For more information on the Facade Improvement Program, please visit <https://www.ucitymo.org/847/Facade-Improvement-Program>

University City is Hiring!

Seeking Economic Development Retention Specialist, Communications Manager, Secretary to the City Manager, Mechanics, Assistant Public Works Director, and other positions within the City of University City. Use this link to view job listings and apply through the easy application process: <https://ucitymo.applicantpro.com/jobs/>

Murals on Olive

The Olive Boulevard entrance to University City is starting to get a new look thanks to a new collaborative art project. Artist Byron Rogers and art students from University City High School recently installed the first of at least two murals along the corridor. Rogers and the students spent the last six months working together to create the mural – celebrating the diversity of University City.



The strip malls and supply stores of Olive Boulevard got a little brighter on Saturday after volunteers raised a mural of popping yellows, reds and greens on a street side building. The artwork, mounted on the Winco Window Company building near Skinker Boulevard, is the first of what volunteers hope will be multiple murals commissioned to liven up the city and celebrate the historic diversity of a corridor that has been the target of new development in recent years.

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Garrie Burr, a member of the group Murals on Olive, said he also hoped it would prompt people to slow down while passing through. “It’s more than just murals — it’s a pathway and an opportunity,” he said. The group commissioned local artist Byron Rogers to design and paint the mural, about 8 feet tall and 20 feet wide. It depicts people of all ages and ethnicities shopping, cooking, gardening and playing under a glowing sun. Rogers said he wanted to capture the familial spirit of University City. “The inspiration came from showing the unity of the city and community,” Rogers said.

Rogers had help from University City High School art students, who spent time after school painting alongside him. Lila Gralnick, who graduated in May, said it was a fun challenge to emulate Rogers’ style as she filled in large pink flowers that seemed to pop from the metal sheets, donated by Winco to serve as the mural’s canvas. It was also one of the opportunities from the district’s programs that made her want to study art in college at Webster University, she said. “It was different because it was just such a large space,” she said.

The next mural is planned for the University City School District’s administration building near North and South Boulevard.

Did You Know ...?: “How did “The Loop” get its name?”

Delmar Boulevard begins in downtown St. Louis at Convention Plaza and continues almost 10 miles to the western University City limits. Just west of Skinker Boulevard, Delmar crosses the St. Louis City boundary and enters the six block-long University City portion of what is commonly known as “**The Delmar Loop.**” **The Delmar Loop (aka “The Loop”)** acquired its name around the turn of the 20th century from the streetcar line which ran west on Delmar and looped around the corner of the Delmar Garden Amusement Park to return to downtown St. Louis. Even before the St. Louis World’s Fair dominated the area in 1904, the Delmar streetcar came west bringing visitors to Delmar Garden to enjoy an afternoon or evening of theatre, dining, and amusement park entertainment.

Following University City’s 1906 incorporation, **The Loop** began to change, and some of the less desirable establishments closed. By the 1920s, Delmar Boulevard was a bustling commercial district with new multi-family housing attracting new residents. Streetcars provided the primary transportation for shoppers and residents alike. As automobiles became more prevalent, parking lots and filling stations appeared.

In the 1950s, shopping districts like the **Delmar Loop**, Wellston Loop, and Maplewood Loop that had once served streetcar riders began to suffer. In the late 1950s University City’s City Council began to study ways to revitalize **The Loop**. By the 1960s, a redevelopment plan had been adopted and work began – removal of old buildings to make way for new development and rehabilitation of viable structures. A few long-time business owners stayed, and new businesses began to open.

In 1984, the Delmar Loop-Parkview Gardens District was listed on the National Register, making building owners eligible for historic tax credits. Today, **The Loop**, designated as one of the **Ten Great Streets in America** by the American Planning Association, is the vital shopping, dining, cultural, and entertainment destination in the St. Louis metropolitan region - here in our own University City.

Minimizing Future Flood Damage: A Webinar by Don Fitz (Dartmouth)

Many natural systems reduce flood damage by soaking up water if they are not sealed off with concrete. This webinar will feature St. Louis University Biology Professor Jason Knouft explaining how urban streams and rivers can thrive with the diverse ecosystems which are critical for water absorption. It will also include comments by others on flood threats to low income renters, solidarity support for victims and reducing stormwater problems via rain barrels, rain gardens, detention ponds, bioswales, greenways and rainscaping as well as the need to reduce impervious surfaces and expand gray infrastructure (stormwater drainage pipes, stormwater vaults, and pumps). // JASON KNOUFT, Ph.D. is a Professor in the Department of Biology at Saint Louis University. He is a Large River Ecologist at the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center in East Alton, Illinois. Time, Date: 7:30 pm CT, Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Registration link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9gIdRVm7SxyaRrA5nzD1nQ

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. **The Covid pandemic has made it very rough for local eateries, so please go out and dine. They need you and we need them.**

"Lousies On The Loop" Now Open in University City: Daniel and Kelle Boyer's New Restaurant Specializes in "Loose Meat" Sandwiches

Reprinted from *St. Louis Magazine*, by George Mahe

(Editor's note: This is also a sandwich made famous on the TV show "Roseanne" served at their Lanford Diner, just in case you were wondering. And "Lousies on the Loop" uses "Bunny Bread" as their foundation and coffee from Café du Monde (New Orleans style). You gotta love this place.)

[Lousies on the Loop](#) (567-A Melville) is a new, locally owned eatery in University City with a name that only makes sense once it's explained. "We are St. Louisans with a restaurant on the Loop that specializes in loose meat sandwiches," says chef Daniel Boyer, who owns the business with his wife, Kelle. "Plus, people will shorten the name to Lousies [pronounced "loosies"], which is the dish's nickname, so that works, too."

The Menu

The so called "loose meat sandwich" (basically a sloppy joe without the tomato-based sauce) was created at a Maid Rite diner in Muscatine, Iowa almost a century ago. In many circles, the sandwich is known as a Maid-Rite. "I grew up in northeastern Missouri eating loose meat sandwiches," Daniel says, "which are popular throughout the Midwest, so I was surprised that no restaurant here focused on them. They're fun, fast, affordable—as well as being nostalgic and identifiable— so we thought, *Why not?*"

"It's similar to a hamburger in that the meat is crisped on the flat top," he adds, "but the added onions and seasoning [predominantly Lawry's Seasoned Salt] make it a lot more flavorful. My dad always told me that the charred meat bits—which are called the fond—is where the flavor is, and he was right. And with loose meat, more surface area means even more flavor."

The Lousie, served "dressed"

The signature Lousie is made with seasoned beef (ground fresh daily) cooked with grilled onions and served on a simple Bunny Bread bun with yellow mustard, pickles, and the option to add cheese (American, Swiss, blue). "Bunny Bread isn't the cheapest bun out there, surprisingly, but so far it's worked the best for what we do," Daniel says, adding that he's currently researching a locally produced bun. "In the future, we may even offer Lousie po'boys on the weekends, made with the same locally made French bread that the Banh Mi Shop uses next door."

The Boyers recommend ordering the Lousie "dressed" (with mayo, lettuce, onion, and tomato). A vegan version (made with chopped mushrooms) is also available, as is a combination Lousie, "which is so tasty it might find its way onto the menu," Daniel says.



Photo by George Mahe

Offering “regional potato chips” is important to the Boyers. “We want to support small-batch potato chip producers like the ones we grew up with,” the menu notes, so they’ve sourced Sterzing’s from Burlington, Iowa; Backer’s from Fulton, Missouri; and Kitchen Cooked from Farmington, Illinois.

On the subject of potatoes, Daniel says, the restaurant “doesn’t have a fryer—which is good because I don’t want the place smelling like fried food—which is why I can concentrate on making more interesting, seasonal sides.”

The Boyers moved to St. Louis from New Orleans, and its influence permeates many parts of the menu. This fall, side dish options include Cajun-seasoned potato salad, blue cheese coleslaw, a vegan risotto made with cremini mushrooms and white and wild rice, and a roasted sweet potato, which can be served with spiced syrup and local honey butter.

Even in an operation as small as Lousies, seasonality can play a role, Daniel says. “Right now, I’m using pickles made from watermelon rinds in the coleslaw,” Daniel says. “That will give way to smoky green tomatoes and then beets, which I’m starting to pickle now. On the steel-cut oatmeal, the seasonal fruit preserves might include peaches and blueberries in the winter months because I remembered to put some up in the summer.”

For dessert, there’s a \$5 pecan bread pudding (with a Bananas Foster option for \$2 more), as well as daily “Jell-O Creations,” per the menu. “We have pretzel salad, individual Jell-O ‘truffles,’ and various molds in mind,” Kelle says. Remember the Bananas Foster pecan bread pudding with Gentilly cream. Yum! “There’s more going on here behind the scenes than meets the eye,” Daniel adds. In another nod to The Crescent City, both French press and drip coffee are available from Cafe du Monde, as are cafe au lait and cold brew.

At Lousies, breakfast is served until noon. Offerings include the standard two eggs and hash browns, a Grit Bowl with Lousie meat and cheese, steel cut oatmeal with honey butter and cane syrup, and a Lousie omelette sandwich (pictured below).



Photo by George Mahe

The Atmosphere

Lousies has limited seating (15 inside, four outside), so the majority of orders will be for pickup or delivery. Several walls of the interior space have been painted what Kelle dubbed “Lousie Blue”, chosen because the couple liked it, “not because [the color] resembles the tape that most kitchens use,” she says. Amanda Verbeck of Biome Press provided several botanical prints on the wall.

The sole delivery company will be [Chowbus](#), a service that works within a small delivery footprint and was used by the prior tenant, Daniel says. “We’re one of few non-Asian restaurants on the platform,” Daniel says, “but we liked the way they do business, so we stayed with them.”

The Background

Kelle and Daniel Boyer moved to St. Louis from New Orleans in March of last year. In 2006, Daniel went to New Orleans from Colorado with The Ritz-Carlton as the hotel tried to restaff after Hurricane Katrina. Falling in love with the food and the culture, he moved there full-time in 2007 and met Kelle a few years later, when they both worked at the [acclaimed A Mano](#). The couple married in 2015 and moved to University City in 2021.

“New Orleans is so tourist-dependent that when the pandemic hit, its restaurants got hit harder than most,” Daniel recalls. “We were in the industry, but we weren’t firmly established. I was born in Bowling Green and have family in U. City, so we visited the area a lot. We felt very comfortable in the Loop, zeroed in on a niche, and found a manageable space that was just the right size for what we wanted to do.”

Lousies on the Loop, 567-A Melville, University City, MO 63130, 314.696.2002. Hours: Thu-Tue: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (serving breakfast until noon), Price Range: Inexpensive.

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

* denotes a UHA-sponsored event.

** denotes a UHS1 event.

Recurring

Saturdays (April 10-Dec 10, closed Nov 26) - UCity Farmers Market 8:30a-12:30p, The Loop, behind 6655 Delmar Blvd.

2nd & 4th Monday (monthly) – UCity City Council meeting (virtual until it 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

8/28/2021-1/22/2023 – 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>

November

*11/15 – *FenceTalk* Newsletter (2022, Issue 4, Luminaria issue)

11/19 – Opening day for ice skating at the Steinberg Skating Rink in Forest Park

11/25 -Thanksgiving

12/18 – Delmar Loop Public Menorah Lighting, The Market in the Loop, 6655 Delmar, 6:30p

12/21 – Winter Solstice (3:47p)


December

No UHA Board of Directors meeting

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

12/3 – 12th Annual Hanukkah Hullabaloo with the Brothers Lazaroff, 7p, info and tickets at <http://www.brotherslazaroff.com/>

12/7 – Minimizing Future Flood Damage (webinar), 7:30p, Registration link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9gIdRVm7SxyaRrA5nzD1nQ

** 12/10-11 - Luminaria supplies available 

*12/11 – Luminaria (at dusk)

January 2023

*1/11 - UHA Board of Directors meeting (7-9p) (2nd Tuesday)

1/16 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

TBD - The Loop Ice Carnival

February

*2/1 – *FenceTalk* Newsletter (2022, Issue 1, Welcome Issue)

*2/8 - UHA Board of Directors meeting

2/26 (tentative) – **The University Heights Annual Meeting (2-4p) (pay UHA dues \$20/year)

March

No UHA Board of Directors meeting

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

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UCity Public Library 314.727.3150

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St. Louis County Board of Elections 314.615.1800

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)

Utilities

Ameren Missouri (electricity) (report an outage)

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