



ROARS

THE **VOICE** OF UNIVERSITY CITY

SPRING 2022



Annual State of the City, 7 p.m., Wednesday March 2



TERRY CROW Mayor



GREGORY ROSE City Manager



E.G. LEWIS founder*



The Historical Society of University City is pleased to present the annual State of the City program, 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 2. Instructions will be available at www.ucitymo.org on how to submit questions in advance and join the presentation on Zoom.

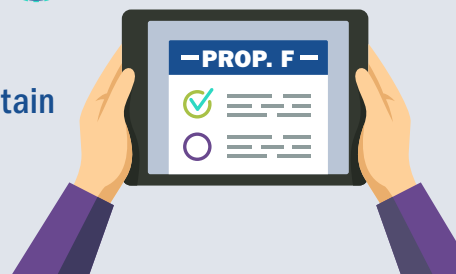
The Historical Society has hosted this event for several years on or near the birthday of E.G. Lewis who founded University City in 1906.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to share with our residents how the City has been performing despite the coronavirus pandemic," said City Manager Gregory Rose.

Mayor Terry Crow added, **"Both the City Manager and I look forward to sharing with all of you the progress that is going on in our community. We also want to thank our dedicated employees, particularly our first responders for their dedication during these unprecedented times. As always, if there are areas of concern that anyone would like to bring to our attention, please feel free to contact Mr. Rose or myself."**



Learn more about Prop. F on Tuesday, April 5 ballot to maintain U City Fire and Emergency Services at ucitymo.org



COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

MONDAY MARCH 14
MONDAY, MARCH 28
MONDAY, APRIL 11
MONDAY, APRIL 25
MONDAY, MAY 9
MONDAY, MAY 23

All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. In-person meetings are subject to change.

Information about in-person or virtual meetings is available through the City's calendar at www.ucitymo.org/Calendar. All City Council meetings are streamed live through the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/c/UniversityCityGovernment. To be notified when meetings go live, click the subscribe button.

*Archives of the University City Public Library.



Municipal Election in University City – April 5, 2022

The General Municipal Election in University City is Tuesday, April 5, 2022. In addition to the office of Mayor, voters will choose one City Council Member in each of the three wards.

PROPOSITION F

Voters will also be asked to consider Proposition F, which if approved by a majority, will impose an additional sales tax of one-fourth of one percent for the purpose of providing revenues for the operation of the University City Fire Department.

CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR OFFICE:

MAYOR	TERRY CROW
WARD 1 – COUNCIL MEMBER	STEVE MCMAHON
WARD 2 – COUNCIL MEMBER	TIM CUSICK
WARD 3 – COUNCIL MEMBER	STACY CLAY

Candidates are required to be a qualified voter in University City and resident thereof for at least three consecutive years prior to the election and reside in the Ward they are elected to represent. In addition, candidates must be current on all State and City taxes and may not hold any other elected public office or compensatory position in City government.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS GUIDELINES

Voters in Saint Louis County may vote at any polling place in the County on Election Day from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Voters in line at the closing time of 7:00 p.m. have the right to cast their vote. More information is available at <https://stlouiscountymo.gov/st-louis-county-government/board-of-elections/> or by calling 314-615-8683.

Please direct any questions to LaRette Reese, City Clerk, 314-505-8605.



Spring Leaf Collection

University City will be collecting leaves from the front curb of residential properties beginning in March. Leaves must be raked to the curb line by the Sunday before collection in your area. Trucks will make only one pass on each street during the collection week.

SPRING LEAF COLLECTION DATES

West: March 7

East: March 14

Central: March 21

SPRING BULK COLLECTION DATES

East: April 11 - 15

Central: April 18 - 22

West: April 25 - 29

Spring Bulk Item Collection

Need to get rid of old furniture, mattresses, carpet or broken appliances? All acceptable items must be placed at the front curb by the Sunday night before collection in your area. Trucks will make one pass on each street. 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.

Bulk Collection Alternatives

Residents who want to dispose of household junk separate from curbside bulk item collection dates can schedule a special bulk item (waste) pick up, rent extra roll-out carts or a 30 cubic yard roll-off. Fees apply for these services. Please visit www.ucitymo.org or call 314-505-8560 to find out more.



Greetings U City Neighbors



**Council Member
Mayor Pro Tem
Bwayne Smotherson**

Momentum means different things to different people. In physics, momentum means $p=mv$. For University City, momentum means progress and development.

The timing for development in our City couldn't be more perfect with President Biden's Infrastructure bill, Cares Act funding, American rescue funds, State of Missouri economic development funding (Infrastructure), Stan Kroenke's settlement with St. Louis City and County, TIF incentives and this portion of the Third Ward being an Opportunity zone. Oh my! Let's also include Quik Trip's land purchase.

Momentum ($p=mv$)

I'm very excited about this moment in our history and I hope that you share my excitement. The Third Ward and this City have a great opportunity to attend to issues that have not been addressed for decades on

Olive Blvd. By doing so, our interests are not just in the physical development, but also with the City's help, enhancing our surroundings and environment for new and current owners and renters in the area.

It is going to take more work, more sacrifices, hard choices, more compassion and more consideration. What we've started has put us at this place in time. Together, with focus, we can keep the momentum going.

Respectfully,

Bwayne Smotherson

Mayor Pro Tem

Third Ward Council Member

314.726.9572, bsmotherson@gmail.com

Momentum is also bringing to light questions that need to be addressed. You as residents of this City may also have questions. But here are a few of mine.

- What will we do as a City to help make the Market at Olive development a success?
- What happens next?
- How do we utilize the Summary completed in 2020 by the Economic Development Task Force?
- What is the plan for shallow lots on Olive Blvd.?
- How do we build and nurture relationships with past, current and new developers?
- How can we reinvest funds back into Olive Blvd. development?
- How can we utilize the proximity of our urban forest (Ruth Park Woods) and Ruth Park Golf Course?
- How can we improve the quality of life for U. City residents living near Olive Blvd.?
- How do we continue bringing Olive Blvd. into the 21st Century?



TOP TIPS

1. Ditch the disposables-commit to using reusable water bottles, utensils, paper towels, grocery bags, etc.
2. Reduce your food waste by eating leftovers and planning your meals ahead.
3. Purchase vintage and used items. There are local buy nothing groups and plenty of vintage and thrifts stores.
4. Think before you buy. Make sure you will use the items you purchase and have a plan for them.



SHED Announces Days of Service for 2022

SHED (Safe Homes for the Elderly and Disabled) will be coordinating volunteer home maintenance for seniors, people with disabilities and veterans. Focused on neighborhoods in University City, SHED will once again partner with the City of University City to provide free assistance to homeowners who need help with exterior home maintenance issues. The “Days of Service” weekends will be late April and early October.

Over the past 13 years, SHED has served more than 500 residents in these neighborhoods, working with local faith-based organizations, businesses, and institutions.

For more information, about dates, to request service, or to volunteer, please call (314) 782-SHED (7433) or email info@shedstl.org. To learn more about SHED or to donate, visit www.shedstl.org.



U City in Bloom Plant Sale April 29, 30, May 1

Before long you'll be seeing those tulips and U City in Bloom (UCB) will be holding its annual Plant Sale. This year's sale is the weekend of April 29 - May 1, with an opening night party and sale on Friday, April 29.

As you begin working in your own garden, think about the warm weather. Leave plenty of space for new additions from this sale featuring plants known to be beautiful and hardy performers in our variable climate. Watch as our horticulturists create a new interactive garden with a path and benches at Midland and Wellington.

UCB also welcomes all plant donations for this event. Donors can contact judyprange@outlook.com. All proceeds go to further U City in Bloom's work in beautifying University City.



Local Developers Team up to Create Local Jobs for Construction of Market at Olive

The Market at Olive, the 50-acre development at the intersection of Olive and I-170, will have more construction activity going on this spring on both sides of Olive. While the new Costco Wholesale building on the north side begins going vertical, site work will continue on the south side.

According to Seneca Commercial Real Estate, one of the St. Louis-based development companies included in the partnership that acquired the Market at Olive last fall, local company involvement is a priority for the multi-phase construction project.

Although Costco owns its 16-acre parcel and is responsible for construction of its 160,000-square-foot membership warehouse store, locally-owned companies have been responsible over the past several months for making the Costco site “pad-ready,” a term used to describe when ground has been graded, temporary utilities have been stubbed and a construction access road has been created.

Locally-owned companies involved in the development include developer Seneca, general contractor Holland Construction, Castle Contracting, LLC, SCI Engineering, Grimes Consulting, Inc., TR,i Architects, ABNA and Clayco, Inc.

Using local companies not only is good for the economy, but it also is good for the local workforce. To date, minorities have filled approximately 15 percent of the local jobs.

Exact plans for development of the approximately 20-acres on the south side of Olive and 11-acres on the north side are still evolving with a focus on retail. In the meantime, over the next few months vacant buildings and homes will begin being demolished and workers will begin moving earth piles to level the site, compact and surcharge the soil, and install utilities needed to prepare the site for future development.



LOCALLY-OWNED COMPANIES INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT

Seneca

Holland Construction

Castle Contracting, LLC,

SCI Engineering

Grimes Consulting, Inc.

TR,i Architects

ABNA

Clayco, Inc.



Stormwater Plan

Survey



The City is preparing a stormwater plan to assess the extent and nature of stormwater

problems and identify mitigation measures and costs. The planning team, comprised of the City's Stormwater Commission, City Staff, and HR Green, Inc., consulting engineers, needs your input for the most important component: identification of your stormwater concerns.

You will soon receive in the mail a survey seeking your input on stormwater problems such as flooding, creek bank erosion, yard erosion, basement backups, ponding in your yard, and ponding in the street.

Please complete the survey and return it by mail, online, email, or by telephone.



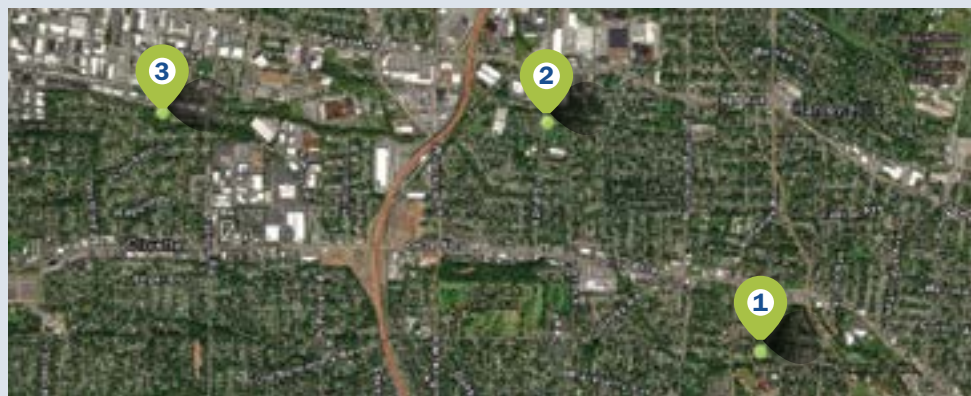
Information about the warning system as well as data from the rain gauges can be seen at the system's public portal.

Storm Water Commission's Flood Warning System Nears Completion: Other Initiatives Underway

Eric Stein, Commissioner

The flood warning system designed to warn of imminent flash flooding from the River Des Peres in University City, as described in last summer's issue of ROARS, is nearing completion. Three automated rain gauges distributed across the U. City watershed are now transmitting rainfall data to a control center that will issue warnings to the City's 911 dispatch center when rainfalls exceed a threshold that have historically caused past floods.

The commission is working with Fire Chief William Hinson and Public Works Director Sinan Alpaslan to develop protocols in response to an alarm. When fully developed, these will include public warnings issued by the City's Code Red notification system currently under development. Information about the warning system as well as data from the rain gauges can be seen at the system's public portal at <https://www.wqdatalive.com/public/1473>.



Department of Public Works



It is critical at this time to reduce the amount of contamination in the recycling containers.

Food, styrofoam, plastic bags, and other non-recyclable items are threatening the ability to continue the recycling program.

In order for University City to continue an effective recycling program, please only put acceptable recyclable materials into your recycling cart or recycling dumpster. Please do not bag your recyclables and do not put plastic bags of any kind into your recycling cart.

If you have any questions, please contact: 314-505-8560

Thank you!

Meanwhile, commission member Dr. Robert Criss has initiated a study to better understand the behavior of the channel during flooding. Dr. Criss*, Emeritus Professor of Planetary and Earth Science at Washington University, is a nationally recognized authority in hydrogeology, including urban stream flash flooding. "It is critical to understand how a flood crest propagates down the channel and what factors affect its timing and intensity so we can plan more effective mitigation strategies", explained Dr. Criss.

Water level sensors that digitally record water depths will be placed at points of interest in the channel and data from them periodically retrieved. This will be combined with rainfall data from the warning system's rain gauges in order to study the channel's response to various rainfall events. In addition, surveying instruments will be used to make other measurements in and near the channel, such as channel cross-sections, elevations, and bridge conveyances.

The commission is also working with consultants who are preparing a storm water master plan for the city, as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who are developing recommendations for mitigation of flooding in and near U. City from the River Des Peres.

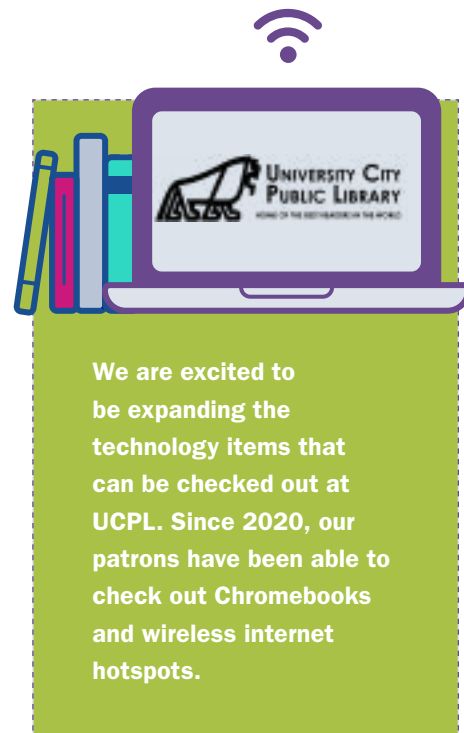
In addition, the commission is planning a series of public information meetings to better educate our citizens regarding storm water and flooding issues, including those described above. Of particular interest will be a raised relief map being developed by Commissioner Mark Holly using 3D printing that shows the U. City watershed in three dimensions. See the link below for a photo of the model.

* <https://sites.wustl.edu/stlouisfloods/>

Plenty of online programs coming soon to Library, plus new technology to check out!

As we get ready for spring and summer, University City Public Library (UCPL) is getting ready for a full slate of programs for people of all ages! We're thrilled to once again partner with Opera Theatre of St. Louis to offer a series of presentations in April and May, and we're gearing up for all kinds of fun reading, prizes and online events for our youth and adult summer reading programs, which will kick off in late May. Visit our website at www.ucitylibrary.org and follow us on Facebook for more information as it becomes available.

We're also excited to be expanding technology items that can be checked out at UCPL. Since 2020, our patrons have been able to check out Chromebooks and wireless internet hotspots separately, but last December, we also added technology kits that come with both a Chromebook and a hotspot in one container. So now, you can check out a Chromebook by itself, a hotspot by itself, or a kit with both! All technology items can be checked out for three weeks and can be placed on hold via our online catalog or by calling the Library at 314-727-3150. This service is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.



Get in the Swim at Heman Park Pool This Summer

The 2022 swim season begins Saturday, May 28 and you can avoid long lines by renewing your season pass now. Admission is limited to those with a Centennial Commons membership, Heman Park Pool season pass, resident or non-resident ID card. Note, youth age 12 and under MUST be accompanied by a parent, authorized guardian or caregiver who is 18 years of age or older and remains with the youth throughout the entire swim session.

Pool memberships, passes and ID cards may be purchased at Centennial Commons Control Desk, 7210 Olive Blvd., and are available to both residents and non-residents. Visit www.ucitymo.org/RecreationFacilities for more information about facility use rates.

Resident admission fee rates require a resident recreation ID card, membership card or season pass. To obtain a resident recreation ID card, residents must present their University City-issued occupancy permit as proof of residency and pay a \$5.00 fee. There are NO EXCEPTIONS. Occupancy permits are available at City Hall, 4th floor, 6801 Delmar, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Centennial Commons family memberships require a University City occupancy permit that includes names of all immediate family members who reside in your home. Non-residents are required to have a non-resident recreation ID card and pay the daily admission fee or hold a membership to Centennial Commons. Individuals who cannot provide proof of residency via a University City-issued occupancy permit may purchase a non-resident recreation ID card for \$7.00. To access the facility, non-residents must show their ID card and pay the daily admission fee.





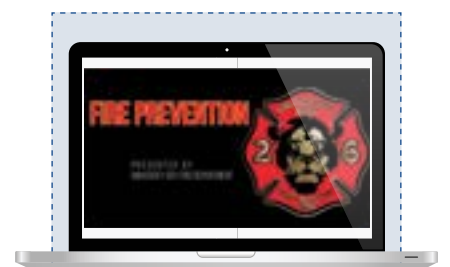
Firefighters Give Back to U City Families



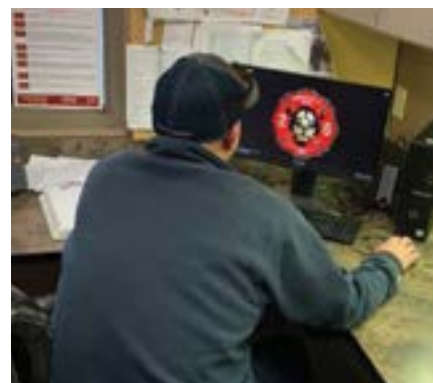
The University City Fire Department and Professional Firefighters of University City community outreach Local 2665 were busy during this past holiday season.

Prior to Christmas, firefighters donated time and money to assist in Coats for Kids, donating 80 coats to elementary school age children. Working with the University City School District, each of the four elementary schools -- Barbara C. Jordan, Pershing, Flynn Park, and Jackson Park -- provided coats for 20 children each.

Your fire department also participated in University City School District's annual holiday appeal, a favorite activity for firefighter crews who enjoyed delivering donated toys to local families in need.



The Fire Department has been working on providing the public with educational videos on our website.
www.ucitymo.org/79/Fire-Department



The Fire Department has been working on providing the public with educational videos on our website. Watch for our upcoming video for emergency preparedness for severe spring weather.

Police Engaged with Community



The University City Police Department (UCPD) promotes the concept of active community engagement. From the Police Chief to every employee within this law enforcement agency, we have a responsibility to connect with individuals, groups, and defined values within our community. While criminal justice organizations must be committed to best practices in 21st Century Policing values, leaders at all levels must strive to impact positive relationships within the communities we serve.

Simply implementing policy, enforcing laws, and maintaining overall public safety is not enough to foster healthy, thriving relationships amongst our stakeholders, business partners, citizens, and community leaders. Leadership is about setting examples and modeling appropriate behavior within our organizations and our communities.

Leaders are responsible for implanting a culture within their organizations that drive success, a culture that desires community engagement, and a culture that is transparent with our mission, vision, strategy, and goals. The UCPD strives every year to increase our community involvement, participation, and enhance our community engagement programs.

UCPD plans to continue serving our communities in the safest and most effective manner. We also know that not everyone is coping the same with the pandemic. We have had to critically review our tactics, training and processes to ensure a culture that not only embraces change but also aligns with community expectations along the lines of engagement and participation.

This means placing an even greater focus on community-police engagement to further unite our community by establishing trust, legitimacy and collaboration.

At the University City Police Department, we strive every year to increase our community involvement, participation, and enhance our community engagement programs



The City encourages and appreciates timely payment of fees assessed for each property. Various payment options are available including:



Online Payments: eUtilities is a free online service that allows residents to view their solid waste account activity, make payments and receive an email to view billing statements. To sign up, go to www.ucitymo.org and choose the **Online Bill Pay** icon on the left side, which will redirect you to the On-line Bill Pay (eUtilities) screen. Follow the steps to setup a new or existing account. If you have difficulty logging into your account or have questions about how to navigate the system, please contact the Finance Department at (314) 505-8544. The system only allows for payments using a debit or credit card with a Visa or MasterCard logo.

Electronic Funds Transfer (Bank Drafting): The Electronic Funds Transfer program for solid waste billing allows solid payments to be automatically debited from your account five business days before the due date and applied directly to your solid waste bill. To choose the Electronic Funds Transfer, please contact the Finance Department at (314) 505-8544 for further assistance.

Cash, Check, and Charge: Solid waste bills can be paid by cash, check, and debit or credit card. Cash must be paid in person at the Finance Department, checks can be paid either in person or regular mail, and credit card payments are accepted either in person or via phone by contacting the Finance Department mainline at (314) 505-8544. The City only accepts Visa and MasterCard. There is no convenience fee charge for debit or credit card payment processing.

Annual Billing for Solid Waste Services Begins March 1

March 1 is the first billing date for solid waste (refuse) services, including trash, recycling, yard waste and bulk item collection. All services are billed in advance and statements are issued by the Finance Department in six (6) month cycles. [See table.](#)

Solid waste fees not paid 30 days after the beginning of the service period for which the bill is issued shall be considered delinquent or past due. [See table.](#)

Senior citizens living in single or two-family houses may be eligible for a discount on solid waste services if they meet the following conditions:

- At least one resident of the property must be at least 65 years of age
- No more than two people living in the housing unit (*number of occupants listed on application will be checked against occupancy permit*)
- Resident must agree to accept a smaller trash receptacle if you have a roll-out cart (60 gallon).

BILLING CYCLES

Route	Pick Up Day	1st Billing Date	2nd Billing Date
1	Monday	March 1	September 1
2	Wednesday	April 1	October 1
3	Thursday	May 1	November 1
4	Tuesday	June 1	December 1
5	Friday	July 1	January 1

DELINQUENT DATES

Notice	Delinquency	Penalty Charge	2nd Billing Date
1st Delinquent Notice	30 Days Late	5.0%	September 1
2nd Delinquent Notice	60 Days Late	2.5%	October 1
3rd Delinquent Notice	90 Days Late	2.5%	November 1
4th Delinquent Notice	120 Days Late	2.5%	December 1

SEMI-ANNUAL RATES

Category	Billing Rate (every Six Months)
Single and Two-Family	\$110.10
Single and Two-Family (Senior)	\$93.30
Single and Two-Family Ally	\$118.44
Single and Two-Family Ally (Senior)	\$102.54
3+ Units with Alley Mechanical	\$78.60

For general billing questions, please call the Finance Department (314) 505-8544.

For information on COMMERCIAL solid waste services, please call (314) 505-8560.

District Opens New Literacy Classroom

This fall, the District celebrated the opening of Pershing Elementary School's new Literacy Lab, a colorful classroom with plush couches, pillows and curtains and stocked with hundreds of children's books featuring characters and authors of color.

The room features a mural painted by local artist Billy Williams depicting children with different skin tones reading in a landscape emboldened by a bright blue sky. In the center of the mural, a hot air balloon with the word "Believe" ascends to the sky.

Pershing's new Literacy Lab gives all young students - particularly children of color - a chance to explore books on their own in a space of bright possibility. The room was made possible by The Believe Project, an initiative of St. Louis Black Authors of Children's Literature.

"When we were children, we didn't have characters in our school libraries that looked like us," said Julius B. Anthony, founder of the St. Louis Black Authors of Children's Literature. "We so wanted that. We so wanted to see ourselves as the heroes and the leaders in the stories."

Students who utilize the rooms are all called Believers - because they can see themselves in colorful and imaginative books that show that anything is possible.

"Literacy is a tool of liberation," said Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley. "The Literacy Lab will help our students aspire for a future with amazing opportunities while also experiencing the joy of reading, which they will have for the rest of their lives."

The project was funded by The Opportunity Trust, which provided a \$34,500 grant to cover the cost of transforming the room and teacher training.



The new Literacy Lab at Pershing Elementary School features a bright mural and hundreds of children's books with Black characters and authors.

Hardin-Bartley Named One of Five 'Superintendents to Watch'

Superintendent Dr. Sharonica Hardin-Bartley was recently recognized in a national publication for her leadership in transforming public school education.

The online publication "K-12 Dive" named Hardin-Bartley one of five "superintendents to watch in 2022," along with the current superintendents of the Chicago, Houston, Miami, and New York City school systems.

She was recognized for prioritizing equity, trauma-informed practices and student voice.

School Board Election is April 5, 2022

The University City Board of Education has four candidates vying for two seats on the April 5, 2022 ballot: Matt Bellows, Elizabeth Robinson, LaVerne Ford-Williams and Jeffrey Blair (in order of filing).

Watch for the Spring 2022 issue of PRIDE, our community newsmagazine, for candidate statements.

University City High School
Class of 2022

Commencement
May 23, 2022

We wish them the best!



Stay informed on what is happening @UCitySchools
Facebook • Twitter • Instagram • Linked In • YouTube
Visit the District website at www.ucityschools.org
Download the mobile app "University City Schools"





ROARS

THE VOICE OF UNIVERSITY CITY

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MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor	Terry Crow	314.505.8606
1 ST Ward	Steve McMahon	314.422.6576
	Jeff Hales	314.283.5402
2 ND Ward	Aleta Klein	801.512.3912
	Tim Cusick	314.230.3337
3 RD Ward	Bwayne Smotherson	314.726.9572
	Stacy Clay	314.323.4025

UNIVERSITY CITY ADMINISTRATION

Main Phone	314.862.6767
City Manager: Gregory Rose	314.505.8534
Assistant City Manager: Brooke Smith	314.505.8536
City Clerk: LaRette Reese	314.505.8605
Director of Finance: Keith Cole	314.505.8542
Director of Planning and Development	314.505.8516
Director of Public Works: Sinan Alpaslan	314.505.8572
Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry: Darren Dunkle	314.505.8552
Police Chief: Larry Hampton	314.505.8652
Fire Chief: William Hinson	314.505.8593

FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS

Emergency	911
Fire Department	314.505.8591
Police Department	314.725.2211

SELECTED CITY SERVICES

Emergency Hotline (<i>Severe Weather, Natural Disaster</i>)	314.505.8550
Finance/Refuse Billing	314.505.8544
Forestry	314.505.8619
Library	314.727.3150
Recreation	314.505.8625
Parks Maintenance	314.505.8624
Permits/Inspections	314.505.8500
Public Works	314.505.8560
Ruth Park Golf Course	314.727.4800
Court Clerk	314.505.8541
Municipal Court	314.505.8578