



# ROARS

THE VOICE OF UNIVERSITY CITY

FALL 2024



## Work Underway on Annex and Trinity Building Renovations

Following a groundbreaking ceremony August 1, work has begun on preparing the Annex and Trinity Buildings to be renovated into a state-of-the-art Police Department and Municipal Courts Building, respectively. Midwest Services Group is currently conducting abatement and asbestos removal starting with the Trinity building. Abatement on both buildings will be completed by the end of the year when general contractor, ICS Construction Services, Ltd., will begin construction. The anticipated completion date for both buildings is March 2026.

Trinity, built in 1934, is a two-story, 8,512-sq.ft. building that was used as the University City Public Library for nearly six decades until the 1960s. The Annex, built in 1903, is a three-story plus basement, nearly 36,000-sq.-ft. property that served as the Police Department headquarters for nearly eight decades until 2016, when it was condemned, resulting in the Department's relocation to temporary trailers on the parking lot behind City Hall.

The active construction site will impact parking at City Hall and Municipal Lot 4 will be used for overflow parking. There is no cost to park in Municipal Lot 4.



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ABOUT RENOVATION PROGRESS



- X @UniversityCity
- Facebook @UniversityCityMo
- Instagram @UniversityCityMo
- LinkedIn @CityofUniversityCity
- YouTube @UniversityCityGovernment

### COUNCIL MEETING DATES:



MONDAY, SEPT. 9

MONDAY, SEPT. 23

MONDAY, OCT. 14

MONDAY, OCT. 28

TUESDAY, NOV 12

MONDAY, NOV 25

All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. In-person meetings are subject to change. Information about meetings is at [ucitymo.org/Calendar](http://ucitymo.org/Calendar). All meetings are streamed live at [youtube.com/UniversityCityGovernment](https://youtube.com/UniversityCityGovernment). To be notified when meetings go live, click the subscribe button.



## Ninth Annual U City in Bloom *Plein Air* Festival Sun., Sept. 29

September is "Paint U City Month" and U City in Bloom's annual fall *Plein Air Festival and Competition* is a favorite community event. Artists may create their *plein air* artworks anytime during September, including on the day of the event, Sun., Sept. 29.

The finished art will be on display and for sale during the reception 5-7 p.m., at Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania Ave., where guests can meet the artists, enjoy food and drink, and browse the paintings. In addition to cash and other prizes, a special award will be presented for a painting featuring a University City park to commemorate the recent 100th anniversary of University City Parks.

This is a wonderful opportunity to own a unique work of art featuring our beautiful community. Those who are unable to attend the reception may visit the online gallery, [ucityinbloom.org](http://ucityinbloom.org), to view and purchase paintings after the event. For more information on the event and prospective artists, go to [ucityinbloom.org](http://ucityinbloom.org) or email Judy Prange at [judyprange@outlook.com](mailto:judyprange@outlook.com).



## Bike the Parks and Gardens Sun., Oct. 13

U City in Bloom, the City of University City and Great Rivers Greenways will host the second annual "Ride the Parks and Gardens" family-friendly bike ride on Sun., Oct. 13, at 10 a.m., beginning and ending at Centennial Commons west parking lot in front of the pool entrance. Donations are welcome to support this free and fun event.

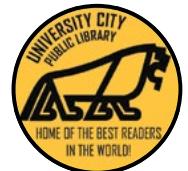
The 2024 route plans to follow a proposed Centennial Greenway connecting Heman Park to the existing Centennial Greenway running along I-170. The ride will highlight University City Parks and U City in Bloom gardens in the western half of University City. We will explore the way this new path will create a safe walking/biking/strolling route through our community. Eventually these new pathways will connect to existing Centennial Greenways, providing a seamless trail from Forest Park to Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park.



## Update from St. Louis County & Great Rivers Greenway!

St. Louis County is beginning the design phase of the proposed Vernon Road reconstruction and extension of Centennial Greenway from Ackert Walkway to Heman Park along Vernon Rd. In partnership with Great Rivers Greenway, this project will create a greenway trail separate from car traffic for people to walk, ride a bike, push a stroller or roll a wheelchair.

## University City Library to Present Music, Author Events and Craft Classes This Fall



As the weather cools down, the events at University City Public Library heat up! Join us on Wed., Sept. 4, 7 p.m., in the UCPL auditorium for a performance by the Cherry & Jerry Ragtime Duo. The free, family-friendly and open to all concert features ragtime and early blues, including old favorites and some rarely heard tunes.

September also features in-person events with three authors. Both events are intended for adults, but are free and open to all, and will take place in the auditorium.

- TUES., SEPT. 10, 7 P.M.** – Historical fiction authors Sarah Angleton and Jana Meehan will discuss their novels, *Paradise on the Pike* and *Where the Lights Are Shining*, both set on the grounds of the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis.
- FRI., SEPT. 13, 11 A.M.** – University City High School alum Linda Fine Hunt will read from and discuss her book, *A Particular Place and People*, a fictionalized version of her life growing up in University City.

In addition to these great programs and the return of our popular Storytimes for Kids, monthly book groups for adults and kids, and adult computer classes, we will be introducing new classes on various craft projects utilizing the Library's new makerspace. These classes will include lessons on 3D scanning and printing, using the laser cutter to create projects, sewing, quilting, embroidering and more.

Watch our website, [www.icitylibrary.org](http://www.icitylibrary.org), and follow us on social media for more updates on all the great events and services the Library has to offer.



# Greetings U City Neighbors,

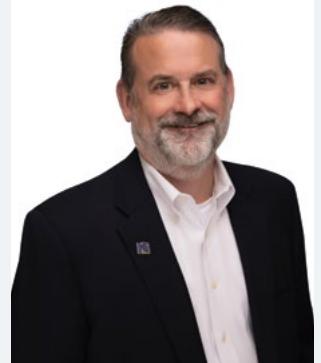
It has been an honor to serve the City and the First Ward for nearly eight years. I am proud of the accomplishments of this administration during that time. Community involvement has been crucial in achieving all of these milestones, and we can all be proud of our collective efforts. Highlights of specific accomplishments include:

- Hiring a professional City Manager who is a respected member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and admired by neighboring municipalities
- Promoting City Council effectiveness to accelerate progress
- Returning EMS service back to City control
- Live streaming City Council meetings and study sessions, allowing residents to watch and re-watch them on the City's designated YouTube channel, making this Council one of the most transparent in University City history
- Fulfilling campaign promises from nearly half a decade with development of the Market at Olive
- Restoring to City tax rolls properties for development, including the new QuikTrip and Crescent Plumbing, the latter transforming a former Washington University tax exempt property into a valuable asset
- Bringing our non-uniformed pension fund to 90% funding level
- Establishing the Storm Water Commission to help analyze flood issues
- Creating an early detection and warning system for flooding
- Collaborating with the Army Corps of Engineers to start work on upstream detention basins to mitigate flooding
- Having our Storm Water Commission and Councilmembers Hales and Fuller expose debris in the MSD tunnel, leading to cleaning and debris removal by MSD that has helped prevent bank overflows during most recent heavy storms and hopefully to continue to reduce flooding long-term
- Creating flood buyout opportunities to help residents move out of harm's way
- Setting in motion a solid plan to relocate our police officers from temporary trailers into a permanent facility by renovating at no additional cost to taxpayers our historic Annex building, while preserving Civic Plaza as the center for University City government

## Steve McMahon

Ward 1 Councilmember

steve.mcmahon@att.net, 314.422.6576



**Steve McMahon**  
**First Ward**  
**Councilmember**

## Honoring Our Retirees

### Sergeant, Jennifer McClain, 1997-2024

After 27 years of dedicated services to the residents of University City, where she grew up, Sergeant Jennifer McClain is one of the University City Police Department's longest-standing trainers. She has served in many roles, including Detective in 2001 and Sergeant since 2007. She has since returned to the department to serve as a Compliance Officer.

### Captain, Dana Morley, 1998-2024

With over 26 years of experience, Captain Dana Morley has proudly served in numerous capacities since joining the University City Police Department in 1998. Since first serving as a Sergeant since 2007, Captain Morley has been part of the leadership team for over a decade. She was promoted to Lieutenant in 2015 and Captain in 2017.

### Jim Burkemper, General Maintenance-Facilities, 1994-2024

For three decades City Hall has been cared for and maintained by Jim Burkemper, an integral part of Team U City with extensive knowledge of our historic City Hall building. Jim's parents also retired from the City of University City.



**HOUSING &  
REVITALIZATION PLAN**

Latest updates at  
[icity3rdward.com](http://icity3rdward.com)





## Annual Community Yard Sale

University City Department of Parks and Recreation will host its annual Outdoor Yard Sale on Sat., Sept. 14, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the Heman Park Swimming Pool parking lot, 7210 Olive Blvd.

The yard sale, which is free and open to the public, will feature individuals and groups hosting their own yard sales, as well as community organizations and civic groups with activities and information.

In case of inclement weather, the yard sale will be canceled. For more information, contact Centennial Commons at 314.505.8625.



SAVE  
THE DATE  
SAT.  
SEPT. 14



## Construction to Begin on LOCAL University City Mixed-Use Development

Construction is expected to begin in fall 2024 for the new LOCAL University City mixed-use development in the 6600 block of the Delmar Loop, on the former site of Craft Alliance and Commerce Bank. The development is a welcome addition to the western end of the historic commercial district, near Vintage Vinyl, Corner 17, Fitz's and other beloved local businesses.

The final plan, approved by the City Council in May 2024, is slightly modified from the original announced in December 2023.

The nearly two-acre project is being developed by Subtext, LLC, and will feature a total of 259 residential units. In addition to 249 studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments, there will be 10 two-story, two-bedroom townhomes with stoops on the ground floor facing Delmar, as well as 7,100-sq.-ft. of new ground-floor commercial space for restaurants, retail and banking. The development will also feature a 399 space parking garage accessed from Loop South with 339 spaces reserved for residents and 60 spaces allocated for public parking for commercial tenants' customers.

## Free Shred Day

Free document shredding will be available on Sat., Sept. 14, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Centennial Commons recreation facility parking lot, 7210 Olive Blvd. It will be held rain or shine unless weather conditions are severe.

Free and open to the public, the Shred Truck will be on site to securely shred documents and paper per guidelines below.

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS (staples and paper clips are okay)	ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED
Personal/business information	Large metal objects
Confidential correspondence	Food waste
Financial reports	Electronics/batteries/cell phones
Trade secrets	Medical waste
Employee records	Cardboard boxes
Old tax files/banking info	



### RULES & RESTRICTIONS

- The event is free for residents of St. Louis County only and is not open to businesses
- Shred up to three paper boxes of documents/paper per vehicle while funding allows

The event is funded by a grant from St. Louis County's Department of Public Health utilizing County landfill surcharge funds. Go to [ucitymo.org/recycling](http://ucitymo.org/recycling) for more information.

## Fall Bulk Residential Household Item Collection

Want to get rid of old furniture, rugs, mattresses, carpet or broken appliances? Residential households can place curbside three large items or up to seven smaller household items for the annual fall bulk pick-up.

**ITEMS ACCEPTED** - furniture, bedding, cabinets, doors, windows (all glass must be wrapped in cardboard), rugs, carpet, mattresses, box springs, washers and dryers, refrigerators (doors removed), small air conditioners, sinks and toilets.

**ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED** - televisions and computer monitors, hazardous materials, commercial items, business equipment, yard waste, tree trunks, logs, building or construction type debris and materials, tires, auto batteries, motors, railroad ties, barrel drums, concrete bricks, landscape stones, boulders, rocks, dirt, roofing materials, siding, fluorescent tubes and household trash.

All acceptable items must be placed at the front curb (not an alley) by the Sunday night before collection begins in the area. Trucks are in each area collecting items during the entire week and make only one pass on each street. Please be sure that items are not blocked by parked vehicles. More information is available at [ucitymo.org/publicworks](http://ucitymo.org/publicworks) or view the University City calendar to confirm your area collection schedule.

**EAST AREA – SEPT. 9**

**CENTRAL AREA – SEPT. 16**

**WEST AREA – SEPT. 23**

If you miss your bulk collection, you may schedule a special bulk household item pick-up for a fee by contacting the Public Works Department. Questions? Call 314.505.8560



## Holiday Schedule for Trash and Recycling Collection

**Labor Day** - No trash/recycling collection on Mon., Sept. 2 due to the Labor Day holiday. All trash/recycling routes during the week of Sept. 2 will be collected the day AFTER your normal collection day. Monday routes will be collected Tuesday, Tuesday routes collected Wednesday, Wednesday routes collected Thursday, Thursday routes collected Friday, and Friday routes collected Saturday. Regular trash and recycling collection will resume on Mon., Sept. 9.

**Thanksgiving Day and Day After** - No trash/recycling collection on Thurs., Nov. 28. Thursday routes will be collected on Friday, and Friday routes will be collected on Saturday. Regular collection will resume Mon., Dec. 2.

## Fall Leaf Collection Dates

University City fall leaf collection crews will begin collecting leaves from the front curb of residential properties in November. Leaves must be raked to the curb line by Sunday, the day before collection begins in each area.

Crews will only make one pass on each street during the collection week, so leaves must be raked to the curb before the scheduled collection week begins in your area. Leaves placed after the scheduled collection dates are the responsibility of the property owner to remove.

Every effort will be made to maintain the schedule, but residents should be prepared for delays due to inclement weather.

AREA	WEEK 1	WEEK 2
CENTRAL	NOV. 4-8	DEC. 2-6
EAST	NOV. 18-22	DEC. 16-20
WEST	NOV. 11-15	DEC. 9-13

### TIPS:

- Make sure parked vehicles do not block access to leaves
- Rake leaves to top of curb
- Place leaves in open, unobstructed area
- Keep piles long and narrow
- Remove rocks, bricks, glass, yard waste or other hard materials. Any piles containing debris will be passed.

Only LEAVES will be collected. Yard waste will NOT be collected, including gumballs, trash, small tree branches or limbs, brush and grass clippings. Do not rake leaves into the street or onto sidewalks. Leaves that are not in the street and raked to top of curb will be passed.

The leaf vacuuming and collection process will create dust and a small amount of leaf debris. University City is not responsible for dust on vehicles or other personal property. For more information, please contact the Department of Public Works at 314.505.8560.





## Heman Pool Back to School Hours

Summer is almost over but there's still time to jump into the Heman Park Swimming Pool during "Back to School" hours Aug. 19 - Sept. 2.

**Lap Swim:** 6-9 a.m. weekdays, weekends and holiday

**Public Swim:** 4-8 p.m. weekdays; noon-8 p.m. weekends and holiday



## Puppy Pool Party

See Spot Splash! University City Recreation Division invites you to join us for the return of our annual *Puppy Pool Party* on Sat., Sept. 7, 12-3 p.m., at Heman Park Swimming Pool, 7210 Olive Blvd.

Registrant must be 18 years or older. In person pre-registration is available at Centennial Commons, 7210 Olive Blvd. during regular business hours Mon., Aug. 19 - Fri., Sept. 6. Pre-registration is \$10 per dog or \$15.00 per dog on the day of the event. Participation is limited to two dogs per owner and attendees are limited to registered owner and two family members.

A copy of each dogs' shot records must be presented and retained with no exceptions both at preregistration and the day of event registration. For everyone's safety, owners also are required to provide current proof of Rabies, Bordetella and DHLPP vaccinations, as well as to clean up their dog's waste the day of the event.

For more information, contact Recreation Supervisor, Merric Meehan at 314.505.8613 or [m.meehan@ucitymo.org](mailto:m.meehan@ucitymo.org)

## Large New Splash Pad at Heman Park Pool Coming in 2025

Get ready for *splashtastic* fun in the summer of 2025! University City is thrilled to announce a new splash pad to be located just east of the Heman Park Pool deck. Funded by a \$575,000 municipal grant, the 4,433-sq.ft. splash pad promises to be a favorite destination for families to cool off on hot summer days.

Splash pads blend fun and accessibility to create a refreshing and interactive space for people of all ages. Unlike traditional pools, they feature playful jets and sprays coming from the ground or play structures.

Benefits of a splash pad include serving as a community hub to foster social interaction and vibrant gatherings, nurturing young minds by encouraging sensory exploration and active play, and offering inclusive fun that is safe and accessible for all ability levels, as well as being a cost-effective amenity that uses less water, offers easy maintenance and requires no lifeguards.

Stay tuned for updates with renderings and more!



## Fall "Laughter, Lunch and Bingo" for Seniors

### GET READY TO LAUGH, LUNCH AND SHOUT "BINGO!"

Win some prizes at this "come and have fun" event at Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania Ave.

Lunch served at 11 a.m.; Bingo begins at noon  
Thurs., Sept. 26 | Thurs., Oct. 24 | Thurs., Nov. 21  
Cost is \$5/person and pre-registration is required

Sponsored by the University City Recreation Division  
Contact Centennial Commons at 314.505.8625 to learn more.



## Fall Fitness Class Schedule

Sept. 9 - Nov. 2



Mondays, 9 - 10 a.m., *Total Body & Tone*

Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., *Zumba*

Tuesdays, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., *Stretch & Strengthen with Essentrics*

Wednesdays, 9 - 10 a.m., *Total Body & Tone*

Thursdays, 10 - 11 a.m., *Tai Chi*

Thursdays, 6 - 7 p.m., *Extreme Hip Hop Step Class*

For more information, contact Centennial Commons, 314.505.8625

## Catch a Fall Starlight Series Concert

The Starlight Concert Series is back for fall with two free Sunday afternoon outdoor concerts. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the music. Both concerts will begin at 3 p.m. in Heman Park, at the Midland/Shaftesbury entrance.



Sept. 22 - *Chaz 45*

Sept. 29 - *Three Central with Samuel Huddleston*

For more information about the 2024 Fall Starlight Concert Series, go to the Arts and Letters website at [ucityartsandletters.org](http://ucityartsandletters.org)

# Fall Thank You Membership Sale

As a thank you to our members who have “hung in there with us” and to welcome new members, we’re excited to announce a special Fall Thank You Membership sale starting Tues., Sept. 3. This membership offers unlimited entry to Centennial Commons at a reduced price through Dec. 31, 2024.

Residents and nonresidents may purchase their Fall Thank You Membership at Centennial Commons during regular business hours with a photo ID required. Visit [ucitymo.org/centennialcommons](http://ucitymo.org/centennialcommons) or call 314.505.8625 for more information and questions about membership rates.

As always, admission requires that youth ages 12 and under MUST be accompanied by a parent or authorized guardian or caregiver 18 years or older who must remain with the youth throughout the entire visit.

## SilverSneakers® and RenewActive® Offer No Cost Memberships for Seniors

Centennial Commons is eligible for free SilverSneakers® and RenewActive® admissions. Both programs are designed to help seniors achieve better health through regular exercise and health education. Free memberships remain active as long as your health insurance is accepted.

Contact your health plan to find out if you qualify. For more information, visit Centennial Commons, 7210 Olive Blvd. or call 314.505.8625 or Relay Missouri at 800.735.2966 (TDD).

## FALL THANK YOU MEMBERSHIP RATES

CATEGORIES	RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
Youth (ages 3-17)	\$25	\$40
Adult	\$50	\$70
Senior (60 and older)	\$30	\$55
Senior Couple	\$55	\$70
Family*	\$85	\$100*

## MONTHLY FLOOD PASS

Monthly flood passes are also being offered. This pass offers unlimited entry to Centennial Commons Recreation Facility for one (1) month from date of purchase.

CATEGORIES	RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
Youth (ages 3-17)	\$8	\$13
Adult	\$16	\$23
Senior (60 and older)	\$10	\$17
Senior Couple	\$17	\$23
Family*	\$27	\$32*

*\*Non-Resident Family rate limited to 4 members. Each additional member is \$25 with maximum of 8*

## GUEST ADMISSION

Those with a valid Fall Thank You Membership or Monthly Flood Membership may bring guests to Centennial Commons. The membership holder must be 18+ years old to bring a guest. Each person with a membership is allowed up to 4 guests per day. The fee is \$7 for youth (3-17) and seniors (60+), and \$9 for adults. Members are required to stay with their guests throughout the entire duration of their visit.

**RESIDENTS** – To be added to a family membership, please ensure your U City occupancy permit has been updated to include all immediate family members who reside in your home.

**NON-RESIDENTS** – Family includes up to 4 members; each additional person is \$25 with maximum of 8 family members. More information is available at [ucitymo.org/OccupancyPermit](http://ucitymo.org/OccupancyPermit) or at 314.505.8500.



## Watch for Details on Upcoming Special Events

### TENNIS BLOCK PARTY

**Sat., Oct. 5**

Time to be announced

### TRUNK OR TREAT?

**Thurs., Oct. 31**

Time to be announced

For facility and program updates, announcements and more, “like” us on the Recreation Division or Centennial Commons Facebook pages @universitycityrecreationdivision or @centennialcommons.



## Centennial Commons Hours

**Mon. – Fri., 5:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.**

**Sat., 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.**

**Sun., 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.**

For facility and program updates, announcements and more, “like” us on the Recreation Division or Centennial Commons Facebook pages @universitycityrecreationdivision or @centennialcommons.



## New Environment Resource Page on [ucitymo.org](http://ucitymo.org)

Curious about solar panels for your home, energy efficiency incentive programs, or incorporating native plants into your garden? To help you make your home, yard and community more environmentally friendly and resilient, visit the new “Environment” page at [ucitymo.org](http://ucitymo.org) under the “Residents” tab where you can now find simple guides on these topics, as well as information about sustainability programs and initiatives happening in University City and beyond.



**SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO GO TO THE  
“ENVIRONMENT”  
PAGE**

## Work for University City

Check out current job openings at [ucitymo.org/jobs](http://ucitymo.org/jobs)

**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE  
PERFECT FOR THESE  
POSITIONS?**

### **AVAILABLE POSITIONS INCLUDE**

- Mechanic and Equipment Operators – Public Works Department
- Purchasing Manager – Finance Department
- Senior Services Coordinator – Parks and Recreation
- Police Officer and Dispatcher – Police Department

**#TeamUCity**

## University City Scores a Home Run with New Jack Buck Youth Baseball and Softball Field

University City residents can now cheer on their young athletes at the rejuvenated Jack Buck Field. A significant win-win for the community's youth sports programs and Heman Park, the new state-of-the-art facility, named for the iconic St. Louis Cardinals broadcaster, held its inaugural game last June.

The original Jack Buck Field was destroyed in the 2022 summer flood. Although the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declared the baseball outfield unfit for repairs because of its location in a floodplain, they provided support for University City to not only rebuild the field but also to significantly upgrade it to meet professional standards for high school softball and ages 11 and under baseball.

Updated features include precise field dimensions, new infield soil and outfield sod, a regulation warning track, and a perfectly positioned pitcher's surface and home plate. These enhancements reflect University City's commitment to providing top facilities for young athletes.

This fantastic addition to Heman Park is a major attraction for baseball and softball enthusiasts. The well-maintained field offers a safe space for young athletes to hone their competitive skills while serving as a community hub for fostering shared memories and celebrating a love for sports.



## Millar Park Baseball Field Gets Major League Makeover

The City of University City and the University City High School Lions baseball team will soon be able to roar to victory thanks to a \$575,000 grant to transform the east baseball field at Millar Park into a state-of-the-art high school regulation baseball diamond. The upgraded facility will provide the City's recreation and high school teams with a top-notch field to call home.

This exciting news comes after the devastating summer 2022 floods that destroyed the original Jack Buck Field in Heman Park, making it unplayable and unfit for refurbishment for high school regulation baseball due to floodplain concerns raised by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

“We are thrilled to bring high school regulation baseball to Millar Park,” said Darin Girdler, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry for University City. “Thanks to the Municipal Park Grant Commission, this project will benefit the high school Lions, City recreation teams and the entire Ward 3 community.”

Construction began in late summer and will take several months, including additional time needed for the new soil to settle over the winter. Extensive improvements worth the wait include the following:

- Professional Standards: The field will be completely overhauled to meet exact high school regulation baseball field dimensions.
- Field of Dreams: Upgrades will include new, high-quality soil, a warning track and precise positioning for the pitcher's mound and home plate.

The grant is a “home run” for everyone. When the Lions baseball season begins in spring 2025, Millar Park will be buzzing with the excitement of a modern regulation baseball facility for high school teams and youth leagues. The upgrade will not only enhance a cherished community park, but also foster school spirit and community pride.



## Weatherproof Policing

The University City Police Department (UCPD) ensures effective policing in all weather conditions. Unlike some professions, law enforcement cannot take time off during severe heat, extreme cold, heavy rain or other harsh weather. Effective 21st-century policing requires innovation, commitment, heart, emotional intelligence and professional resilience regardless of the weather.

Unfortunately, criminals sometimes exploit extreme conditions, believing they can evade arrest. For example, extreme heat can lead to more disturbances, fights and violent crimes, affecting everyone's tolerance levels. UCPD stays prepared to address these issues in daily roll call meetings, adjusting strategies and increasing patrols for weather-related crime spikes, such as vandalism, robberies, weapon related crimes or car thefts.

Adverse weather can also hinder officers' visibility, movement and impact technology. Devices like drones, surveillance cameras, computers and robots can malfunction in extreme temperatures. Police canines (K9s) also face challenges, so UCPD personnel and canines train bi-weekly for all weather conditions.

UCPD focuses on being prepared year-round with equipment, uniforms and resources to ensure safety for employees and the public. Effective policing techniques include increasing patrol deterrents, leveraging technology like GPS and dash cameras, and engaging with the community. Proactive measures ensure that businesses, residential areas, parks, schools, religious institutions and other venues receive adequate attention.

A central focus of UCPD's preparation includes prioritizing clear communication with personnel before and during severe weather events. This involves developing well-formulated response plans, including technology like the City's CodeRED system for digital and audible notifications and Next Generation 911 (NG911) for improved communication during crises. UCPD also regularly collaborates with groups like the Red Cross of St. Louis and the United Way to ensure preparedness for disasters or urgent events.

Seasonal weather changes can significantly affect behavior and police strategy, but UCPD officers are trained to handle all elements, ensuring the community's safety year-round.

## Fire Safety Gears Up for Fire Prevention Week: Oct. 7-12

Throughout the year, the University City Fire Department (UCFD) conducts community fire inspections, fire extinguisher training and building walkthroughs to enhance safety. While inspections help identify fire hazards and enforce building codes, the walkthroughs familiarize crews with building layouts, suppression devices, alarm systems, construction and fire tactics. Fire extinguisher training educates employees on proper extinguisher use.

The UCFD is preparing for the fall season with various fire prevention activities. Each October, the UCFD schedules its annual Fire Prevention Week activities, joining fire departments nationwide to promote fire safety. This year, from October 7-12, UCFD will visit all University City elementary schools to discuss fire safety with children, sharing this year's National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) theme, "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!" Presentations will emphasize the importance of smoke alarms, their proper location and operation.

Research supports that working smoke detectors reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by 54 percent, while three out of five fire deaths result from non-functioning or absent smoke detectors. Families and the community can support fire prevention by educating themselves and others about smoke detectors. Key points from the NFPA include:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on each level of the home, including the basement.
- Regularly test your smoke alarm detectors, replace them every 10 years or if they fail to respond to testing, and change the batteries every six months.
- Ensure smoke alarms meet the needs of all family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.
- Test smoke alarms monthly by pressing the test button.

The UCFD offers programs to help obtain and install smoke detectors and collaborates with the American Red Cross to provide smoke alarms for the hearing impaired. For more information, contact the UCFD at 314.505.8768.



**CREWS NEED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS.**



## What is the Sutter Meyer Farmhouse?

The Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse, the small white-painted brick house at 6826 Chamberlain Court, is believed to be the oldest building in University City, probably built around 1873.

The farmhouse is on land once owned by John Sutter, who was born in Germany in 1815 and came to St. Louis with his family in 1831. Sutter operated a dairy farm on about 120 acres bounded by the modern streets of Sutter, Etzel, Pennsylvania Avenues, and Olive Blvd.

William Sutter, the second child, received 8.33 acres from his father. He and his wife mortgaged their small farm in 1873 and may have used that money to build what we know today as the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse. In 1875, they sold their farm to Roman Meyer. For the next three generations the Meyer family operated a produce farm on this land and they lived in the farmhouse for four generations.

The City of University City now owns this historic farmhouse and adjacent land to the east. It is leased by the Sutter-Meyer Society, which formed in 2006 to preserve and maintain this University City treasure, extending its legacy with historical exhibits and educational programs.

To learn more about the farmhouse, find out tour dates or join the society, go to [suttermeyer.org/](http://suttermeyer.org/) or email us at [thepastlives@suttermeyer.org](mailto:thepastlives@suttermeyer.org)

## Mannequins Project Begins Planning for 2025

The University City Mannequins Project is seeking artists, designers, sponsors and donors to participate in the 2025 Mannequins Project. This original public art installation competition features mannequins displayed outdoors throughout University City business districts for three weeks in May.

For the event, local and national artists and designers team up with U City merchants to adorn mannequins using recyclable materials that promote a green lifestyle. For the past 15 years, this project has highlighted the beginning of summer.

For information about participating in the 2025 program, email [figure8designsllc@gmail.com](mailto:figure8designsllc@gmail.com). Additional details are available on Instagram @mannequinsproject, Facebook @themannequinsproject, and [mannequinsproject.com](http://mannequinsproject.com).

Last summer the Mannequins Project featured 19 artists and designers from the St. Louis area as well as from Detroit, Mich., Greensboro, N.C. and Springfield, Mo. The first-place winner was Hunter Dowell, representing Half Price Books and the winning mannequin is on display at the University City Public Library through April 2025.

In 2024, five businesses participated for the first time, including Alliance Française (Director Isabelle Heidbreder), Artisans in The Loop (Owner Alison Bozarth), Enigma Tattoo (Owner Jerry Solovitz), Half Price Books (District Manager Kelly Butler) and Millbrook Pharmacy (Owner Richard Williams).

The Art Club and Sculpture classes from University City High School also participated in the 2024 event with mannequins representing the University City Public Library, Jilly's Cupcake Bar and Peacock Diner. Over the years, the Dorothy Davis Scholarship has awarded over \$30,000 to deserving University City High School students who have continued to pursue degrees in higher education. The 2024 award recipient was Zakiyah Bank, who received a \$2,500 scholarship and will attend Webster University this fall.



## Fall Home Buyer Education

SHED, Inc. (Sustainable Housing and Equitable Development) is continuing its Home Buyers Education Series webinars via ZOOM to assist first-time home buyers and current homeowners. The next program on Thurs., Oct. 24, 6 – 7:30 p.m., will feature Waymon Williams, Carrollton Bank, "Understand Your Mortgage Credit Score."

Programs throughout the year include guidance toward home ownership, financial programs to assist first-time home buyers, property maintenance responsibilities, home remodeling ideas that deliver a good return on investment and what homeowners need to know and do to develop an estate plan that includes transferring their home to their heirs.

SHED program partners are Guild Mortgage, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, Carrollton Bank, Goosehead Insurance and Laura McCarthy Real Estate. For full program agendas, go to [www.shedstl.org](http://www.shedstl.org) or call 314.782.SHED (7433).



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# UCITY PRIDE

SCHOOL NEWS OUR COMMUNITY CAN USE

Fall 2024

## District Welcomes New Leaders

The School District of University City welcomes Darion Murdock and Will Franklin.

Murdock is the new principal of Flynn Park Elementary School. A 1996 graduate of University City High School (UCHS), Murdock has 19 years of experience as a student-focused leader and educator. As principal of Jury Elementary School in the Hazelwood School District, he has built a unified community among diverse students, staff, parents and caregivers. His leadership emphasizes trauma-informed practices, professional learning, restorative practices and high expectations for students and staff.

St. Louis native Franklin joins UCHS athletics as the new head football coach. As a high school student, he excelled in football and track at Vashon High School, played football at the University of Missouri – Columbia, and in the NFL with the Kansas City Chiefs, Detroit Lions and Oakland Raiders. After the NFL, he worked with youth and served as head coach at Vashon High School for four years. Franklin emphasized building relationships with current athletes and understanding their goals. Thrilled to be back in St. Louis, he sees this role as a great opportunity to make UCHS and the team a top destination.



**Darion Murdock**  
*Principal  
Flynn Park  
Elementary School*



**Will Franklin**  
*University City  
High School  
Head Football Coach*



## Prop U Projects Underway! Playgrounds Set to Open in Fall 2024

Strong schools help build stronger communities. With 88.5% voter support, the \$65 million Proposition U bond issue will fund renovations across the District. Thank you, again, to our community for continued support as we work together to make great things happen for University City children and families.

Playground upgrades at Jackson Park and Pershing Elementary Schools are the first projects to get underway with a planned fall opening. Watch for updates at [www.ucityschools.org/PropU](http://www.ucityschools.org/PropU).

## UCHS Homecoming 2024

University City High School's Muhl-Schemmer Stadium will undergo extensive renovations over the next couple of years. This will affect some U. City homecoming traditions. This year, the 2024 homecoming football game will be hosted at Jennings High School on Thursday, Oct. 24. The Saturday parade will follow its standard route on Oct. 26, starting in the Delmar Loop and ending at UCHS with an alumni tailgate celebration (details will be available on the UCHS AA Facebook page). The Saturday night student homecoming dance will proceed as planned. For the most current details, visit [www.ucityschools.org/Homecoming2024](http://www.ucityschools.org/Homecoming2024).



# ROARS

THE VOICE OF UNIVERSITY CITY

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## MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor	Terry Crow	314.505.8606
1 <sup>ST</sup> Ward	Steve McMahon	314.422.6576
	Jeff Hales	314.283.5402
2 <sup>ND</sup> Ward	John S. Tieman	314.307.7270
	Dennis Fuller	314.707.6167
3 <sup>RD</sup> 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
Deputy 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: John Wagner	314.505.8501
Interim Director of Parks, Recreation and Public Areas	
Maintenance: Darin Girdler	314.505.8573
Director of Public Works: Darin Girdler	314.505.8537
Director Human Resources: Amy Williams	314.505.8532
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 (Severe Weather, Natural Disaster)	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