



# ROARS

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THE VOICE OF UNIVERSITY CITY

January/February 2019

## U City in Bloom

Underground in community gardens around University City, 3,000 tulip bulbs are tucked away waiting for the warmth of spring to emerge. But while they sleep, what is U City in Bloom doing during this cold season? Well, for one thing, they are preparing to install a large “hoop house” at their Vernon Avenue Nursery. This hoop house will be used to over-winter perennials and shrubs for next year’s growing season and to protect newly divided plants for the Spring Plant Sale from late spring frosts after volunteers begin potting in mid-March. Those same volunteers, often working outside in the damp, windy, and cold weather of our fickle springs, may also take shelter there while preparing plants for the sale. Ground is being readied for the early spring installation of the hoop house.

U City in Bloom’s horticulturalist is preparing new designs for the 250 UCB gardens and planters; checking to see what flourished last year and planning to replace underperforming selections with different plants; and ordering the many annuals, grasses, shrubs, trees, and new perennials that will be added this year. UCB’s staff and volunteers continue to work outside on many days when weather permits. In early winter, they cleaned up and mulched the gardens and some of that work continues into the new year. They gathered fresh greens, interesting seed heads, and colorful twigs and branches to decorate the Loop planters for the holiday season.

Before you know it, those tulips will be up and U City in Bloom will hold the Plant Sale. This year’s sale is on the weekend of April 27-28, with an evening preview party and sale on Friday, April 26. When the weather warms and you begin working in your own garden, leave plenty of space for new additions from this sale – the plants are known to be hardy, beautiful performers in our variable climate, and all proceeds go to further U City in Bloom’s work in beautifying our community.

## UNIVERSITY CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**From the Historical Society of University City,**

As the “new” Loop Trolley begins its first full year of service, we remember the “old” Loop Trolley, as well as other modes of transport available to University Citizens in 1923. This picture shows the corner of Kingsland and Enright avenues. At right is the trolley, with an ad on the front for the movie “Flaming Youth” starring Colleen Moore. In the middle is a horse and buggy between two cars. At left are two “service cars,” which differed from taxis in that they took multiple passengers to set destinations. The picture comes from the University City Library’s Delmar Loop Photo Collection. To see more fascinating old photos, go to [ucpl.lib.mo.us](http://ucpl.lib.mo.us) and click on University City History.



# Councilmember's Corner



Recently I attended the memorial service for Mayor Janet Majerus. In 1985, she was elected mayor and was re-elected in 1989 and 1993. She resigned in December 1995. Family, friends, and colleagues who spoke at the service painted a picture of someone dedicated to the service of others. Truly a quality required for anyone in public service.

It was suggested that the progress made during Mayor Majerus' tenure was not easily accomplished. Sometimes progress was met with resistance. However, the guiding principle was to always strive toward what was best for the City. Today, that principle remains the foundation upon which the current City Council operates.

## EMS

In September, the City conducted a Study Session on returning EMS back to the City. In October, the City accepted a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant. This grant will return safety personnel to pre-outsourcing levels and meet National Standards. The matching grant consists of \$1,914,395 in Federal money, with the City contributing \$1,190,029. This grant will help return control of EMS service back to University City. Outsourcing shifted the cost of EMS to the residents.

I believe when a city outsources its core services, like safety, it sends a message that the city is in decline and cannot take care of its citizens. This is not the message of University City. We are moving forward with exciting new developments.

## Transparency

For the first time in its storied history, the City began live streaming Council meetings and study sessions in August 2018. Online access to the discussions and process of the Council gives more citizens access and the ability to participate in their local government. Past meetings are archived and can be viewed via the City's YouTube channel [youtube.com/channel/UCyN1EJ-Q22918E9EZimWoQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyN1EJ-Q22918E9EZimWoQ). To view online live council meetings visit: [ucitymo.org](http://ucitymo.org).

## Washington University

The City accomplished a critical first step in building a cooperative, fair relationship with Washington University. The 2015 Advisory Board's Report on Washington University was the focus of a recent Study Session. Both parties understand that a better relationship will foster cooperative resolutions to issues which may include parking, economic development, code enforcement, zoning regulations and contributions to the City's revenue. Although, this process has just begun, I look forward to our continued work with Washington University to create a mutually beneficial relationship.

The evolution of our City Council and city management over the past two years has been transformative. Having a City Council who places the City's best interest at the forefront, and doing so in a cooperative, collegiate manner is serving the city well. This is not to say council members never disagree. When differences arise, those differences are presented, discussed, and incorporated into the process of making the best decision for the City – just as some of our former leaders did. Simply put, I am fortunate to be a member of this Council and cannot think of a better group of people with whom I may disagree.

Respectfully,  
1st Ward Councilman, Steve McMahon

*“Online access to the discussions and process of the Council gives more citizens access and the ability to participate in their local government.”*

# News from Centennial Commons

## 🕒 Centennial Commons Holiday Hours

- Dr. Martin L. King Holiday (1/21) – 5:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- President's Day (2/18) – 5:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

## 📍 Centennial Commons Recreation Guide

Check out our Fall 2018/Winter 2019 Recreation Guide at [ucityrecguide.com](http://ucityrecguide.com) for more information on these upcoming events/programs:

- Centennial Commons Member Appreciation Week – Monday, Jan. 7, 2019 – Friday, Jan. 11, 2019
- Health & Wellness Fair – Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019
- Youth Strength for Sports (grades 3rd – 12th) – Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019
- “Fitness Fridays” Workout Challenge – challenge yourself with a different workout EVERY FRIDAY!!!

For more information, contact Centennial Commons, [314.505.8625](tel:314.505.8625) or Relay Missouri [800.735.2966 \(TDD\)](tel:800.735.2966).

## ❤️ Little Hats, Big Hearts

Make a difference by volunteering or donating hats to Little Hats, Big Hearts. University City Centennial Commons is a collection point for the Little Hats, Big Hearts hat drive sponsored by the American Heart Association. Volunteers are needed to make hats for newborns, to be given during February “Heart Month” to newborns at our local hospitals. There are three (3) ways to participate:

- Drop off your completed hat at Centennial Commons
- Join us on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. for our “Stitch-a-Thon” sessions to create hats
- Donate “red” yarn

The drop off deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019. For more information, contact Stephanie at [314.505.8613](tel:314.505.8613) or Relay Missouri [800.735.2966 \(TDD\)](tel:800.735.2966).



## 🦅 Redbird Rookies

The University City District Athletic Committee (a joint partnership with the School District of University City and City of University City – Recreation Division) will again partner with the St. Louis Cardinals to provide this exceptional sports program for University City youth-kindergarten to sixth graders. Be on the lookout for information this spring about our “Summer Sign-Up Spectacular” registration for:

- Redbird Rookies
- Summer Youth or Teen Activities Camp

For more information, contact Centennial Commons – [314.505.8625](tel:314.505.8625) or Relay Missouri [800.735.2966 \(TDD\)](tel:800.735.2966).

## 🦷 Go Red for Women Day

Go Red for Women Day is Friday Feb. 1, 2019, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania Ave. Ladies (and our guys too!), wear red on the 16th Annual National Wear Red Day to stand with women in the fight against their number-one killer: heart disease. Come to Centennial Commons “decked out” in your red. In order to raise awareness of heart disease, we will provide information, blood pressure/heart rate checks, vendors and more. We will host a lunch and learn with a guest speaker, along with door prizes and special giveaways. **PLEASE NOTE:** This event is FREE, but pre-registration by Friday, Jan. 25, 2019, is required. To register, stop by Centennial Commons during normal business hours or register online [ucitymo.org/recreation](http://ucitymo.org/recreation).

## 🍏 DID YOU KNOW??

Centennial Commons is a participating Weight Watchers facility. Meetings are scheduled Monday evenings from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. For more information, contact Weight Watchers or go to [weightwatchers.com](http://weightwatchers.com).

## 🦋 No Cost Memberships for Seniors

Centennial Commons is a Silver&Fit®, SilverSneakers® and now – RenewActive® participating fitness facility! All of these programs are designed specifically to help seniors achieve better health through regular exercise and health education. Please contact your health plan to see if you qualify. For information about Centennial Commons, please visit us at 7210 Olive Blvd., or call [314.505.8625](tel:314.505.8625) or Relay Missouri [800.735.2966 \(TDD\)](tel:800.735.2966).



# SENIOR SERVICES NEWS

**Seniors Who Need Transportation Assistance** – ITN/Gateway is now providing rides for older adults or those 21+ who are vision impaired, within a large service area in St. Louis County. **This new service is not free, but the cost is considerably less than that of a taxi or Uber, and it offers riders benefits that other current transportation options do not.**

The City Council recently approved a fund that will **provide a one-time scholarship for a limited number of residents.** It will cover the cost of a year's membership and contribute an additional \$100 to create an account for the recipient. Call Senior Service Coordinator Marcia Mermelstein at [314.505.8563](tel:314.505.8563), to request a scholarship application.

**University City Senior Mailing List** – If you would like to periodically receive information by mail and/or email about senior programming and resources, please add your name and contact information to the senior mailing list by calling Marcia Mermelstein, Senior Services Coordinator, at [314.505.8563](tel:314.505.8563).

**Assistance With Filing “Circuit Breaker” Tax Form** – If you are 60 years of age, a resident of St. Louis County, and have an income of under \$54,000 (including Social Security), you can apply to receive a Missouri Property Tax Credit Claim (Circuit Breaker) refund. Free application assistance is offered at **Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania Avenue**, by CORP (County Older Resident Program) volunteers.

**Appointments are required** – call CORP after January 22 at [314.615.7447](tel:314.615.7447) to schedule.

## Public Works

**Holiday Tree Pick-up Guidelines**  
City staff will collect Holiday trees (without decorations or lights) when placed at the front curb during the first two weeks of January. **Please place trees at the front curb on your regularly scheduled trash collection day during the weeks of Jan. 7 and Jan. 14, 2019.** Do not place Christmas trees in trash or recycle carts or in City alleys.

**Holiday Schedule – Trash and Recycling Collection**  
City Hall will be closed and there will be no trash/recycling collection on:

<b>Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019</b> (New Year's Day)	<b>Monday, Jan. 21, 2019</b> (Dr. Martin Luther King Day)	<b>Monday, Feb. 18, 2019</b> (President's Day)
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If your weekly collection day falls on or after these dates, your trash and recycling will be collected one day later.

**Holiday Light Recycling Drive – 2019**  
Recycle your old holiday lights! A collection container is located in the basement level of City Hall and will be available until Friday, Jan. 18, 2019.

## In 2019, Strive to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle More!

Here are 5 simple tips for cutting down waste in the New Year.

- 1. Bag-less is better!** Americans use *2,663 plastic bags every second*. The amount of energy required to make 12 plastic shopping bags could drive a car for a mile. *Pick up a free reusable bag at City Hall, 3rd floor – while supplies last!*
- 2. Stop the paper junk mail!** Junk mail is a huge waste of our natural resources and time. Take your name off those mailing lists: [catalogchoice.org](http://catalogchoice.org).
- 3. BYOC:** Bring your own cup or container. Instead of using a non-recyclable paper coffee cup, bring one from home that can be filled at your coffee shop!
- 4. Take back the tap.** St. Louis tap water far exceeds state and federal regulations and is more frequently screened for dangerous pollutants. Refill your own water bottle instead of a single-use plastic water bottle.
- 5. Turn your key, be idle free!** 10 seconds of idling uses more fuel than turning off the engine and restarting it. Modern engines don't need more than a few seconds of idling before they can be driven safely. Additional exhaust contributes to asthma, allergies, and cardiovascular disease.

## Your University City Library

A new year brings new programs at University City Public Library! Join the fun on Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019, to meet J.D. Trafford, lawyer and author. Trafford is known for his legal thrillers and most recent work, **Little Boy Lost**, which is set in St. Louis. Friends of the University City Public Library will be hosting this event at 2 p.m. in the University City Public Library auditorium.

University City Public Library wants to hear from you! While planning for the future, we would like to know the thoughts of our citizens in the University City community. To get your ideas heard by the Library Board of Trustees, let us know online at [ucitylibrary.org](http://ucitylibrary.org), or call [314.727.3150](tel:314.727.3150) with any concerns.

We'll celebrate Black History Month with a screening of the acclaimed documentary, **Rejoice & Shout**, at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019. The film explores the historical connections between African-American culture and gospel as it first impacted popular culture at large, as well as capturing what is special about this music and African-American Christianity. Another examination of African-American history will take place at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Mar. 20, 2019, when genealogist LaDonna Garner presents a workshop on building a foundation for researching family history.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information on any of these events, call [314.727.3150](tel:314.727.3150), check out the UCPL website at [ucitylibrary.org](http://ucitylibrary.org), or stop by the Library (6701 Delmar Blvd.)!

The University City Library is excited to partner with GlobalHack to offer an eight-week Coding Camp for kids in grades four through six! Instructors from GlobalHack, a St. Louis-based company dedicated to driving social impact through technology, will teach participants how to use the computer to design music, create instruments and music videos, and learn how technology is used in the music industry. Participants will use Scratch and Google CS First Curriculum, two online coding resources designed specifically for kids. Class will meet on Mondays from 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, through Monday, Mar. 11, 2019 (excluding Jan. 21 and Feb. 18) in Lil's Treehouse. No previous computer experience is necessary and the Library will provide all the supplies. Space is limited! Register today by calling [314.727.3150](tel:314.727.3150) or visit the Youth Services Department to sign up.



## HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Last month, City Council approved a proclamation to recognize December 10, 2018 as Human Rights Day. Human Rights Day is an observation held every year in remembrance of the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. This declaration proclaimed the inalienable rights to which all people are entitled, regardless of their race, gender, orientation, nationality and more. In celebration and recognition of Human Rights Day and our diverse, inclusive population in University City, City Hall was lit in rainbow colors from December 10 through December 14.



## Showcasing Learning Reimagined

During a late November bus tour, representatives from agencies funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) spent the afternoon in The School District of University City. RWJF is the nation's largest public health philanthropy and a supporter of the District's America's Promise Grant. The purpose of their tour was to learn more about the "Humanize" pillar of the District's Learning Reimagined initiative as part of their exploratory rethinking of what "healthy" schools are doing.

Educators and students are using the art of circles within the school day to successfully talk about and tackle pressing issues. Special guests from across the country observed U. City students, staff and community partners engaged in "circle" discussions regarding restorative practices and social-emotional learning. During a restorative circle activity (pictured above), the group discussed the importance of well-being and mental health. The group also shared the successes of U. City Schools, as well as hope for the future, both locally and worldwide.

The community is invited to experience this restorative practice during a **Community Circle: Ubuntu "I am because We are"** event at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019, in the University City High School Pruitt Library, 7401 Balson Ave. (63130). To save your seat at the Community Circle, register yourself and your guests at [www.ucityschools.org/Ubuntu021919](http://www.ucityschools.org/Ubuntu021919). Interested individuals without online access for registration, or those requesting more details, may contact Gary Spiller, executive director of Student Services and Innovation, at (314) 290-4045.

## University City Educators Honored for Outstanding Work

Tracy Hinds, Ph.D., NBCT, and Jaquin McBride were recognized as 2018 Apple for the Teacher honorees by Alpha Zeta Chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority. According to its website, the sorority "seeks to focus on advancing the economic foundations of women through leadership, entrepreneurship, education and technology." Hinds serves as the District's curriculum coordinator for English language arts and social studies. McBride is a kindergarten teacher at Pershing Elementary School and a former University City Teacher of the Year.



Tracy Hinds



Jaquin McBride

## District Launches Student Newscast

The School District of University City has launched a brand-new, student-led newscast, known as SDUC News. This student-led newscast is intended to inform the community about the great things happening in the District. Check it out at [www.ucityschools.org/SDUCNews](http://www.ucityschools.org/SDUCNews). Special thanks to University City High School alum and local media producer Rod Milam, UCHS Class of 1988, who assisted with the auditions and provided the voiceover for the SDUC News introduction.



## U. City Adults Invited to "Come & Play"

The University City Education Foundation invites parents and other interested adults to "Come and Play" during an evening of hands-on exploration of some of the innovative tools used by University City educators, many of which were purchased with UCEF grant funds. Last year's featured activities included archery, escape room and more.

Book a babysitter if needed and join us from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2019, at Brittany Woods Middle School, 8125 Groby Road (63130). This event is free and open to the public. For more details, call (314)290-4296 or email [kwerthmuller@ucityschools.org](mailto:kwerthmuller@ucityschools.org).

## District to Host 33rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

The University City Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019, at University City High School, 7401 Balson Ave. (63130). The community is invited to join us in honoring the legacy of Dr. King through the presentation of the University City Board of Education's MLK Spirit Award, student performances and presentations. Special guest speaker Mary Beth Tinker, UCHS Class of 1970, is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the U.S. supreme court ruling that students' rights to free speech and expression do not stop at the classroom door. More details are available at [www.ucityschools.org/MLK2019](http://www.ucityschools.org/MLK2019).

## Opt-In to Stay Connected

As The School District of University City continues to expand communications with alumni, retirees and community, please consider opting into one or more list at [www.ucityschools.org/StayConnected](http://www.ucityschools.org/StayConnected).



## Nominations Open for 2019

University City High School is accepting nominations for the 2019 UCHS Hall of Fame induction class. Deadline for submitting is Friday, Jan. 25, 2019. Nomination form and a list of past recipients are available at [www.ucityschools.org/HOF](http://www.ucityschools.org/HOF).

For information regarding other District award nominations, visit [www.ucityschools.org/Nominations](http://www.ucityschools.org/Nominations).

## School Calendar Highlights

The following dates are subject to change.

Jan. 7	..... No School, Staff Professional Development
Jan. 8	..... Students Return
Jan. 10	..... Board of Education Work Session
Jan. 15	..... Board of Education Election Filing Closes (5p)
Jan. 17	..... District Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration
Jan. 21	..... District Closed: Dr. King Day
Jan. 24	..... Board of Education Meeting
Feb. 1-28	..... Student Art Extravaganza at UCPL
Feb. 5	..... UCPL Student Art Reception (4:30-6p)
Feb. 7	..... Board of Education Work Session
Feb. 15	..... Early Release Day
Feb. 18	..... District Closed: Presidents' Day
Feb. 20	..... UCEF Come & Play
Feb. 21-22	..... No School, Parent Teacher Conferences
Feb. 28	..... Board of Education Meeting
March 1-2	..... Spring Musical, "Chicago"
March 18-22	..... No School, Spring Break
March 22	..... District Closed: Spring Break
March 27	..... Music In Our Schools Concert
April 12	..... District Arts Night

For more details and most current information, visit the District and school calendars posted at [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org) or on the District app.

**2019 Spring Break - March 18-22**  
**Schools & Offices Closed March 22**

**Remaining Early Release Days:**  
**February 15, March 15, April 19 and May 22**

**Schools Closed: January 21, February 18 & April 2**  
**& for Parent/Teacher Conferences: February 21-22**



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Download the new mobile app "University City Schools"





# ROARS

THE VOICE OF UNIVERSITY CITY

6801 Delmar Blvd.  
University City, MO 63130



## UNIVERSITY CITY ADMINISTRATION

Main Phone: . . . . .	314.862.6767
City Manager: <i>Gregory Rose</i> . . . . .	314.505.8534
City Clerk: <i>LaRette Reese</i> . . . . .	314.505.8605
Acting Finance Director: <i>Keith Cole</i> . . . . .	314.505.8542
Acting Director of Community Development: <i>Rosalind Williams</i> . . . . .	314.505.8516
Director of Public Works and Parks: <i>Sinan Alpaslan</i> . . . . .	314.505.8572
Police Chief: <i>Larry Hampton</i> . . . . .	314.505.8652
Fire Chief: <i>William Hinson</i> . . . . .	314.505.8593

## MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

Mayor: <i>Terry Crow</i> . . . . .	314.505.8606
First Ward: <i>Steve McMahon</i> . . . . .	314.422.6576
<i>Jeff Hales</i> . . . . .	314.283.5402
Second Ward: <i>Paulette Carr</i> . . . . .	314.727.0919
<i>Tim Cusick</i> . . . . .	314.230.3337
Third Ward: <i>Bwayne Smotherson</i> . . . . .	314.726.9572
<i>Stacy Clay</i> . . . . .	314.323.4025

## SELECTED CITY SERVICES

Emergency Hotline . . . . .	314.505.8550
(Severe Weather, Natural Disaster)	
Finance/Refuse Billing . . . . .	314.505.8544
Library . . . . .	314.727.3150
Recreation . . . . .	314.505.8625
Permits/Inspections . . . . .	314.505.8500
Public Works/Parks . . . . .	314.505.8560

## FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS

Emergency . . . . .	911
Fire Department . . . . .	314.505.8591
Police Department . . . . .	314.725.2211