



NEWSLETTER

October 2015

EDITOR'S NOTE

Every month a number of people assist in bringing this Newsletter to you. This month's contributors are Claudia Horn, Mary Wright, Trisha Pflantz, Judy Giraud, BJ Clutter, Alan Breckenridge, Karen Spreitler, Deanne Flatley, Tiphonie Vogel, Sandy Schenck, Susan Allen-Warren, Robin Roderick, Pam Dearing and Josh Sydney-Smith. Thanks.

Fred Giraud, Editor

THE ALLEY CAT



Wouldn't you know it, before I had a chance to sit on one of the two newly painted chairs on our porch, one of them was occupied not by our granddaughter but by my four legged friend who roams the streets and the alleys of Parkview. When I approached him, the Alley Cat just purred as if to say, "beat you to it". "You look comfortable just lounging there as though you found a place to have a nap." I said. "This will make a good chair for me to read a book" said the Cat. "I know you like reading; have you read anything interesting lately?" I asked him. "I just completed *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*. It is the story of a young teenager, William Kamkwamba who lived in Malawi. He had read about windmills and dreamed of building one that would bring electricity and running water to his small village. Although his friends and villagers called him crazy, he went about picking up scrap metal, tractor parts, and pieces of bicycles to construct what he had read about in a textbook in the library, called a windmill. He refused to let go of his dream in spite of crippling adversity." "That book seemed to grab you", I declared. "Yes, it is a story of how powerful the human spirit can be; of what one person with an inspired idea can do. As I read the book I couldn't help but think of the Parkview community." "How is that?" I asked. "One person loved to read and found out the neighborhood did not have a book club, so she organized one. Another resident came up with the idea of a movie night which would bring together both kids and their parents. Someone else thought that people could get to know one another better, so the progressive dinners began. And yet another couple had an ice cream social for the whole Parkview community." I added, "So, each of us needs to think about what will make life in our community better than it is and how I can bring it about. In other words think about something unique and seek a way to make it happen.... something that will energize me and my neighbors." I said. After a brief but thoughtful pause, the Alley Cat declared, "I have an idea--an automatic salmon dispenser at every door in Parkview".

IN MEMORIAM



Roberta Ann Dearing

Roberta Ann Dearing (Speier), age 89, died at the same Parkview home she grew up in on October 4, 2015. Preceded in death by her husband of 48 years, James E. Dearing, Jr., she is survived by four children: James III (Sue), Ted (Deborah), and Pam Dearing, and Ann (Randy) Getz, and by five grandchildren: Katherine, Philip, Grace, Stefanie and Hope. She was a graduate of Mary Institute and Wellesley College. She served as a docent for the Missouri Botanical Garden and the St. Louis Symphony. She was an avid reader and bridge player, and enjoyed the Symphony, Opera Theater, The Rep and The Muny. She loved to travel, and had an annual tradition of taking the entire family to sunny destinations for Thanksgiving week - where many wonderful memories were created. A service was held Sunday, October 11 at Grace United Methodist Church, Skinker & Waterman. Memorial contributions may be made to the Missouri Botanical Garden or Grace UMC.

(Picture and article furnished by Pam Dearing.)

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Robin Roderick



There's a new pastor in Grace church's parsonage at 6374 Waterman, and her name is Robin Roderick. The United Methodist Minister moved in from a parish in St. Charles at the end of June. She talked about enjoying her new location in Parkview and the surrounding St. Louis area with its "urban culture, diversity and richness." This being her first urban appointment has really energized her. "I felt at home since day one here."

"It's a really nice congregation," she said. "This is a stimulating area to live in. It's more urban so there are so many different people. And there's Forest Park." For someone who has often longed to live in a larger metropolitan area, it's refreshing for Robin. "It's the closest I'll get to living in New York or London, one of my dreams."

She's accompanied by a large mixed breed dog named Klyde. She expects frequent visits from her daughter Elizabeth, who resides in Kansas City, Missouri.

What would people be most surprised to learn about her? She explained that her sense of humor can throw people off. "People are surprised at how serious I get when I am speaking in front of a congregation or leading a class. I can be very intense. People don't often realize it's a both/and situation."

A book on her coffee table may be a clue to her sense of humor, titled "Being Dead is no Excuse: The Official Guide to Hosting the Perfect Funeral." It was lent to her by a parishioner. "You may notice I have no TV here. I get my news from several different [print] sources. There's less yelling that way. And I can fact check." She went on to say she doesn't watch movies, and only follows one television show, a weekly situation comedy called "The Big Bang Theory."

Robin lists travel among her favorite things. When her daughter was a high school senior, Robin and her mother took Elizabeth on a trip to London for eight days. "It was everything I imagined it would be," said Robin. "The best part was that we were three generations together. We were able to visit some John Wesley sites, his churches and homes." Wesley is the theologian and pastor who is credited with being the founder of what became United Methodism.

Robin especially enjoys visits to the beach. "I grew up in the Florida panhandle, and the smell of saltwater feels like home." She's excited about an upcoming trip to Israel in October. In the past she visited Guatemala and South Korea as part of her seminary training.

She missed a previously scheduled trip to Honduras and hopes to make that trip some day. That mission work would include working with a Catholic orphanage outside Tegucigalpa, the capital city. Her duties would include observing how they operate, but also teaching, she explained.

Before becoming a minister Robin was chief operating officer of a privately owned health care company. "I tend to be a workaholic and try to defeat that, but it has its positive side. You can get a lot done and be productive."

Reading is another way Robin spends her free time. "I read a lot of things for work." "The Road to Character" by David Brooks is Robin's current book for professional inspiration. The Huffington Post religion editor described him as a most unconventional conservative, who appeals to those within a wide range of political perspectives.

"I try not to miss Jan Karon books when they come out," Robin continued, and she especially likes books that include recipes. Jan Karon is famous for authoring the Mitford novels, but additionally wrote "The Mitford Place Cookbook and Kitchen Reader," which includes such dishes as "Father Tim's Baked Ham," "Puny's Potato Salad," and "Esther's Orange Marmalade Cake."

"I like to cook... particularly something substantial and fun. I recently made a fruit tart. Some people call it a fruit pizza," (here she made a face). "But I don't eat like that every night. I do it occasionally for the sake of art and making something funky and cool."

When asked about hobbies, she looks somewhat apologetic. “There are quite a few artists and fine crafts people at my church. I mean *real* art, not just passing-the-time, crafty stuff. But I don’t think I have any hobbies. I don’t have the urge to make them as much as I enjoy them.”

That being said, Robin is kind of into cars. Particularly convertibles. Her first car was an Austin Healy, then a Chrysler Sebring, but one of her favorites is the Mazda Miata. "I can't think of anything more enjoyable than going for a drive with the top down." She elaborated with this story: Once she met a friend in California and for fun they rented a convertible and drove along Highway One, to see the coast. It was such a great experience that they both agreed they'd like to own one. The two made it a contest to see who would purchase their convertible first. Well, as Robin tells the story, her friend won the contest. But after a while she found owning a convertible to be impractical. So she offered the car to Robin on the condition that she can come visit her occasionally... "Her' meaning the car," clarified Robin!

"Riding with the top down is kind of a metaphor for church. It's calming, relaxing, and you get a different perspective on life."

Recently Robin mentioned to her father how much she enjoys convertibles. That's when he told her that as a very young child she used to ride in the back of her father's convertible calling out "Faster, faster!" She had no memory of this.

Having served her last congregation for ten years, Robin hopes to remain here for a long stretch as well, but the Bishop and Cabinet make that decision. “As in every place I’ve served it's allowed me to grow as a pastor, especially being around people with different views than me. It's our commonality and our faith that helps us overcome the ways we are different.”

She marvels at the size of her home in Parkview and told a story of getting used to her new surroundings. One day she was alarmed to notice a dim light on, around the corner on the top floor. Knowing she had not been down that corridor, she wondered if she had an intruder. She made her way slowly toward the light, which was behind a closed door, passing through several connected rooms. “I said to myself, okay, this isn’t a scary movie, there’s no scary music playing.” Steeling herself, she held her breath, gripped the door knob, and flung the door open. “I realized I had circled back to my own bedroom,” she said, holding her sides while she laughed.

Let's welcome Robin into the neighborhood! (Written by Susan Allen-Warren)

BE EXTRA CAREFUL by Trisha Pflantz



Earlier this month, a driver exiting Parkview on McPherson collided with a cyclist who was riding down the sidewalk along Skinker Boulevard. Because of the monument walls, it is often difficult for drivers leaving the neighborhood to see pedestrians and cyclists until they are already in the crosswalk, and vice versa. In addition, some cyclists and pedestrians may not always exercise caution in crossing the street.

Due to Washington University's new student housing on Delmar, there is more foot and bicycle traffic along Skinker than ever. The university and the city of St. Louis are exploring various options, including signage, to help address the hazards. In the meantime, we ask that Parkview's drivers be mindful of those using the sidewalks along Skinker.

PARKVIEW BOOK CLUB



(Front row) Judy Giraud, Susan Allen-Warren, Ann Smith Carr, Christina Dougherty, (Back row) Jennifer Fanson, Theresa Fiala, Maggie Hart-Mahon, Rosalyn Schultz, and Nancy Ritzel
Not pictured: Deanne Flatley and Beth Fagan

This month, Parkview Bookclub met at the home of Jenny Fanson to discuss journalist Nancy Horan's first novel, "Loving Frank"

This fictionalized account of Frank Lloyd Wright's illicit relationship with Mamah Borthwick Cheney, a married mother of two, was extensively researched by the author, and includes the actual events and some original correspondence.

Through Mamah's narrative, we develop understanding of the artistic and philosophical background of Lloyd Wright's work and insight into the support and influence their relationship had on his own personal growth.

Mamah was intellectually astute, and her connection with Lloyd Wright provided avenues for her talents to flourish, especially in her translations of the work of Swedish Feminist, Ellen Key.

And yet, Mamah's decision to leave her family to travel with Lloyd Wright to Europe was picked up by the press and they were vilified for their actions.

They settled for a time in Italy, a respite for many American artists and alternative thinkers at that time. It offered a paradise of acceptance that wasn't available in their home land.

What decision would Mamah have made today? Would she have left her family so abruptly? And yet, we could understand her longing for 'first love', creative connection, and an opportunity to develop intellectually.

The situation seemed all the more conflicting, knowing that Mamah's husband, Edwin, and Lloyd Wright's wife, Catherine, stood by their spouses, hoping for reconciliation.

If you are interested in more about the women in Frank Lloyd Wright's life, and there were two more wives after his affair with Mamah, we suggest "The Women: A Novel" by T.C. Boyle.

We also recommend visiting some of Frank Lloyd Wright's structures close by.

Krause House in Kirkwood, MO.

Dana-Thomas House in Springfield, MO.

<http://www.dana-thomas.org>

<http://www.ebsworthpark.org>

Next month's meeting will be on Tuesday October 27th. Kelly Howard has chosen "The Round House" by Louise Erdrich.

Please email Tiphonie Vogel (tiphanievogel@aol.com) for more information.

We hope you will join us. (Written by Deanne Flatley)



PARKVIEW HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

A LIVING AND GROWING LEGACY OF ENVIRONMENTALISM IN UNIVERSITY CITY



Connecting People with Nature
through Science and the Arts

Speaker: Shelley Welsch

**Where: at the home of
Karen and Mark Spreitler
6224 Washington**

**When: Wednesday, October 21
7 PM - Update
7:30 PM – Program
Refreshments to follow**

**RSVP: kwsdesigns@hotmail.com
314-954-6140**

Shelley Welsch mayor of University City, Mo., will present “A Living (and Growing) Legacy of Environmentalism in University City.” Welsch was one of the founders and the first executive director of the Green Center, a venue for outdoor environmental education and the arts in University City.

All Parkview residents are welcome to attend.

FALL LEAF PICK UP SCHEDULE*

U City Residents:

Week of Nov. 16th-20th

Week of Dec. 14th-18th

**Weather permitting*



To maintain parking, please **DO NOT** pile leaves in the streets until just prior to pick-ups. Nothing but leaves may be piled for pickup. **From October 15th through December 31st, yard waste stickers are not required for U City bags.** **REMEMBER THE BURNING OF LEAVES IS AGAINST THE LAW BOTH IN UNIVERSITY CITY AND IN ST. LOUIS CITY.**

UPDATE ON BUSH HONEYSUCKLE PROJECT



Deanne Flatley and Bev Berla



Chris Kirmaier

On September 27 six lovely shrubs were planted in the alley behind the Berla home at 409 Westgate replacing the invasive bush honeysuckle which was removed this spring. One Button Bush, a witch hazel, a nine bark and three spice bushes have replaced the bush honeysuckle.

HAWKS IN PARK

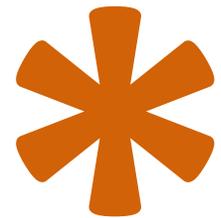


Alan Breckenridge (Pershing) wrote: “we had a nesting pair of Coopers hawks in a pine tree in Pershing Park this summer. Attached and following are a couple of pics. They ended up with two babies, and for a while all four of them could be seen flying around the park and the neighborhood. They now seem to have ‘flown the coop.’”





Sunday, October 18
4-7 pm in Pershing Park



CHILI COOK-OFF

Mary Abkemeier wants all the wonderful Parkview folks to know that we now have a sufficient number of chilis for the cook-off.

Parkview will provide cheese, sour cream and crackers for the chili. We will also provide hot dogs and s'mores. If chili is not your thing, bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. We hope to see you in the park!

NEW RESIDENTS

Cathy and Bob Wilmott, 501 Westgate. Four daughters: Jenny, Francesca, Gina, and Annabelle. Cathy's phone: 341-5330 Bob's phone: 341-6821 Former residents: Maria Pavlou and David Schnadower.

Nancy and Mark Johnson, 6249 Washington. Nancy's cell: 817-308-3139 Former owners: Chris Zittel and Tony Zanti.

Ann and Jason Grimmett, 6313 Waterman Jason's cell: 614-395-2981 Former owners: Ann and Steve Wisniewski

Doug and Kelly McHoney, 6220 Westminster Doug's cell: 749-7824 Kelly's cell: 223-4679 Former owners: Melissa and Mike Greene

RESIDENTS IN THE NEWS

Stephanie Riven (Washington) was pictured in the September 16 issue of *Town & Style* at a welcome event for new staff members, board members, and other supporters of COCA. In addition the former Alvin Alley dancers were introduced.

Mike Kinman (Pershing), the rector of Christ Church Cathedral, was pictured in *Town & Style* with event organizers for a Magdalene House benefit. Magdalene House is a residential program designed for women recovering from prostitution, sex trafficking, abuse and addiction.

A GOOD RESOURCE FOR RESIDENTS by Sandy Schenck

Parkview is now using a private online network called Nextdoor. On our [Nextdoor site](#), neighbors can share contractor recommendations, post items for sale, make new connections, discuss Parkview events and more. Over 130 Parkview residents have already joined and if you haven't yet, I hope you will consider it. If so, **BE SURE TO JOIN THE PRIVATE PARKVIEW GROUP** under Skinker DeBaliviere, where only verified Parkview neighbors can post/view messages. Click here for more information:

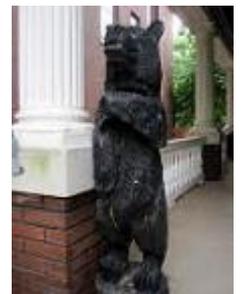
<https://nextdoor.com/invite/dgnzvzrcpzabxjmjapvx>

PARKVIEW PUZZLER by Susan Allen Warren



How well do you know our neighborhood? This month's photo was taken in Parkview and submitted to the Puzzler in honor of Halloween. The photographer was standing in the street or on the sidewalk within our neighborhood. Can you identify the address? Send your answer to parkviewpuzzler@gmail.com to win bragging rights. The answer and names of the first people to send in the correct answer will be published in the next newsletter. By the way, the resident of this house is not eligible!

The winner of last month's puzzler is Joanne Stern who correctly identified the address of the Black Bear that lives on the Swansons' front porch at 6350 Waterman. Well done Jo and thanks for playing!



Parkview Horticultural Society Participates in the U City in Bloom Biennial Garden Tour on September 20th

History and the Gardens



In September 2014 the PHS executive board was asked to participate in the U City in Bloom Garden Tour for the Fall of 2015. Deciding factors for the garden club's participation were based on the tour's theme of U City Historical Neighborhoods, the variety of gardens in Parkview, and the willingness of garden owners to open their property to the tourists...

After a year of planning, the tour was held on a beautiful autumn day, September 20th. Nearly 300 tickets were sold to fund the U City in Bloom committee's purchase of plants and the cultivation of public gardens in U City. Seven of the twelve gardens on the tour that

afternoon were in Parkview.

A special thanks goes to the garden owners (Spreitler, Price, Pryor/Crosby, Dougherty/Mueller, Lombardo, Withers, and Wright). Many garden tour participants were overheard praising the variety of plants and layouts of the gardens including water features, gazebos, pergolas, pools, tropicals, annuals, perennials, bonsai, eclectic garden art and "Bring Nature Home" certification. Another thank you is extended to the Parkview garden club membership who participated in the tour including garden liaisons, workers and tour participants.

Several of the U City in Bloom Executive Board commented that the tour this year was the best attended and most varied tour ever planned by them. Part of that praise is directly related to the Parkview Horticultural Society and the garden owners. A job well done by all! (Written by Mary Wright)



Deanne Flatley has prepared a slide show with music of the Garden Tour. It is worth the price of a first rate movie, but you can see it free by logging on to the slide show. Link to slide show:

<https://youtu.be/x-2mimYq4Go>



Homecoming 2015

Steppin' Out for Skinker DeBaliviere

Saturday November 7, 7:00PM – 10:00PM

Joe's Cafe & Gallery, 6014 Kingsbury Ave.

This annual event is coming up soon and you'll want to be there to join in the fun! Throw on your favorite pair of party shoes and share good times with neighbors while supporting SDCC at the 7th Annual Homecoming fundraiser. Food compliments of neighborhood restaurants **Salt & Smoke, Three Kings, Atlas Restaurant** and **Piccione Pastry**. A **Fantastic Silent Auction** is part of the fun as well as live jazz, blues, and St. Louis music by the award winning [Tommy Halloran's Guerrilla Swing](#) band!

The ticket price remains at \$50 - same as last year. They are now available at the SDCC office or online! Help support this special night hosted again this year at the eclectic [Joe's Cafe & Gallery!](#)

Tickets are also available at the SDCC office, from Homecoming committee members, and SDCC board members.

This is our biggest, most important, neighborhood fundraiser of the year with all proceeds going to support SDCC. Come show your support for the neighborhood while you party!

PARKVIEW AGENTS

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***The signatures of two agents are required for building/fence plan approvals.**

You may e-mail any of the agents directly or the agents, as a group, may be reached by e-mailing parkview12agents@gmail.com

Parkview Information

SECURITY:

Emergencies: 911

Non-emergency security concerns:

University City Police 725-2211

Saint Louis 5th District Patrol 231-1212

To leave a non-urgent message for A1 (i.e. requesting extra patrol while you are on vacation) call 726-1717

PARKVIEW

Address: P.O. Box 300518 U. City, Mo. 63130

Web Site: <http://parkviewneighborhood.org/parkview/>

Password: 1905oasis

E-mail: parkview12agents@gmail.com