



# FENCE TALK

Volume 2009, Number 1

April 2009

## UHA Annual Meeting April 26

The University Heights Association Annual Meeting will be held April 26, 2009, between 2 and 4 pm, at the University City Library. Come and enjoy the fellowship and vote in the election. (Dues will be collected, dues must be current to vote in the election.) There will be an interesting talk by our City Manager, Julie Feier, and there will be tea and food. Tea, tea cake and cucumber sandwiches will be served. We have been promised that there will be an ample supply of cucumbers in the market that day, especially for ready money.

## Spring 2009 Household Chemical Collection

FREE TO RESIDENTS OF SAINT LOUIS COUNTY!

Official Flyer/All Details here:

<http://www.stlouisco.com/doh/waste/Spring2009HHWEvents.pdf>

Not all leftovers can be shared or recycled. As a safe alternative to throwing away your leftover chemicals, bring them to one of the following collection events. Proof of residency, such as a driver's license or tax bill, will be required. **These events are ONLY for residents of Saint Louis County. Businesses are prohibited by law from participating.** ([www.recyclesaintlouis.com](http://www.recyclesaintlouis.com))

### RAIN OR SHINE:

**Saturday, May 9** – The Town & Country Campus of Westminster

Christian Academy (800 Maryville Centre Drive) **8am to 3pm**

**Saturday, May 16** - St. Louis Community College - Florissant  
Valley Campus **8am to 3pm**

**Saturday, June 9** - South County Center (formerly Westfield  
Shoppingtown – South County) **8am to 3pm**

## NEIGHBORHOOD CONTRACTOR LIST BEING ASSEMBLED

We are putting together a list of reputable contractors for our neighborhood. If you have had a positive experience with anyone who has provided a house-related service, please contact Amy Ziegler, at [amosmcgeezzer@yahoo.com](mailto:amosmcgeezzer@yahoo.com), or 727-2634. Please send your contractor's name, phone number, and a very brief description of the type and quality of work. We will publish this in Fence Talk Online. We each have something or someone to share! What a great way to help your neighbors, especially those of us who depend on others for handywork!"

## KID'S PLACE

On April 21 there will be an open house for Kid's Place at University United Methodist Church, from 6:30 to 7:15 pm. Kid's Place is an after school enrichment program for children attending Delmar-Harvard School. U. Heights residents, especially parents of children attending Delmar-Harvard, should find the program at Kid's Place very interesting. University United Methodist Church is just south of Delmar on Trinity.

## HEIGHTS CALENDAR

<b>April 19</b>	St. Louis Marathon
<b>April 26</b>	UHA Annual Meeting
<b>April 26</b>	St. Louis Earth Day
<b>April 25-26</b>	U.City In Bloom Plant Sale
<b>May 16</b>	Bark in the Park – Forest Park

## Lightpost Planter Waterers Needed

Flowers are usually planted in May, and last until the first frost does them in. In recent years, Angel Wing begonias, supplied by *U City In Bloom*, have been featured in the planters. They seem to do very well, with fewer watering trips needed. If anyone would like to help out, call Judy Harmon at 863-6159 (leave a message if no answer).

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

HELP UPDATE THE MOST HANDY BOOK IN THE HEIGHTS

**We're updating the neighborhood directory.** Your University Heights Association maintains two versions of the neighborhood directory: an online version (password-protected) at

<http://www.fencetalk.org/directory.php>, and a bound paper version, last published in 2005.

The neighborhood association will be going door-to-door to update the paper version of the neighborhood directory.

**How do you update the online directory?** Email your new phone number, email address, etc. to [fencetalk@universityheightsonline.org](mailto:fencetalk@universityheightsonline.org)

## Neighborhood Watch Update

More than 70 neighbors attended a meeting in December with Captain Carol Jackson of the U. City Police Department. Captain Jackson described things that we can do to improve safety in the Heights. Recommendations include

### Lighting:

- Keep your porch light on a night
- Install motion activated lights on your property
- Use timers to control lights when you are away

### Locks

- Keep your doors (house, garage).locked.
- Keep your car locked and valuable objects out of sight. Use a 'club' lock on your car.

**Watch** for 1) suspicious people, 2) suspicious vehicles and 3) suspicious activity  
Do not hesitate to call the police at 725-2211 to report your suspicions.  
Call 911 for emergencies.

Volunteers from each street have formed a neighborhood watch committee:

<b>Harvard</b> - George Tseng	<b>Amherst</b> - Rachel Slaughter
<b>Cornell</b> - Amanda Slavin	<b>Yale</b> - Myra Vandersall
<b>Radcliffe</b> - Eileen Pfeiffer	<b>Dartmouth</b> - Shari LeKane-Yentumi
<b>Trinity</b> - Mark Rowley	<b>Columbia</b> - Prabhakar Rao
<b>Princeton</b> - Margaret Rosielle	<b>Delmar</b> - Mary Rudder

The committee met in January and began the process of posting neighborhood watch signs. You may have seen these signs in the neighborhoods to our west. Shari and Myra have been working with the trustees to purchase and install signs at seven locations in the neighborhood.

The committee will meet again in the near future to continue our discussions of security and safety in the Heights. Please contact Betsy Grant, 726-5452, evenings or [betsy@wubios.wustl.edu](mailto:betsy@wubios.wustl.edu) to join the neighborhood watch committee.

## U. City Lions' 100 Year Birthday

To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University City Lions, sitting atop the 'Gates of Opportunity' at Civic Plaza, the Birthday Bash Committee is planning multiple celebratory events in 2009 focusing on education and children. The most prominent project will be to bring lions to every corner of the city. The committee is asking for donations to purchase twenty fiberglass lions to be artfully adorned by artists from our community and placed throughout U. City. The cost for one lion is \$3000. The lions will be in place from June until mid September 2009. The lions will be auctioned off at the Big Birthday Bash, September 12, 2009, in order to establish a fund for new "Gates of Opportunity" at Olive and I-170, our western entrance to the City.

The Neighborhood Association has made a contribution to this event and we are hoping that many of our residents will also contribute to the Lions fund. Remember, E.G. Lewis, U City's founder was once a resident of our neighborhood. We're sure he would be pleased with our willingness to support this city event. Checks may be made out to The Historical Society of University City and mailed to Petree Eastman, c/o The Historical Society of University City, University City Library, 6701 Delmar.

## Seeking New Fence Talk Editor

You have a fancy J-School degree from Mizzou. Your uncle is Walter Kronkite. You write foreign policy headlines as a hobby. You edit Economist articles and send them to the magazine as polite, err, *suggestions*. If so – this job ain't for you. But if you want to help your neighborhood and have time to assemble and edit 4-6 Fence Talks per year, please contact [fencetalk@universityheightsonline.org](mailto:fencetalk@universityheightsonline.org), or your UHA board member or Trustee.

## FROM OUR TRUSTEES

**Tree Report:** Last year rains came in well spaced doses, from a tree point of view, and all of our trees grew tremendously. This is mostly good, although it did cause us to have more sidewalk upheavals than usual. We would encourage all of you to remember to occasionally **water** that giant oak on your tree lawn, as well as all those new trees. For those of you who have had new sidewalks poured, damage has been done to the roots of the nearby trees. Please give these trees extra water to help them recover from the root pruning they have had.

**Mulch:** It is wonderful for keeping the moisture in and for preventing lawn mowers and weed whackers from banging into the trunk, especially in young trees, but the mulch should never touch the tree trunk itself. Pull the mulch away from the bark and form a round mound around the tree.

We have arranged with Droege Tree Care, Inc. to leave **firewood** on the tree lawn when they have a removal. It is yours for the taking. If you want the logs off your tree lawn, watch for a few days for some recycler to pick them up. If they do not disappear, call Judy to get them moved. This keeps the wood out of the chipper, gives us all some firewood, and saves the subdivision some costs with Droege. Everyone wins.

**Fence at the Footbridge:** We have installed a new chain link fence with a two-sided push button combination lock to control foot traffic here. The combination to the lock will be available on the secure part of our web site. We have the ability to change the combination easily, if the number becomes compromised. We will send out a neighborhood e-mail if we change the combination. We are responding to many complaints about suspicious visitors to our neighborhood, especially late at night. We hope that this gate will slow this sort of traffic, while enabling the rest of us to use the opening. Please do not share the combination, nor let people in or out when you pass through.

If you have not signed up for secure access to the web site, contact [www.fencetalk.org](http://www.fencetalk.org). If you do not use e-mail, call a Trustee for the number.

## FROM OUR TRUSTEES (cont'd)

**NID (Neighborhood Improvement District):** Progress is being made. The next project will be the driveway **aprons**. TraMar will give you notice of when they will tear out the old apron. Be prepared to move your cars to the street for the duration. If you are going away in the next 2-3 months, think about the possibility that when you return, your car might be stuck behind wet cement for a few days. To prevent this, leave a key with your trusted neighbor so they can move the car for you.

We have had numerous people and dogs **walk in wet concrete**, as well as vandals writing in the cement. When this hardens our only choices are to live with the imprints or rip out the whole slab and repour it (at considerable expense). Please be attentive to the orange cones and think about where you are walking. Also remember that dogs should be leashed at all times. They are not happy licking concrete off their paws. If you discover any messes in the still-wet concrete, either find the concrete crew and they will fix it or take matters into your own hands and scrape or brush the marks out as best you can. Be alert the day they pour your street. Let those who write in the concrete understand that it is rude.

After the concrete is dry, TraMar Construction is filling in the gaps around the edges with loam. Eventually, they will be **seeding** these spots. If you are persnickety, you might prefer to seed or sod it yourself. Young grass needs lots of water to make it through the summer. It is quite likely you will need to reseed in the fall.

We are hoping to complete most of the work by midsummer. After all the work is done and all the bills are paid, the city will send out the bills for each property owner's share of the **NID costs**. We are guessing that this might be early fall.

In the course of managing this NID, we have learned a few things which we would like to share with you so you can help better maintain the neighborhood.

Many of our **tree lawns are higher than the sidewalks**, due to build-up over the years of mulch, soil, and leaves. With this mounded up, water coming off the house lot can not merely run across the sidewalk, onto the treelawn, and onto the street. It gets stuck on the sidewalk and then puddles or mudds up the sidewalk. At this late date in our history, we can not go around and shave off the tree lawns because this would dig up many tree roots. However, we encourage you to think about what you add to the treelawn and try to keep them low. Occasionally a trench should be dug to drain the water. Call us about problems.

When we were walking the sidewalks with the engineers and contractors they showed us a lot of damage done when the homeowner engages someone to bring **big equipment** onto the lot (tree trimmers, roofing equipment, concrete trucks). This causes the sidewalk to break up prematurely and need replacement. Good contractors put large boards or plywood down to drive on when they cross the sidewalks. Please ask your contractors to do this to minimize the damage.

We had a serious engineering study done on Princeton to see what could be done about **Lake Princeton**. There are two drains on the west end of the street, one on the north and one on the south. The water is supposed to drain from the south intake, under the street, and join the water from the north side drain. It then flows out into the center drain. The drain pipe connecting these two water inlets is only 8" in diameter, which is smaller that it should be, so it clogs up when sticks and things get in there in nearly every big storm. The real answer would be for MSD to replace the piece with a larger pipe. Fat chance!

There are partially helpful solutions. If we call MSD, they will come and unclog it whenever it gets blocked. We have had success with this several times in recent years. We suggest that, during appearances of the Lake, those of you who live up and down Princeton **call MSD's Emergency Number** (768-6260) and tell them that the drain at #12 Princeton is clogged up. If they get enough calls, they will come.

When any drain on any street gets **clogged during storms**, you could 1) go out and rake the junk out of the surface, 2) call MSD, see above, or 3) call a trustee (our least favorite choice but an option, since we trustees will then do either 1 or 2). Otherwise, it just stays clogged.

And while we are on the subject of water, if you notice any sagging streets or sidewalks, or holes in the treelawn or your lawn, do not ignore it. Investigate for it may become a large, dangerous **sinkhole**. Usually it is caused by MSD or the water company. We have had both of them deny responsibility for these holes initially. Call us if nothing works and we will call in the city, which seems to be able to make the utilities claim ownership of the problem. Remember that UCity has a sewer lateral insurance program which helps considerably with paying for this if it is on your personal sewer lateral line. Putting it off does not make it stop getting worse!

**Speed Bumps:** The speed bumps on Yale were removed early this winter to facilitate snow plowing. After much discussion, it is doubtful that they will be back. We know the neighborhood has a problem with cars speeding down the streets and we do want to address this. However, all the information provided to us by the University City police indicates that the bumps slow traffic right where they are and that we would have to have bumps every few feet on every street to eliminate speeding. If we were to replace the bumps with horses, they would have to be moved constantly to have the desired effect. We also fear that horses would exacerbate our parking problems. For now, the University City police will be patrolling on a random schedule and ticketing speeders. We are also considering adding some stop signs at intersections which don't presently have them. In the end, the burden of keeping our streets safe falls on the individual drivers deciding to drive responsibly.



# CLASSIFIEDS, ETC.

**CLASSIFIED AD PLACEMENT:** To place a free ad, please contact Fence Talk. **IMPORTANT:** In order to maintain consistency and accuracy of information, ads must be sent via email (address below) or printed and mailed/dropped off (address TBD – new Editor being sought). Ads will not be accepted over the phone, voicemail or verbally.

**NOTE:** Fence Talk provides Classified as a service free to neighbors. We limit business ads to small/home businesses owned by residents of the neighborhood. FT is not responsible for transactions that occur as a result of these ads, and makes no claim as to the accuracy or reliability of the advertisers within. It is the responsibility of neighbors to perform due diligence in these matters.

## ADS

### CANINE PLAY PALS WANTED

Handsome well behaved 80# Retriever in the Heights seeks play pals and sitters. Pro ball player loves running and ball playing. Call Jester Hyman, 739 Harvard, 727-1175

New Retriever in Heights seeks to relieve you of unused dog clutter: Bowls, balls, leashes, collar, washable rugs, kindly owned large petbed, toys, big plastic bins for food/treats/toys.

### MASSAGE THERAPIST

Amy Ziegler- 727-1903

### HAVE AN OLD BIKE?

St. Louis Artworks is looking for any old bicycles that you want to get rid of, working or not. If you have any, let me know and I will come pick up. Dan Martin 314.721.2907

### HVAC WORK

Call Dave Gardin 314.308.7696

### TENNIS, ANYONE?

Serious youth tennis players who are interested in professional tennis lessons may contact Emmanuel Yentumi, USPTA Professional Instructor, at (314) 726-5348.

### New to U. Heights?

Call Margaret Rosielle at 725-5936 for a Welcome Packet.

### Heights email list!

The UHA and Trustees occasionally send emails to residents about meetings, social events and important UH matters. We keep your email addresses private and the emails infrequent but useful. To add or remove yourself, contact Fence Talk.

## NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCES

### BABY SITTERS

Martha Yentumi 726-5348  
Zach Dean 725-4274  
Joey Ferber 727-2634  
Becky Ferber 727-2634  
Jack Biggs 727-8435

### LAWN MOWERS

Arthur Yentumi 726-5348  
Zach Dean 725-4274  
Joey Ferber 727-2634  
Becky Ferber 727-2634

### PET SITTERS

Joey Ferber 727-2634  
Becky Ferber 727-2634

## YOUR TRUSTEES

Joyce Daughaday 863-3966  
JoyceDaughaday@earthlink.net

Judy Baernstein 725-8530  
baernstein@sbcglobal.net

Morton Hyman 727-1175

## 2007-'08 UHA BOARD

Chris Gordon President 703 Harvard  
Kit Sundararaman Vice-Pres. 722 Harvard  
Nan Rochberg Secretary 6936 Cornell  
Eileen Pheiffer Treasurer 720 Radcliffe

### Members:

Tracy Boaz 780 Yale  
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Betsy Grant 730 Harvard  
Patti LaVesser 6928 Amherst  
Richard Muehlmann 6932 Amherst  
Ed Renner 739 Radcliffe  
Margaret Rosielle 17 Princeton  
Jim Ross 21 Princeton  
Matthew Tillstrom 729 Harvard  
Shari LeKane-Yentumi 6939 Dartmouth

## WHOM TO CALL

**BARKING DOGS:** First call the owner; if that fails, call Police 725-2211

**STRAY ANIMALS:** Police 725-2211

**EXCESSIVE NOISE AFTER 10:00 PM:**  
Police 725-2211

**STREET DRAIN CLOGS:** MSD emergency 768-6260

**TREES ENTWINED IN POWER LINES:**  
Ameren UE 342-1000

**TREE PROBLEMS ON TREELAWNS:** Judy Baernstein, 725-8530, or any Trustee. Do NOT call the tree maintenance company.

**TREES, SHRUBS, ETC. FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY OBSTRUCTING SIDEWALK, UNSIGHTLY GRASS OR WEEDS OVER 8' HIGH ON PRIVATE PROPERTY, TRASH CONTAINERS LEFT OUT TOO LONG AFTER PICKUP, TRASH OR LITTER:**  
U-City Environmental Dept. 862-6767

**TOO MANY RESIDENTS IN ONE HOUSE:**  
U-City Housing & Zoning 862-6767

**TREELAWN LIGHTS BURNED OUT OR DAMAGED:**  
Ameren UE 342-1000

**INTERSECTION LIGHTS BURNED OUT OR DAMAGED:** Contact a Trustee (info at right)

**GENERAL COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE HEIGHTS:** Contact a Trustee (info in middle column)

**ASSESSMENT AND PAYMENT QUESTIONS:** Joyce Daughaday 863-3966

**NEW NEIGHBOR WELCOME PACKETS:**  
Margaret Rosielle 725-5936

**HEIGHTS WEB SITE:** www.fencetalk.org

**FENCE TALK:** If you have an ad, ideas or content, email: [fencetalk@universityheightsonline.org](mailto:fencetalk@universityheightsonline.org).

**Ads are always FREE!!**