



University Heights Subdivision No.1

FenceTalk

Progressive party, luminaria brighten December

The December Solstice marks the “turning of the Sun” and the days slowly get longer. Celebrations of the lighter days to come and nature’s continuing cycle have been common throughout cultures with feasts, festivals and holidays around the December Solstice.

In U. Heights #1 we have celebrated the solstice with our annual luminaria display. As the winter dark sets in, the glowing luminaria are a cheering sight. The Progressive Party also takes place on Luminaria evening, to be held this year on **Sunday, December 17**.

Residents stroll through our illuminated neighborhood and enjoy drinks and appetizers at two homes in small groups before all coming together for dessert at City Hall. The Progressive Party is a wonderful way to meet neighbors and connect with old friends. Here’s the schedule for the evening of Sunday, Dec. 17:

- 5:30 – 6:30 PM: Visit the first home
- 6:45 – 7:45 PM: Visit the second home
- 8 – 9 PM: Dessert at City Hall (first floor)

Party goers get their just desserts

The hosts have volunteered to open their homes to party goers. If you wish to attend the Progressive Party, here’s what you do. Sign up by Monday, December 11th and reply directly to Linda Ballard, linda.ballard@gmail.com, who is keeping track of the reservations. She will acknowledge your email within a couple of days – if you don’t hear from her, please resend your email or give her a call (314-863-8697) to be sure she has received your information.

We need the following information:

- Your name, how many people are attending, and how many are children (ages are helpful too)
- Your email address and telephone number

Couples, and their children, will be assigned together, but everyone else is assigned randomly. If you want to attend

with a neighborhood friend, that’s fine, but we aren’t able to keep a large group of friends together or include people from outside the neighborhood unless they are your visitors from out of town.

By Friday before the dinner, you will receive an email with the addresses of the two homes you will visit. You will be assigned to bring an appetizer course to one of the homes or a dessert to City Hall. Please let Linda Ballard know if you haven’t heard received an email by Saturday morning, December 16. If you sign up and for some reason aren’t able to attend, please inform your host and Linda Ballard immediately.

We hope to hear from everyone as soon as possible. If you are unable to tell us by the deadline that you want to participate, you may still attend the dessert course at City Hall, however, you will be expected to bring a dessert to share. We love homemade desserts!

Luminaria brighten the way

To-Do list for luminaria sales

- Buy 1,000 pounds of sand.
- Buy two cases of candles.
- Buy two bundles of 500 bags each.
- Deliver supplies to Todd Dean and Jackie Grosklos’ carriage house at 700 Yale.

–Round up volunteers to sell luminaria for two days.

Sale hours are Saturday, December 16 and Sunday, December 17 from noon-4 p.m. Pricing this year is 5 luminaria (includes bag, sand and candle) for \$5; 10 for \$10; 15 for \$15; and 25 for \$25. New this year are pre-made sets. Board members build the luminaria for you. Pre-made sets begin at a minimum of 10 for \$10 and then in lots of 5 for \$5.

We are so fortunate that Jackie and Todd host the luminaria sales for us every year. Thank you!



2018 annual meeting and a big thank you to board members

We have a very active, busy neighborhood. The events you attend and enjoy are planned by the U. Heights Association. Here are the board members who make this happen; Barb Chicherio, President, Harvard; Marilyn Cathcart, Vice President, Columbia; Judith Gainer, Secretary, Harvard; Greg Phillips, Treasurer, Cornell; Members: Diane Davenport, Myra Vandersall, Yale; Phil Slavin, Pete Klarmann, Frank Castiglione, Cornell; Bart Stewart, Sarah Heyman, Harvard; Felix Simmons, Radcliffe; Kimberly Martin, Anna Ruffin, Trinity; Anil Pillai, Dartmouth; Alternates: Joy Gebhardt, Radcliffe; Hope Horn, Cornell.

It's a great group of people who enjoy hauling stuff around, such as sand, candles, tables, grills, beer, paper goods, signs, newsletters and wine and finding a proper home for the popcorn popper.

You too could be a part of this group. The 2018 annual meeting is set for **Sunday, February 25, 2018, from 2-4 p.m. in the Library auditorium.** Nominations are taken for residents to serve on this lively group. The board is

looking for representatives from Amherst, Delmar, Dartmouth and Princeton. If you are interested call President Barb Chicherio at 727-8554 or Vice President Marilyn Cathcart at 862-2644.

‘Tis the season for theft, fraud and scams

Bad behavior happens all the time, but during the holiday season it is especially stressful. In the U. City area there has been an increase in stolen packages. With people gone during the day, it's hard to prevent this theft because the thieves follow the delivery truck. Think about having your packages delivered at work or to a secure locker, like the Amazon lockers in Whole Foods markets.

If you are shopping in the grocery store, always keep your purse close. Wandering just a little way to inspect the perfect asparagus without your purse is an invitation for theft. Also, beware of organizations who call and say they are supporting firefighters, police or veterans. Very little of that money, if any, actually goes to the intended cause.

Up and down hills, a mistake and a wedding, smoke and rubber bands

Stan Rice has left the neighborhood. Our faithful mail carrier of 13 years has decamped to Des Peres where the ground is flatter and he can rest his knees while he drives a truck. We knew we would always get our mail, even if it was after 6 p.m. when Stan was on the job. When he wasn't and the "kids" filled in, mail was erratic at best.

Even when he was in pain as he walked from house to house, up hills, down hills, up steps, down steps, he always had a smile, says Diane Davenport, and he loved talking about jazz.

Always cheerful, he brought us our mail on time despite the weather, was tolerant of dogs and genuinely enjoyed meeting the neighbors.

Identity theft

When Barbara Chicherio was dealing with an identity theft issue, Stan helped out. She says "because Stan knew me and our address he brought an illegally issued debit card that criminals had sent to our neighbor's home. Apparently the thieves send cards to nearby homes and wait for the mail to come," Barb says. "They then go to the mail box and take the card because they don't want their victims to know that the card has been issued. Because Stan noticed the incorrect address, he knew me and intervened!"

A few good carriers

University Heights must treat our mail carriers well and in turn they provide us with excellent service. Before Stan, we had Jeff Roberts, former *FenceTalk* contributor and "celebrity mailman." Jeff fell in love with Stan and Charlotte Lang on Columbia and then fell hard for their daughter Jo Anne, all because of a misplaced letter. (Sometimes mistakes are good.) He and Joanne married and still live in University City. When their engagement was announced, residents tied balloons to their mailboxes for Jeff to take as he continued his route.

Before Jeff was "Cowboy," or Mr. Hoffman, who delivered the mail in a haze of cigar smoke. The kids on Yale, at least, waited for his arrival as he doled out rubber bands. That was almost as much fun as Halloween to hoard those rubber bands.

That's about 40 years and for the most part only three regular mail carriers. They were very special people who served us and their community well.

Welcome Anitra

We have a new carrier and her name is Anitra. Welcome her to University Heights. Be friendly, be tolerant (sometimes a new route can be a challenge for new mail carriers) and enjoy getting all your mail all the time.

It's leaf sucking time Part 2

The last leaf collection for our area is scheduled to begin the week of December 11. Most likely our leaves will be picked up on Monday. Here are the rules. Rake your leaves into the street ONLY on the weekend before collection. Before this leaf sucking collection, some residents raked leaves into the street more than two weeks in advance. There are plenty of reasons not to do this.

Our streets are narrow and many residents have two or more cars. Hard to navigate in the best of times, dodging huge piles of leaves makes the trip more stressful, plus early leaf piles take up precious parking spaces.

Next, courtesy. Have a chat with your neighbors down the street. When residents rake leaves into the street early, those leaves travel downhill during rains and end up at your neighbor's doorstep.

Also ask your lawn service not to blow leaves into the street any time other than right before pick up. Thank you for your courteous cooperation and for protecting the safety of the men and women who have this most difficult job.



Leave 'em alone

Here's an even better idea. Mulch your leaves and then leave the leaves alone. According to National Wildlife Federation Naturalist David Mizejewski, "Fallen leaves offer a double benefit. Leaves form a natural mulch that helps suppress weeds and fertilizes the soil as it breaks down. Why spend money on mulch and fertilizer when you can make your own?"

While it is at least partially true that excessive amounts of fallen leaves can smother areas of a lawn when they're left in thick piles all winter, leaving the leaves on the ground as mulch can be an effective method of building soil and supporting a healthy yard.

Fallen leaves, as an additional physical layer of organic materials above ground, provide food, shelter, and nesting or bedding materials to a variety of wildlife, as well as overwintering protection for a number of insects, all of which work together to contribute to a healthy yard.

The soil itself is also a beneficiary of this autumnal gift of fallen leaves, as the leaves are essentially composted over time into nutrients that feed both the next year's 'crop' of grass, but which also feed a vast number of microbes in the soil, which are actually the most important 'crop' you can grow, considering all plant life in your yard depends on a healthy soil.

Bruno's Neighborhood Musings by Bruno and Naomi



Who We Are

Trustees

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University Heights Neighborhood Association

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Judy Gainer, secretary
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Greg Phillips, treasurer
314-550-3350
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New to the neighborhood?

Contact Diane Davenport
314-863-5961
dianedavenport046@gmail.com

Join our online community on
NextDoorUniversityHeights1
<https://universityheights1.nextdoor.com/>

University Heights #1 website
<http://universityheightsonline.com/>

Neighborhood tree management
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Fence Talk editor
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All Association Board meetings are at 7 pm, the 2nd Tuesday of each month All residents are welcome. Dec. 12, Anna Ruffin, 752 Trinity...Jan. 9, 2018, Bart Stewart, 714 Harvard, annual meeting, Sunday, February 25, 2018 at the U. City Public Library, 2-4 p.m.

Places to go, things to do, people to see

Holiday Market and Bazaar

Saturday, December 9

Check out the Midtown Farmers Market holiday and market bazaar from 9-1:30 p.m.

There is still plenty of fresh winter produce available plus local artisan foods and hand crafted delights. This is the perfect place to add a bit of the unusual to your gift lists.

2018 Ice Carnival in the Loop

Friday, January 12-Sunday, January 14, 2018

Always a fun event in a sometimes gloomy January. Enjoy people with chain saws creating beautiful sculptures, games, food, polar bears and more. For those hearty folks, join the 2018 Frozen Buns Run on Saturday, January 13 at 10 a.m. Choose the 5k or 10k and get your photo taken with a penguin. Temperature should be around 39 degrees.

Elsewhere

Alton-Audubon Eagle Festival

Saturday, January 16, 2018

10-2 p.m, at the Audubon Center at Riverlands and downtown Alton

Hundreds of American Bald Eagles return along the Meeting of the Great Rivers National Scenic Byway between Alton and Grafton in December through February to reclaim their nests.

The eagle festival will celebrate the start of the eagle watching season with eagle activities, In order to celebrate their return, the Alton Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau will be an Ice Block Party, an eagle greet and meet ice carvings, ice putt-putt golf. To download an official eagle watchers guide go to <http://www.visitalton.com/theme/frontend/files/guides/eagle-guide.pdf>