



THE UPLANDER

THE UPLANDS RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION, EST. 1902

Did You Know?

Peoria's sister cities include Friedrichshafen, Germany, Benxi, China, Clonmel, Ireland and Aitou, Lebanon.

Friedrichshafen, Germany is a university city on the northern shoreline of Lake Constance in Southern Germany, near both the borders of Switzerland and Austria. It is the district capital of the Bodensee district in the federal state of Baden-Württemberg. Friedrichshafen has a population of approximately 58,000 people. Friedrichshafen was established in 1811 as part of the new Kingdom of Württemberg, an ally of France during the Napoleonic Wars. It was named for King Frederick I of Württemberg, who privileged it as a free port and transshipment point for the kingdom's Swiss trade. Friedrichshafen is best known for having been home to the Zeppelin Airship Company, the Dornier Flugzeugwerke.

Benxi, China is a city located in the east of Liaoning province, south-southeast of Shenyang, population 1,700,000. It was founded as a metallurgical center in 1915. From the time of the Liao dynasty (907-1125), Benxi was the centre of a small-scale iron industry, and coal began to be mined in the late 18th century. Benxi Iron and Steel Company is the largest employer in the city, and at one point was the fourth-largest steel company in China. The second-largest industry in Benxi is coal mining. The Benxi Water Cave National Park is a subterranean river close to 2 miles long that flows through a cave 20 miles from the city. The cave is filled with countless stalactites and stone flowers, pillars and curtains.

Clonmel, Ireland is the county town of County Tipperary and is the largest town in the county. The borough had a population of 15,793 in 2011. The town is noted in Irish history for its resistance to the Cromwellian army which "sacked" both Drogheda and Wexford. Clonmel grew significantly in medieval times, and many remainders of this period can be found in the town. Under a charter granted by James I of England, Clonmel became a Free Borough in 1608, and the Mayor and officers of the town were granted power to "name, elect and constitute one Swordbearer and three Sergeants-at-Mace." St. Patrick's Well, which is located just outside the town of Clonmel, is a popular tourist destination. It features one of Ireland's largest holy wells, which flows into a pool with an early-Christian, Celtic-style cross at its center.

Aitou, Lebanon is a village located in the Zgharta District in the North Governorate of Lebanon. Aitou (Ayto) is a village lying on four hills: Jabal Ayto, El Alama, Dnit, and Kanissa Hill. Famous for its oak and cedar forests, an ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic inscription sent by Pharaoh Pepi II to one of the kings of Byblos asked for a number of trees from the woods of the God Aitou in order to extract the resin used by the Egyptians for embalment. The current population is approximately 1,000. In the U.S. there are about 14,000 immigrants from Aitou; most of whom live in Peoria and formed the Itoo Society. According to one source, "the first family who immigrated from Ayto was Khoury family and they established the biggest Lebanese club in Poeria." Notable family names include LaHoud, Khoury, and Alwan.

ATTENTION LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS

WE ARE NOW OFFERING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS TO ADVERTISE IN *THE UPLANDER*. WE WILL FEATURE A "SPOTLIGHT BUSINESS" IN EACH ISSUE OF THE UPLANDER.

FOR \$25 YOU CAN ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS (AT THE DISCRETION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION) IN OUR NEWSLETTER. THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS (INCLUDING THOSE WHO RESIDE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD) TO INCREASE ADVERTISING EXPOSURE TO APPROXIMATELY 400 HOMES.

ADS WILL BE RUN IN THE ORDER THEY ARE RECEIVED. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PLACE AN AD, PLEASE CONTACT DAN ARMICH VIA EMAIL AT DANIELARMICH@YAHOO.COM

Uplands Residential Association Officers:

President: Burgit Smith

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2nd Vice President: Desiree Kane

1313 W. Columbia Terr., dez.kane@gmail.com

Treasurer: Melissa Stevenson

1517 W. Columbia Terr., 256-0649, melissarstevenson@sbcglobal.net

Secretary: Lindsey Clayton

1414 W. Columbia Terr., mrs.lindseyclayton@gmail.com



The URA is on Facebook. Like us for current news on the neighborhood!



Join the Uplands Yahoo group by going to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/uplands/>

Visit our website: www.TheUplandsPeoria.com
Email us at: TheUplandsPeoria@gmail.com

If you have information for *The Uplander*, please contact Brenda O'Russa at 673-2776 or bkorusa@comcast.net

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President's Comments

Increase In Neighborhood Dues Voted In

At our January neighborhood meeting, one of the topics we discussed was to vote on an increase in neighborhood dues. This increase would raise your annual fee from \$10.00 to \$20.00. The vote was unanimous in regards to the \$10.00 increase. Therefore, as of January 2015, the new annual neighborhood dues will now be \$20.00

Traffic Volume Issues in the Uplands

During our January neighborhood meeting, we had two City traffic engineers and Councilman Grayeb attend to speak regarding the traffic volumes (due to last year's new Main/University and Columbia Terrace/University intersections) within the Uplands. As you know the traffic volumes within this neighborhood have increased, thus causing traffic headaches on Columbia Terrace and N. Parkside specifically. The good news is that the construction project on Sterling hill is now complete so the city can now optimize the traffic around the neighborhood. The traffic engineers provided us with this information:

Signal timings for Main Street and University Street corridors and their intersections, and surrounding intersections, will be studied to determine a signal timing plan that meets the City's goals for the surrounding area. Current traffic counts, signal timing plans, and interconnected systems will be reviewed to determine alternatives for the corridors. The AM, mid-day, and PM peak hours will be analyzed to provide custom plans based on changes in the traffic patterns throughout the day.

The goals for the intersection and surrounding area include:

- Reducing "cut-through" traffic through the Uplands neighborhood
- Keeping the diagonal cross for pedestrians
- Reducing peak hour congestion at Main Street and University Street intersection.
- The city official would like to complete the "signal timing plan" by this May.

New Green Arrow/Split Phase Timing Installation in March

This subject ties directly into another "headache" within the neighborhood. Have you ever tried to exit this neighborhood (at the busy times) using Columbia Terrace going East, only to experience backed up traffic near this intersection due to the new way this intersection was designed? The way this new junction was designed is not conducive to traffic leaving the Uplands. For example, say you want to exit the neighborhood on Columbia Terrace and want to turn left (north) onto University? Well, there is no green arrow at this site, and all oncoming traffic coming from the east driving west on Columbia Terrace has the right-of-way over you. During high traffic times usually one car will get to exit the Uplands during one traffic signal, leaving a dozen or so others to wait their turn. Does this sound familiar? Many of you voiced your concerns about this particular problem. Councilman Grayeb asked the traffic engineers if there would be any way to get a green-arrow installed at this site. Within a few days, Councilman Grayeb sent us this letter from Nick Stoffer, City engineer.

At the January 7th Uplands Neighborhood Association meeting, city staff was asked to look into and report back on the feasibility of changing the signal timing at the University and Columbia Terrace intersection to incorporate split phasing for eastbound and westbound traffic. Currently the green cycles for the eastbound and westbound traffic run concurrently at this intersection. The split phasing would give each direction its own phase of the signal, allowing easier movement out onto University from Columbia Terrace.

The problem that we heard from the Uplands residents during this meeting was that since Columbia Terrance was changed to 1 outbound lane in each direction at the intersection, that the westbound traffic prevents the eastbound (which is largely turning left to the north) from adequately using the green light. This was said to cause traffic to back up into the Uplands waiting for multiple cycles to leave the neighborhood. Residents felt that if the signal was changed to let eastbound traffic go separately from westbound (split phasing) that Uplands residents would have a much easier time leaving the neighborhood.

Continued on the next page...

Reviewing the intersection signal heads and traffic controller we feel that split phasing at this intersection is feasible with a small amount of effort. This effort shall include:

- Reprogramming the traffic controller to accept the new phasing
- Replacing the left hand 3 section signal head with a 4 section signal head on the mast arm in both the east and west direction
- Adding a green arrow to the green, yellow and red ball in each of the new 4 section signal heads
- Replacing the green ball with a green arrow on the left side post mounted traffic signal in both east and west direction

This work can be done in house with mostly inventory equipment. With time to program the control and assemble and test all the signal head equipment I am confident that we can provide split phase timing for eastbound and westbound traffic at University and Columbia Terrace by the middle of March.

Thanks to all of you who voiced their concerns. You came to the meeting, you spoke-up and now we're getting a green arrow. Voilà

New Water Main/Lines Update

As you probably have seen by now that the water company has hired a surveying company and is currently collecting topographical info for Illinois American water. We have not heard any new information for this project. I am assuming

Dues

Please make checks payable to The Uplands Residential Association. If you are interested in donating extra money to our beautification fund please indicate this on the registration form below. You may include the additional amount on the same check as your dues. Your URA dues can now be paid online! We have set up a Paypal account for your convenience. To do so, please visit www.Paypal.com, click Send, enter the URA email address of TheUplandsPeoria@gmail.com and the amount then click Continue and follow additional prompts. Your dues will be deposited directly into the URA's Checking Account. In 2014 your dues helped pay for the printing of the monthly newsletter, the annual Easter Egg hunt, the annual Picnic and the renewal of the URA post office box. We continue to plan for the future of The Uplands to make this the best neighborhood it can be and your dues help make this possible!

THE UPLANDS RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION 2015 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Name _____ Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Email _____

Would you be willing to volunteer with

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Block Captain | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Delivery | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parking | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long-Range Plans | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Land Use | |

Send completed form and check payable to Uplands Residential Association Treasurer Melissa Stevenson, P.O. Box 6532 Peoria, IL 61601-6532. Dues are \$20 and allow the neighborhood to do many good things. Please consider a donation to the Neighborhood Beautification Committee.

_____ YES! I/WE will pay our \$20 association dues, and contribute an additional \$ _____ for beautification.

the ground breaking will begin sometime this Feb or March. I'll keep everyone posted on any new information.

*****Election Coming Soon*****

Uplands Residential Association Officer Election
Thursday, May 14th 7pm
Bradley Epworth Methodist Church (basement level, enter doors off Elmwood)

I realize it may be a little early to bring up the topic of electing new members to the Uplands Residential Association board but May is the time to bring in new members. Many of the board members have held the same positions for 3 years now. In order to keep the neighborhood invigorated" we need "new blood" to serve our neighborhood; a person with fresh ideas.

Here are the positions that you may run for:
President 1st Vice President 2nd Vice President
Treasurer Secretary

Would you like to contribute more to your neighborhood? Are you the type of person who has the initiative to get things done? Would you like to get civically involved within the neighborhood? Now's the time to step up! Please contact any of the board members to get put on the ballot prior to the month of April. I'll have more for information pertaining to this topic in the March and April newsletters.

Sincerely,
Burgit Smith

URA Membership Meeting Minutes 1/8/15

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm

Discussion of traffic-

- New counts taken on 12/29, shows slight decrease everywhere but Eastbound CT since June 2014 counts
- Signal timing for intersections along Main and University are being studied for updates/optimization in May
- City is considering the following changes to Main/University intersection:
 - Flashing yellow arrow phase
 - Metering- synchronizing lights to improve flow
 - Optional diagonal cross
- Residents encouraged to act as pace cars in neighborhood
- Residents requested updates to light at University and CT; city agreed to look into a protected left from CT to University- sending results to Burgit in a week
- Bluetooth readers will be located in neighborhood to do a destination study to distinguish neighborhood v cut-through traffic; traffic counts indicate traffic is largely neighborhood traffic

Update on water main constructions- IL American Water has hired engineers and has begun surveying; sanitary sewer will be assessed prior to water main construction

Treasurers report- Dec: 98 members, \$1984.56 available balance; Jan: 5 paid members, \$2084.56 available balance

West Bluff Council Report- Peoria 150 will be hosting a meeting on school improvement, instatement of neighborhood schools is on the agenda, attend Feb 4 at 6:30 pm at Manual HS, go to website, or email info@psd150.org to support neighborhood schools or other school improvement options

Discussion of dues increase- motion carried for dues increase to \$20/year, effective immediately. Paypal now available to pay dues online, send payment to theuplandspeoria@gmail.com

Directory will be out soon, no current plan for an electronic/online release

Discussion of special service district- funds can be used at neighborhoods discretion, options include snow removal. East Bluff currently uses to buy/refurbish vacant houses

We need volunteers for block captains and board positions..

Meeting adjourned 8:45 pm

Uplands Residential Association Meeting
Thursday, February 12, 2015 • 7:00 p.m.
Bradley Epworth United Methodist Church
1316 W. Columbia Terrace

7:00 p.m. Call Meeting to Order

- Welcome and Introductions - President Burgit Smith
- Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting - Secretary Lindsey Clayton
- Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Lindsey Clayton

Committee Reports

- URA Representatives to Outside Organizations
- Bradley Institutional Planning
- West Bluff Council
- Peoria Alliance
- Greenway

New Business

Adjournment

Welcome to our New Neighbors:

1018 N Elmwood Avenue
Brad Soyak

If you are new to the neighborhood and we have missed recognizing you, please contact
Kirk Sheckler at 369-1372 or
sheckkirk@gmail.com

Camp Open House
Monday, March 2 • 4-7 pm
at Noble Center in
Lakeview Park

Peoria Park District Summer Camps for
ages 4-13 run June through August.

You can tailor your camp experience to your needs and by what you want to experience.

Register to win a \$100 Camp Gift Card!

 www.peoriaparks.org

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