



THE UPLANDER

THE UPLANDS RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION, EST. 1902

President's Comments

The Uplands District 2 Councilman Grayeb spoke at our March meeting and provided us with up-to-date information and what we can expect for our neighborhood and all of District 2 for the 2016 season.

Traffic Calmers

Spring is here and we can expect the following traffic calmers very soon for the 2016 season:

- Remove chicanes on N. Parkside
- Install a permanent speed hump on N. Parkside (probably somewhere in the middle of Columbia Ter and Mains St)
- Add a solid yellow line in the middle of N. Parkside (the solid line will not be painted until August of this year)
- Add an electronic speed sign on N. Parkside
- Return the speed hump near Columbia Ter and Parkside, however this time the city will install a permanent one
- Add a temporary speed hump near Columbia Ter and University (somewhere in the 1300 block of CT)
- Traffic counts (metrics) will be performed again and let's hope the numbers are down from the previous count.

Bradley University

Councilman Grayeb met with Bradley University President Gary Roberts and President Roberts' number one priority as the new president is SAFETY. Presently the university has 20 commissioned police officers, which is good news for the Uplands and surrounding neighborhoods. The Bradley police work with the city police and may be the first ones to respond to an extreme event within the Uplands. I have witnessed on several occasions seeing campus police cruising our streets and alleys. It's nice to know we live in a neighborhood with such a police presence. Councilman also spoke about our University/Main intersection and informed President Roberts that the University resides in the most densely populated zip code (61606) in the state outside of Chicago and parts of Champaign. Our unique zip code brings special challenges to the Uplands/West Bluff regarding public safety. President Roberts also indicated that he would like to speak at one of our neighborhood meetings in the near future. As always, we'll keep you informed.

Avanti's Restaurant

Avanti's Restaurant, for those who are new to the area, has been an iconic landmark in the West Bluff since the mid-1960's. Their present location at Main/University is somewhat antiquated and in need of a redesign and expansion. Councilman Grayeb informed us the restaurant is near completion on its purchasing of an adjacent property it needs to adequately expand. The property

of concern is 1313 Main St. (Pi Alpha House). Apparently this house is an "unsafe house," meaning that the home is not up to code. It currently violates a mandated sprinkler system and other public safety issues. Therefore, the Pi Alpha will move down to an area near Sheridan/Main, thus opening up the 1313 Main house for purchase. When Avanti's does purchase this house, it will then begin to propose a design for the new restaurant. In the past, Avanti's has always been transparent with their site plans and usually will speak/display their ideas at one of our neighborhood meetings. When this redesign does happen, many in the neighborhood would like to see a building with a unique style that complements our neighborhood. Not a generic design one would see in the suburbs. I'm not sure when this will happen. I'll keep everyone informed.

Infrastructure Issues

Main St./Sheridan Rd is becoming a vibrant place for small business. Therefore, the city will install a pedestrian friendly intersection there. The design will be exactly like the new intersection at Main/University. Once completed, think of this intersection and Main/University as book ends.

The city will be replacing the bridge that crosses Dry Run Creek on Sheridan Rd (where I- 74 travels underneath Sheridan). They are also going to be tearing up Sheridan from Richmond north to Forrest Hill later this Spring. This construction process will include a total rehab and design much like Forrest Hill project last year. This will likely cause more traffic to use University St when traveling south, thus creating more congestion at Main/University and of course, more cut through traffic here in the Uplands.

Western Avenue Greenway

You are invited again to join us in the Community Garden in the Western Avenue Greenway this year. The area has been in use for several years for this purpose and in 2015 was enriched with compost from Better Earth Compost.

The plot size is roughly 10 feet by 11 feet. The plots will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. Depending on the number of people applying for plots, there may be more than one plot available per family.

The garden is located in the Greenway segment between Laura and Bradley. The garden area is accessible from the alley and area for parking is available. Come take a look.

Please call Martha at 674-4500 if you are interested.

Uplands Residential Association Officers:

President: Burgit Smith

1500 W. Parkside Dr., 674-0567, burgitpaul@yahoo.com

1st Vice President: C.J. Summers

1202 N. Institute Pl., 673-8177
summers1202@sbcglobal.net

2nd Vice President: J.R. Hinchee

1027 N Maplewood Ave., 868-0110,
mahkno@comcast.net

Treasurer: Dustin Draggist

1310 N Glenwood Ave, dustindraggist@gmail.com

Secretary: Pete Magsig

1320 N Institute Pl., 734-546-2988,
petemagsig@gmail.com

Dues

Uplands Residential Association Fees 2016

The yearly neighborhood fees are \$20.00 per year. 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 2015 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 2016 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"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Long-Range Plans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Land Use | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking |

Send completed form and check payable to URA Treasurer Dustin Draggist, 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.



SAVE

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peoriaparks.org/camps



JUNE 11 & 12, 2016 • PEORIA, IL

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Next Uplands Residential Association Meeting April, 14th at 7pm Bradley Epworth Church

(Columbia Terrace & Elmwood), Enter through side door on Elmwood, Basement Level

GARAGE SALE

THIS YEAR'S UPLANDS GARAGE SALE WILL BE

SAT. JUNE 4.

SAT. JUNE 11 IS THE RAIN DATE.



(Please note, the URA originally decided to have the sale on May 21, but since then realized Dist. 150 graduation was the same day at the Renaissance Coliseum)

The Grand Tour of Homes

The Grand Tour of Homes is proud to present some of Peoria's fine historical and architectural heritage on the 2016 Grand Tour on Sunday May 15th, from 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

The general public is invited to tour five West Bluff homes and the Shops on Main Street. For over thirty years the Grand Tour has had the privilege of highlighting these treasures and sharing them with the community.

The West Bluff began in the mid-1800's when the stately mansions were built by Peoria's most prominent citizens and lined High-Wine Street, Moss Avenue and Randolph Ave. Today the area includes Bradley Park, Bradley University and ten neighborhoods: Armstrong-Ellis, Arbor District, Columbia Terrace North, Cottage District, Orchard District, High-Wine, Uplands, Moss Bradley, Randolph-Roanoke and University East.

Funds raised from the Tour are used to beautify the West Bluff, ticket donations are \$12 in advance or \$15 the day of the Tour. Tickets may be purchased from the following participating businesses: Broken Tree Cafe, Excel, and Urban Artifacts, Peoria. Vintage Romance, 608 W. Main St., Sterling Flower Shop, 3017 N. Sterling Ave. Peoria, Relics, 1219 W. Glen Ave. Peoria, Olde Hair Shoppe 2128 W. Rohmann Ave. West Peoria, Random Apparel in Junction City, Fred's Shoe Repair, 3033 N. University, Peoria, and Rhythm Kitchen, 305 SouthWest Water St. Peoria.

Tickets are also available from committee members. For more information, please contact Kathleen Greenberg 370-8832, LaDonna Bobbitt at 672-1831 or Connie Wright at 674-2330. The Grand Tour is an Illinois non-profit corporation

UNDERSTANDING YOUR FOES (BURGLARS)

It's Spring and love is in the air. With all the weddings, romantic picnics, the song birds singing, the smell of tulips and opportunities for hand-in-hand strolling, Spring is really the unofficial season of love. However, did you know Spring is the official season for burglaries? It's true. For some reason, all across the country, municipalities see a spike in burglary activity during the warmer spring-like conditions. I truly believe with all the love and romance in the air that many people forget the simple things such as locking one's car, closing and locking the house windows (especially before leaving to go to work), locking the garage, etc.

Most burglaries occur on weekdays between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. The perpetrators are usually substance abusers in their twenties looking for easy-to-pawn items to raise quick cash. They look for homes that appear unoccupied during the day, are dark at night, and display signs of wealth (such as immaculate landscaping, expensive cars and fancy decks). They prefer homes that are secluded or shielded by fences or shrubbery. And they always prefer breaking in through a ground-level side window or back door.

Most burglars don't pick locks or break glass. That takes too long and makes noise and risks personal injury. Instead, they simply kick in a door (even doors with a dead bolt) or pry open a window or sliding patio door. In many cases, they take advantage of a home owner's carelessness by climbing through an open window or unlocked door (window screens and storm doors offer no protection). Burglars tend to shy away from homes with dogs and homes with an alarm system. Once inside, burglars head right to the master bedroom looking

for gold and jewelry, cash, furs and guns. Next, they scoop up prescription drugs from the bathroom and finish up with laptops and smart phones. Then they hightail it out. Your job is to make your home less target-worthy, frustrate their attempts to break in and limit your losses if they manage to get inside.

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

Uplands Residential Association Officer Election
Thursday May 12th 2016, 7pm, Bradley Epworth Methodist Church (basement level, enter doors off Elmwood)

Have you thought about running for office in the best neighborhood in the city? Sure you have! It's time to vote for different neighbors to hold URA positions. This neighborhood needs new people with new ideas to provide this neighborhood. Otherwise, things can become rather stagnant. Are you the type of person who has the initiative to get things done? Perhaps you lived in another city and liked how your old neighborhood assoc. did things. Would you like to get civically involved within the neighborhood? Please consider volunteering your time to one of these URA positions. Be a part of the city's best neighborhood. Most positions will take up to a few hours of your personal time each month. The President's position takes a little more time per month: Approx. 4-5 hours. You don't need any experience to run for these positions. Just enthusiasm and ideas are required.

An URA officer position holds their position for a 1-year term, from May-to-May. Keep in mind, anyone who is a resident and has paid their annual dues, can run for office (see requirements from Article IV from the bylaws). On Thursday, May 9th we will be electing our Uplands Residential Association Officer(s). The following are the positions you may run for: President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

If you are wanting to run for office, just inform any one of the URA officers prior to April's meeting. For more information about the positions, see the Bylaws on our website:
www.theuplandspeoria.com/bylaws/

Burgit Smith



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



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

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

The Uplander is printed by The Print Shop at Peoria Park District.

Uplands Residential Association Meeting Minutes 3.10.16

Convened: 7pm

Councilman Chuck Grayeb was there to discuss traffic and other issues

Traffic

"Metrics need to be done. Lined up with metrics before to compare apples to apples."
"The three chicanes on Parkside have helped tremendously."
"Columbia onto University stop light takes too long getting out of the neighborhood."
People all throughout Chuck's district have been asking for traffic calming measures.
Speed feedback signs are very popular, but they are expensive. The traffic issues on 3/9 were acknowledged as a problem, and measures are being taken to handle that kind of excess Bradley traffic in the future.

Bradley

The new President of Bradley is interested in meeting with people in the Uplands.

West Main Corridor

Possibly a new Avanti's at University and Main. Rooftop dining. JR: Can we get visibility on the Avanti's site plan? How many properties is he trying to put together? One more building – 1313 Main – would become part of Avanti's. The city has a goal is to make Sheridan/Main as pedestrian friendly as University/Main.

Uplands Alleys and Waste Water Lawsuit

Another goal is to "green" the alleys in the Uplands as part of the green alternative to the EPA lawsuit. The lawsuit was started in the 80s, but we are settling with the DOJ now, and part of that settlement will be in the form of new taxes. This tax is for 18 years that will be applied to the whole city, and revenue from that tax will be used to address the EPA issues with storm water / waste water that pervade Peoria. The Uplands is at the top of the list to get the Green Alleys, but there is no specific date. The DOJ lawsuit/settlement/tax plan/judgment has yet to be finalized.

General Issues

There is deliberate focus on areas in the 2nd district where there are issues with crime, with attention to abandoned properties and over-occupancy.
"What if you have a house for sale that is a very nice house that is next to two rental properties? It's driving down the value of the house. The rental properties are not maintained. What can we do?"
"If there are code violations, contact Chuck."
There is an effort to remind people what the codes are.

Regular meeting:

Treasurer

27 dues payments this month

Membership dues amount: \$20

Available \$2996.19

Beat balance \$1294.27

40 paid members.

Recommend an email blast for people that haven't paid.

Recommendation: Run a list of the paid members in the next Uplander.

Greenway

Greenway meeting this month will be on 3/21.
Taking applications for community garden. Contact Martha Willi.

West Bluff Council

Scott Reise attended. Speeding is a problem throughout the area, not just the Uplands. Looking to put trash receptacles and ash trays at Main/University. City is looking into incorporating job core into some West Bluff maintenance.
Work on Sheridan will start this summer and go into next year. University from War Memorial to Forrest Hill will be done this year.
MacArthur street bridge will be rebuilt in 2018.
Sales tax revenues are up overall as a result of the University/Main intersection. Not all businesses, but generally. Severity of accidents at University/Main are down.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Dumpster day is April 30th.
We'd like to reach out to owner of Avanti's to come and talk to us about the development.

Upcoming URA Election

Burgit isn't going to run for President. Election is in May. Nominations are due now for positions.

Adjourned: 8:25pm

Thank you to all who participated in this year's neighborhood egg hunt on March 26th. It was another fun and successful event with about 500 eggs hidden!

A big thanks to Lindsey Clayton, Desiree Kane and Jackie Armich for helping me hide the eggs!

-Melissa Stevenson

