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UPLANDER

THE UPLANDS RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION, EST. 1902



MARCH 2017

VOLUME 117, ISSUE 3

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Hello neighbors!

Former U.S. House Minority Leader Bob Michel was laid to rest recently. Michel was a resident of the Uplands (1029 N. Glenwood Ave.) back when he was our Representative in the House. Michel was also a 1948 graduate of Bradley University. Congressman Michel lived a long life of useful service to his country, and he will be remembered fondly by this neighborhood.

March URA Meeting to feature Peoria Mayoral Candidates

We have a couple of local elections coming up. There's a primary election Tuesday, February 28, which is still in the future as of this writing, and a general election on Tuesday, April 4. One of the races of interest is the mayoral contest. The two primary winners will be visiting us at our March Uplands Residential Association Meeting! This will be your opportunity to get up close and personal with the mayoral candidates. We are planning for it to be an open forum, with each candidate getting an opening statement, and then taking questions from anyone in attendance. I hope you will join us! That's **Thursday, March 9, at 7 p.m.** in the basement of the Bradley-Epworth United Methodist Church at the corner of Elmwood and Columbia Terrace.

April URA Meeting to feature Water Company Buyout discussion

Although the City of Peoria sold the municipal water works in 1889, they have a franchise agreement that gives them the option every five years of repurchasing it. The next opportunity is 2018. A representative from the Peoria CEO Council will be giving a presentation at our April meeting on why the City should consider repurchasing. Our council representative Chuck Grayeb will also be in attendance. You can read more about the CEO Council and their stance on the water buyout at their website (peoriaceocouncil.org/projects/water-objective-study/). Our April URA meeting will be **Thursday, April 13, at 7 p.m.**

Hope you all are enjoying the early spring we're having this year! I know I am. I've lived in Peoria my whole life, and I don't remember us ever having a February this warm, and with practically no snow. It's very unusual. But it sure is great to see so many people getting outside and walking, running, biking, playing—our neighborhood is very active. See you all at the next meeting!

Sincerely,

C. J. Summers

MAYORAL CANDIDATES NIGHT IN THE UPLANDS!

MARCH 9, 2017 | 7:00 P.M.
BRADLEY-EPWORTH UMC

The two winners of the February 28 primary will be joining us at our March meeting of the Uplands Residential Association. The candidates will make opening statements and then take questions and answers from those in attendance.



Jim Ardis



Couri Thomas

UPLANDS RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION MEETING AGENDA

MARCH 9, 2017—7:00 P.M.

- I. Call Meeting to Order
- II. Candidates for Peoria Mayor
 - A. Introduction
 - B. Opening Statements
 - C. Question and Answer Time
- III. Regular Business
 - A. Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting
 - B. Treasurer's Report
- IV. Reports
 - A. West Bluff Council
 - B. Western Avenue Greenway
 - C. Other Committees
- V. Unfinished Business
- VI. New Business
 - A. Appoint Nominating Committee
 - B. Other New Business
- VII. Adjournment

What are your top priorities for the West Bluff?

The West Bluff Council wants to hear from its member neighborhood associations to help set its priorities. For those of you who don't know, the West Bluff Council is a not-for-profit organization that represents all the West Bluff neighborhoods, including the Uplands. They've been going through a strategic planning process, and they have several program ideas that they need to whittle down. They've asked each member organization to choose their top three priorities in each of the following two categories:

CATEGORY 1: Poitive Publicity for West Bluff

- Affordable Housing
- Walkability / Urban Lifestyle (set a vision for the future, defined bike paths)
- Home Ownership Grant
- School Choices (Hear more about their successes and amplify, get reports from the schools): Medical school, Whittier, Franklin, Bradley...build up a broader story of education in the area
- Create news & invite the press to cover
- WBC purpose and efforts (who we are, why we're important)
- Largest group of new homeowners are Millennials...let's focus on attracting them; should we visit the Peoria Area Association of Realtors (PAAR).
- Reach out to local reporters: Steve Tartar, Nick Vlahos, etc.
- Reach out to employers (OSF, Methodist, UI College of Medicine, Bradley, etc.)
- Economic diversity (variety of housing stock & pricing)
- Perception of crime, combat with data / comparisons to other areas of Peoria...success story of resident program

CATEGORY 2: Beautification & Infrastructure Improvements

- Alleys (Permeable Pavement...be part of the rollout/pilot to create publicity, Water Mains)
- West Main Street & sidewalk repair
- Public Art (West Bluff Artists, Donna Roberts, Dr. Huberman @ Bradley?)
- Trees and flowers
- West Bluff & Neighborhood Signage
- Incorporate the Innovation Center in West Main (managed by Bradley U)
- Work with new landlord group to moderate signage at & upkeep of properties (e.g. Ideal Rentals)

We will be voting on our top three priorities in each category at our April meeting, after the CEO Council presentation.



Greenway Garden Plots

Spring is coming and it's time to start thinking about gardening. You can plant your very own vegetable garden in one of the 9 foot x 11 foot organic garden plots in the 800 block of the Western Avenue Greenway. The entire garden will be tilled in early April and water will be available through the summer at the site. For information, call Martha Willi at 309-674-4500 or email her at willimmartha@hotmail.com.

Greenway Landscape Consulting

Johnpaul McGreal, a horticulturalist, and a member of the Western Avenue Greenway Board of Directors, is offering his professional horticultural services garden advice to the neighborhood. For a donation of \$50.00 to the Greenway, Johnpaul will solve your plant and landscaping dilemmas. Johnpaul has worked for, among others, Luthey Botanical Garden and Hoerr's Nursery. Johnpaul enjoys using native plants in the landscape and problem-solving landscape issues without the use of chemicals. Native plants have been shown to support the many pollinators we enjoy in our landscape. You can contact Johnpaul via email at jpmcgregal@peoriaparks.org for more information.

Uplands Residential Association Officers:

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2nd VP: Steve Tyler

1120 N. Elmwood Ave., 970-640-8617
styler@bradley.edu

Uplands Residential Association Dues

The URA dues 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. 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 Paypal.com, click Send, enter the URA email address (TheUplandsPeoria@gmail.com) and the amount, click "Continue," and follow additional prompts. Your dues will be deposited directly into the URA's Checking Account.

The Uplands Residential Association is on Facebook and Yahoo Groups! You can also email us at TheUplandsPeoria@gmail.com. If you have information for The Uplander, please contact Tamara Black-Waite at tblackwaite@gmail.com. If you are new to the Uplands or know someone who is, contact Kirk Sheckler at 369-1372.

MADIGAN'S



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Celebrating our "41st" year as a Family Owned Business

URA Membership Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email _____

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

Send completed form with payment to URA Treasurer
Dustin Draggist, P.O. Box 6532, Peoria, IL 61601-6532.