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UPLANDER

THE UPLANDS RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION, EST. 1902



OCTOBER 2017

VOLUME 117, ISSUE 9

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Howdy Neighbors,

I was reminded recently (random fun fact for the day) that it was sixty years ago this month (October 4, 1957) that the first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1, was launched into orbit by the Soviet Union, igniting the “space race.” It’s incredible to contemplate how far we’ve come since then. As of 2014, there were 1,100 active satellites in orbit around the earth, providing a wide variety of functions, mostly in the area of communications (telephone, television). But there’s a lot more “space debris” up there—about 8,000 objects consisting of active/inactive satellites, spent rocket bodies, or fragmentation, according to the United States Space Surveillance Network. And you thought your attic was full.

Well, we may not be able to do anything to clean up space junk, but we are going to do something about clearing snow this winter! We not only met, but exceeded our goal to raise enough funds to have a private contractor plow all the public sidewalks in the neighborhood this winter whenever there’s a snowfall of two inches or more.



It will be coordinated with the City so that the

sidewalks get cleared after the street plows go through the neighborhood. Thank you to everyone who contributed! Also, a very special thanks to Pete Magsig who headed up the fundraising campaign and, along with his wife, made all those great signs!

Did you all enjoy the picnic? It was a great time. Thank you to everyone who helped put it together this year from the bike parade to the setup to the grilling to the cleanup. The weather was unbelievably perfect for a picnic. So, whoever lined that up, an extra special thanks. :-)

Our next neighborhood meeting will be Thursday, October 12, at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Bradley Epworth United Methodist Church. Doors open at 6:30, so if you want to come early and socialize, come on out. We’ll be doing a little debriefing about this year’s picnic—what went well and what we can improve for next year. We’ll also discuss holiday decorations for the neighborhood—specifically, whether we should replace the wreaths that we hang on the light posts. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

C. J. Summers

UPLANDS RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION MEETING AGENDA

OCTOBER 12, 2017—7:00 P.M.

- I. Call Meeting to Order
- II. Regular Business
 - A. Welcome and Introductions
 - B. Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting
 - C. Treasurer’s Report
- III. Reports
 - A. West Bluff Council
 - B. Western Avenue Greenway
 - C. Other Committees
- V. Unfinished Business
- VI. New Business
- VII. Adjournment

Snow Removal Fund— What to Expect this Winter

This past couple of months, thanks to you, we successfully raised enough money to fund neighborhood-wide sidewalk snow removal. Here’s what to expect when it snows this winter:

What exactly will get cleared?

The public sidewalks, adjacent to the streets in the Uplands. This includes all of the public sidewalks along Elmwood, Institute, Glenwood, Maplewood, and Parkside, as well as the sidewalks on the north side of Main street from University to North Parkside and the west side of University from Main to West Parkside.

What will not get cleared?

Private walks and driveways, except the very end of the driveways that are in line with/part of the public sidewalks.

Who is doing the clearing?

Blunier Builders, Inc. (<http://www.blunierbuilders.com/snow-removal>), a family-owned and operated company out of Eureka, Illinois. They provide snow removal for several businesses in Peoria, including Campustown and Avanti’s, so they’re already removing snow in our immediate area.

What’s the threshold for snow clearing?

Two inches or more of accumulation.

When will the sidewalks be cleared?

For this to be effective, we wanted to make sure that the sidewalks were cleared after the street plows went through the Uplands. As you know if you’ve lived through a snowy winter here, the street plows pile additional snow from the street up onto the sidewalks. We don’t want the walks cleared only to have

them piled with additional snow within a few hours. So we've made arrangements to have the City contact Blunier after the plows have finished the Uplands streets. Blunier will then come through as soon as possible to remove the snow from the sidewalks.

How will the snow be cleared?

Blunier uses a six-wheeler Toro plow and the snow will be plowed into your yard.

Who do I contact if there's a problem?

Contact one of the URA officers (listed on the back of the Uplander). Please don't contact Blunier directly. Blunier needs a single point of contact from the Uplands to do their job effectively, and the Uplands officers need to know what's working and not working so we can address any potential problems in compliance with our contract with Blunier.

How did you come up with the \$4,000 goal for the fund?

We looked at the recorded snowfall for the past four years from the National Weather Service and determined how much snow removal would have cost for each of those years under the terms of the quote we received from Blunier. The last two winters have been mild; only three snow events each year had two inches or more of accumulation (average of 3-4 inches). Our investigation showed that we would have paid \$2,475 for 2016/2017 and \$2,150 for 2015/2016. The winter before that (2014/2015) was a bit heavier with five snow events, and it would have cost about \$3,800. The winter before that (2013/2014) was a record-breaking year. There were eleven snow events that year with two or more inches of accumulation, and it would have cost \$7,125 for snow removal. That's an average of \$3,887.50 over four years, including the worst winter Peoria has had on record. Thus, we felt that \$4,000 would be a reasonable amount to raise to cover all but the worst potential winter.

What are the benefits of doing this?

The main benefit is safety. We have a lot of kids in the neighborhood who walk to school/bus stops, lots of pet owners who walk their dogs, lots of Bradley employees who walk to work, and lots of residents who walk/run for exercise or walk to One World, Campustown, and other amenities within walking distance of the Uplands. By clearing the sidewalks, all of these people will not have to walk in the streets during the winter, which is safer for everyone, pedestrians and motorists alike.

But aren't all residents required to clear their walks anyway?

Yes. But unfortunately, there are some problems with this requirement. It's not enforced, and thus, there is not good compliance in general. Those who do comply often have their efforts stymied by street plows piling more snow on the sidewalks while they're at work. Plus, not every resident is physically able to remove large amounts of snow from the sidewalks. This problem is compounded when street plows move heavy snowpack and ice from the street to the sidewalk. Even able-bodied residents find clearing this additional ice and snow challenging. By hiring a contractor to do the whole neighborhood, all sidewalks are cleared equally using machinery that is designed for the task, giving pedestrians full mobility throughout the neighborhood.

Can I still contribute to the fund?

Yes! Just as with the Beautification Fund, you can contribute anytime.


When we have a big snow this winter, and our walks are cleared, and I'm filled with gratitude for this wonderful benefit, who do I thank?

Thank all your neighbors whose generosity and community-mindedness made it possible.

Uplands Residential Association Officers:

<p>President: C.J. Summers 1202 N. Institute Pl., 673-8177 summers1202@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>Treasurer: Dustin Draggist 1310 N. Glenwood Ave. dustindraggist@gmail.com</p>
<p>1st VP: J.R. Hinchee 1027 N. Maplewood Ave., 868-0110 mahkno@comcast.net</p>	<p>Secretary: Meredith Messina 1321 W. Parkside Dr., 206-962-7703 mcbmessina@gmail.com</p>
<p>2nd VP: Steve Tyler 1120 N. Elmwood Ave., 970-640-8617 styler@bradley.edu</p>	

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934 N. Bourland Ave.
Peoria, IL 61606

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Fax: 309-673-2612
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Celebrating our "41st" year as a Family Owned Business

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.

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. Make checks payable to Uplands Residential Association or URA Treasurer.