



NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

REPRESENTING CLIFTON HEIGHTS • UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS • FAIRVIEW

March, 2015

Next monthly meeting:

March 17, 2015

Deaconess Hospital Cafeteria,
Lower Level, Straight Street

To Shovel or Not To Shovel

I think we can all hope that, by the time this article is published, we're done with this winter's brutal snowfall. There are many good reasons for keeping your sidewalks clear of snow and ice such as your neighbors who walk to work, to the bus, walk their pets, walk to school, walk to our local shopping or restaurants, or just want to walk around the block and get out of the house this winter! Since moving to CUF I've heard a few questions about who is responsible and whether we should even clear our sidewalks for fear of being sued. I'm not a lawyer, so do your own research to back this up, but let's take a look at a few common questions:

"Do I have to do it?"

The City of Cincinnati says you need to keep your sidewalks clear. You can check for yourself, our Municipal Code is online at: <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/council/references-resources/municipal-code/>. Here's an excerpt from section 723-57 ("Removal of Snow"):

"The owner, occupant or other person having the care of any building premises...where there is...a sidewalk...shall, within the first four hours after daylight after the ceasing to fall of any snow, cause the same to be removed from the paved or traveled part of such sidewalk."

Section 723-59 notes similar things about ice removal and 723-99-I talks about the penalties if you don't do it. It's pretty clear that we're all obligated to keep our sidewalks clean and there's talk next year of better enforcement.

"I don't want to be sued!"

What about the myth that you're somehow more liable for someone injuring themselves if you shovel your sidewalk (something I've only ever heard in Cincinnati)? "For the record, this is true even if you've shoveled once and it has frozen again, contrary to area urban legend: Homeowners do not assume liability just because they've

shoveled at all." (<http://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/your-watchdog/consumer/2015/03/02/snow-enforcement-lax-change/24282617/>) Also see the Ohio Insurance Institute's article on this: <https://www.ohioinsurance.org/to-shovel-or-not-to-shovel-heres-the-law-in-ohio/>. It's a myth! Trying to keep your neighbors safe does not make you more liable.

"...but I'm just a renter"

If you're a renter you should check your lease to see who has responsibility for clearing the sidewalks. If it's not spelled out there it's generally the renters who are expected to take care of things (especially if you're renting space in a house or smaller complex) although I've only seen some court cases around this, nothing spelled out in law. Talk to your neighbors (or housemates) to split up the work. Some people might be happy to shovel especially if others buy the salt, etc. If you're a landlord: consider making these responsibilities clear with your tenants. If they're responsible, put a snow shovel or two in the basement. If you're stepping up and taking responsibility: thank you!

"...but I physically can't"

Shoveling snow is hard work and not everyone can or should do it. One of the great things about living in CUF is all of our great neighbors – don't be afraid to ask around. We have a few kids in our neighborhood who are always asking for odd jobs to do and they often have snow days that align with snowfall. If you're someone who can and does shovel snow, keep an eye out for your neighbors and lend a hand where appropriate. When I lived in Columbus there was a block of neighbors who came together to hire someone to clean their sidewalks and driveways professionally. There are lots of options! Even just sprinkling salt (or more pet friendly equivalents) makes a huge difference.

Tips on Shoveling

There are various articles online about how to shovel snow safely and effectively (such as <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/tips-to-shovel-snow-safely/>). A few quick tips:

- Shovel smaller loads of snow at a time, don't take huge shovels full.
- Put down salt or other de-icer before the snow or ice hit, this can really make cleanup a lot easier.

- If it's a bigger storm, try to shovel periodically so you're not doing it all at once.
 - Pace yourself and take breaks!
 - Lift with your legs and not your back.
- Take care, be safe and help keep our neighborhood safe and walkable. Here's to hoping we're done with snow for the season!

Chris Palmer

CUF Neighborhood Assoc. Financial Report

Balance on Feb. 1, 2015	\$4,719.37
Income:	
Dues	\$18.00
Total income:	+ \$18.00
Expenses:	
FedEx newsletter	\$51.66
GCWW	\$12.03
Finney Law Firm	\$5.32
Total expenses:	\$ \$69.01
Balance on Feb. 28, 2015	\$4,668.36

City Manager - 5 administrative priority goals

Aimed at Innovation and Enhanced Customer Service

City Manager Harry Black has announced and expand upon five strategic priorities to be used to focus the City Administration on innovation and the delivery of efficient, effective and improved customer service.

The priorities, developed over the last several months will be, in close coordination with City policy makers, embedded throughout the City Government. They will guide the development of the recommended 2016-2017 budget, provide focus for City departments and inform all decision-making.

PRIORITY GOALS

These will be used to focus the City Administrative priority goals in order to deliver efficient, effective, and improved customer services. Through the use of data and analytics, results will be measured and reported in order to make Cincinnati city government accountable and transparent.

SAFER STREETS

- Reduce violent crime
- Maintain and further strengthen community partnerships
- Continue to be a national leader in data-driven strategies and tactics
- Reduce property crime
- Revitalize youth engagement

GROWING ECONOMY

- Increase number of jobs in the city with competitive local workforce
- Provide competitive but responsible economic development incentives
- Pursue transformational public - private partnerships
- Strengthen economic inclusion
- Increase retail activity

THRIVING & HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

- Lower the poverty rate
- Achieve health equity for all
- Increase community engagement
- Create and maintain public spaces that foster social cohesion
- Enhance neighborhood revitalization, reduce blight & provide housing options for all

INNOVATIVE GOVERNMENT

- Increase customer satisfaction
- Promote accountability through performance management and transparency
- Increase operational efficiency through technology
- Seek out and fix processes that don't work
- Develop and retain 21st Century City workforce

FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY & STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

- Ensure budget is always structurally balanced
 - Implement outcome-based budgeting
 - Modernize infrastructure and fleet
 - Mitigate risk through sufficient financial reserves
 - Incorporate long-range financial planning initiatives, underway or planned, in the coming months.
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War on blight

The City of Cincinnati is planning changes in the way they will deal with blight. Among them: Increased fines for overgrown weeds and litter, more clean-up and better tracking of problem properties.

Mayor John Cranley commented on the problem: "We are blessed with great historic, middle-class neighborhoods where a vast majority of homeowners and residents work to beautify their communities, however, absentee landlords who don't keep their yards cut and clean of junk can hurt the property values of an entire street. That is unacceptable."

Specific initiatives include:

- Overgrown weeds higher than 6 inches tall can now spark a citation, down from 10 inches for properties where the owner has been unresponsive. These properties will be labeled "abandoned" for the purpose of the new legislation.
- Fines and fees for overgrown weeds and litter citations are increasing from \$350 for a first-time offender to between \$500 and \$2,500. The good news: When people are cited for the first time and take care of the problem within seven days, they can ask to have their fines reduced by half.
- The city's goal is to clean up 1,000 properties a year, up from 250.
- The city will empower community partners, such as community councils, to clean up litter and weeds on behalf of the city, something that is not currently allowed. The property owner will then be charged for the clean-up, which can run anywhere from \$450 to \$600 per lot.
- The city will use technology to more efficiently cite and track owners who do not maintain their property.

Additionally, the city will more aggressively pursue unpaid fines and fees with property liens and court judgments against chronic offenders. Enforcement has been moved from a Health Department responsibility to Public Works. City officials say the changes could bring in \$1.5 million annually.

source: <http://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2015/03/05/neighbors-empowered-clean->

New CUF trash collection schedule

Starting on April 5, 2015, trash collection day will be changing for CUF. After that date we will have our trash collected on Monday. Cans can be set out on Sunday night.

• Set-out Time

Garbage carts, yard waste containers, scheduled bulk items and recycling carts should be placed at the curb no later than 6 a.m. on collection day but no earlier than 6 p.m. the previous day. Please avoid placing the carts around any obstructions, mailboxes, low-hanging wires etc., and avoid parking in front of cart on collection day. Residents with cart exemptions are required to set out their garbage the day of collection by 6 a.m. Residents are responsible for potential mess caused by wildlife and vandalism when garbage is set out improperly, or when setting out garbage under the cart exemption clause.

• Garbage carts must be removed from the curb within 24 hours of collection.

• Bulk Item Collection

Up to 5 bulky items can to be scheduled for collection by phone only with Customer Service at 513-591-6000. No more than 5 bulk items can be collected per scheduled collection; if more than 5 items are set out, the property owner will be cited for illegal set-out. If bulk items are set out more than 24 hours prior to the scheduled collection time, the property owner will be cited as well for illegal set-out, regardless of the amount of items. If bulk item is a toilet, the tank must be separated from the bowl

Land Development Code

Planning and Buildings staff is currently working on a third draft of the Land Development Code. The City will be seeking further public feedback when the third draft is available later this year. The second draft is available for reference at: <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/planning/zoning/>.

Parking Survey:

Please complete the survey at the link below by March 13, 2015:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/parkzonecc>



**CLIFTON HEIGHTS
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
FAIRVIEW
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

2364 West McMicken Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

Funded by the City of Cincinnati



CUF membership



Any person subscribing to the purpose of the CUF Neighborhood Association, Inc. and paying dues set by the Association may become a member. Election of Trustees is held at the annual meeting in July. Eligible voters are residents of the community who are at least 18 years of age and who are fully paid members of the Association and who have attended three general meetings after payment of dues during the year prior to the annual meeting. Non-resident members have voice but no vote in Association meetings and may not hold elective office. Annual CUF dues are \$6.00.

- CUF general meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month, except August and December, 7:30 p.m, Deaconess Hospital Cafeteria, 311 Straight Street
- CUF Trustee meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m, Deaconess Hospital Cafeteria, 311 Straight Street
- CUF annual meeting and election: 3rd Tuesday in July, 7:30 pm, Deaconess Hospital Cafeteria, 311 Straight Street

CUF Neighborhood Association
2364 West McMicken Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Membership Type:

Voting Membership: CUF resident _____

Non-voting Membership: _____

CUF organization: _____

CUF business owner: _____

Non-resident: _____

Non-resident property owner: _____

Membership fee: \$6.00 per year.
Make checks payable to CUFNA.

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