

UPNA NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR and welcome to the "UPNA News". We hope our newsletter will help bring together those neighbors who can hear the occasional "roar" coming from the football stadium. It's one of many things that bind our unique "North of the UF" community. Here are a few others,

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- It's an honor to be heading our University Park Neighborhood Association into this new year. I took the reins from our excellent previous President, Bob Mounts. He led UPNA so capably for the last several years. UPNA was founded over 40 years ago, and we continue to work on improving our natural, built, social, and municipal environments. As you'll see in this inaugural issue and in subsequent newsletters, we've been working on cleaning our creeks and other natural areas, promoting the creation of new parks, improving traffic safety, (Continued on page three)



HALLOWEEN GOBLINS TAKE TO THE STREETS!

Florida Park had its second Halloween Parade last October 31st. Kids, their parents, and quite a few grandparents came out to enjoy the fun. Coconut Grove's King Mango came up to lead the procession and the Mango Marching Band provided unforgettable music. UPNA proudly co-sponsored the event.

CHRISTMAS MIRACLE Our city actually did something to slow traffic on the "West University Speedway" last month. A temporary electronic sign went up on University Avenue, at NW 23th Street, to tell speeders to slow down. There is also, occasionally, a police car lurking nearby to give out tickets. Let's hope it helps.

ARE YOUR DUES DUE? Our UPNA





OUR FALL PICNIC WAS A SUCCESS!

We traditionally have two social gatherings every year. These times for neighbor to connect were laid low by the pandemic. All of our meetings and have been virtual for the last 18 months. In September, when it seemed the virus was lying low, we got together again for our UPNA Fall Picnic.

It was great to have it in Parker Park with 136 happy people attending. We heard a few speeches, former mayor Mark Goldstein serenaded us with his accordion, and they was plenty of delicious food.

We thank the UPNA Social Committee for making it happen. It wasn't long after this that Omicron variant popped up to say, "No more picnics for a while".

We hope we can gather again in the Spring when the current wave of infection passes. We look forward to more celebrations with our neighbors!

neighborhood association operates on a fiscal-year basis, from October 1 through September 30th. If you have not paid your UPNA annual fee (\$20) since 10-1-21, please do it today. The easiest method is to pay online by going to our website, upnagnv.org.

You can also mail a check, made out to "University Park Neighborhood Association", P.O.Box 12103, Gainesville, FL 32604. (Note: I just reminded myself to send in my annual fee. - Glenn)

A SAFER UNIVERSITY AVENUE

When I was a UF freshman back in the Dark Ages, crossing University Avenue safely was a challenge. When I returned as a retiree three years ago it still was. The recent deaths of three pedestrians have citizens shouting, "Enough, Do something!". (Below, the new speed sign on University at NW 23d. When I took this photo last Sunday, it was not working).



(THE MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, ABE GOLDMAN, CONTINUED)

reducing parking and trash issues, and organizing events that bring our residents together. We also join with other groups to improve policy and governance throughout our city. We're very pleased to welcome the new families and others who have moved into our area and are adding further vitality and talent to our neighborhood and in several cases to our board. We all hope that 2022 will turn out to be a very good year, despite the many challenges we continue to face. And we thank Glenn Terry, and others, for writing this UPNA newsletter. -Abe Goldman, UPNA President

("A SAFER UNIVERSITY AVENUE" CONTINUED)

As a result, we're got some temporary speed bumps and a reduced speed limit. There are also have plans for a complete re-design of UPNA's southern border street. These were presented and discussed at last month's board meeting (a reminder: any UPNA members are welcome to attend our meetings now held virtually). One of the designs turned University into a curvy thoroughfare with roundabouts at each end. You see the same thing on the north end of Depot Park, Depot Ave. between Main St. and NE 3d St.

ARE THOSE 3 A.M. NINJA MOTORCYCLES KEEPING YOU AWAKE TOO?

We also discussed the city proposals to create noise ordinances that have actual teeth. It's always going to be a balancing act letting, for instance, the students in University Park have loud parties while seeing to the needs of the parents next door putting their children to bed. We do hear complaints just like this at our board meetings.

There are no easy answers. As the university grows its student numbers it pushes more of them into our neighborhood for home-owning residents to deal with. Join the conversation. UPNA is working on it. I find the deafening flatulence of Harley motorcycles and no-muffler pickups as distressing as everyone else. What should we do about noise pollution?

HOLIDAY CHEER- Somehow we were able to muddle through December's holidays without losing our Covid-enhanced minds. Duck Pond out did us again with their holiday lights and horse-drawn carriage tours. The revival of the Victorian House Holiday Tour came off without a hitch and the New Year's Eve fireworks in Depot Park were spectacular.

Everyone I know has gotten their vaccines -plus boosters- while watching the numbers rise for anti-vaxers being fitted for respirators. Watching "Don't Look Up" last night on Netflix didn't make me feel any better. Let's hope we can all work for the common good someday.

UP THE CREEKS- Our Creeks Committee reports that most of our protective signs have been torn down. We will be replacing them in the next month. Continue to be vigilant about people threatening to do harm to our beautiful waterways.

UP THE PARKS- In the last three months members of our parks committee have met with Mayor Poe and all of the city commissioners. We are requesting that the city create new parks in our UPNA community. Florida Park, for instance, has no parks and University Park has just one that's only open on weekends.

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