

WEEK 20 - DAY 4

Here are the great Letters to the *UA News* I mentioned yesterday ...



"City is only 'fixing' things that aren't broken"



City managers' assertions were totally misleading

WEEK 20 - DAY 3

Oh NO!!! We got a complaint today from a loyal customer ... apparently we haven't been updating news enough recently. And you know what? They're right. And we apologize. Since getting on the ballot, we've been using our 24 daily hours moving forward in other ways because, really, nothing new has surfaced.

The City still can't explain why its initial promises have not been kept. There are still 3 Solid Waste Division staff actively collecting trash and/or recyclables throughout the city, even though the city turned this over to the contractor nearly 5 months ago. Garbage cans and lids are still littering major streets after the trash/recycle trucks come through.

New news is off-topic.

Did anyone notice the "Demolition Signs" in front of the two properties on Tremont Road? I guess the owner/developer has decided that it's going to bulldoze those two houses regardless of how the referendum turns out in November, leaving two vacant lots. After all, they're zoned "R1," which means that not just single family housing, but daycare centers, "institutions," and other assorted buildings can be constructed. Have YOU checked YOUR zoning lately? The folks on Brandon/Chester learned the hard way that they're now stuck with what was snuck through in 2002 with the Master Plan/UDO.

To check your zoning, go to the uaoh.net website, click on "GIS", and then on the "Zoning Map." See how YOUR property is zoned. You don't want to be surprised at the last minute.

Week 20 - Day 1

Come to the **Solid Waste Initiative Kickoff Meeting!**
Thursday, August 28 at 7 PM, Thompson Park Shelter House.

We'll outline next steps, tell you how you can get bumper stickers and yards signs, and talk about other ways you can be a vital part of this effort.

Bring your family/friends, and lawnchairs for yourselves.
Any questions, contact Mike Schadek. Phone: 554-5607 or email: uatrash@aol.com.
See you then!

We're leaving this up because it clearly compares the two services.



After studying it, YOU decide which one you want for the next 5 years.

COLUMBUS

Local News

Letters

Letter: City is only 'fixing' things that aren't broken

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Published: Thursday, August 21, 2008 9:12 AM EDT

To the Editor:

In reply to the guest column written by UA City Manager Virginia Barney, entitled "Council had residents in mind when trash service changed" (Upper Arlington News, Aug. 6), please allow me to say this.

Ms. Barney and the UA City Council have completely missed the boat. The "boat" is that the people of this city do not want her and City Council to continue to try to fix stuff that ain't broke. We had the best trash service available until council tried to "fix" it by replacing it with complete and absolute mediocrity. Then, we never knew we needed more medical office space until council tried to shove it down our throats in the form of spot rezoning on Tremont Road. We never knew we needed a high-rise condo project until, fortunately, City Council paved the way, leaving a monstrosity of a building to overlook the beautiful and dilapidating Kingsdale Shopping Center.

It is no wonder Kingsdale is a mess. It is no wonder there is referendum after referendum. The city must stop trying to fix stuff that isn't broken and get to work on the things that need fixing. They must stop telling us that council has the "residents in mind." They had better have us in mind.

And Ms. Barney must stop trying to invalidate those who oppose her on the trash issue, for instance, by telling us, for example, that some might have had some remote union affiliation at some point in time. Gadzooks, union affiliation! She insults our intelligence, and it is getting very old.

Robert Byard

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Letters

Letter: City manager's assertions were misleading

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Published: Thursday, August 21, 2008 9:12 AM EDT

To the Editor:

Virginia Barney should be ashamed of herself. Her guest column (Upper Arlington News, Aug. 6) mischaracterized the resident trash petition drive and omitted critical facts in an attempt to justify the failed contract with Inland Services.

Ms. Barney knows the vast majority of petition circulators (more than 70 percent) were residents, and many of the non-residents were former solid waste employees that reside outside Upper Arlington. How is this relevant, and who cares where the circulators live? Over 2,000 UA residents signed the petition and want the right to vote. The fact that former solid waste employees took the time to circulate petitions demonstrates their dedication to restoring the trash service to residents. They should be applauded by our city manager.

Ms. Barney's assertion that this petition effort is moot is completely false. City Council can, should and must follow the will of the residents. If a majority of UA residents want to return to our previous trash system and restore the service and safety, City Council can void the contract with Inland. Inland has already offered a no-fault release to the city of Upper Arlington. Ms. Barney ignored this offer once, despite her knowledge of our petition drive. She clearly thinks she knows what is best for residents and doesn't want them to have the right to vote for themselves.

Ms. Barney also fails to address the fact that a "yes" vote to restore the previous trash service will also end the \$30 annual trash fee that council instituted in "emergency" session. Residents have the ability to stop this \$30 fee with their "yes" vote in November. Ms. Barney knows this has nothing to do with the Inland contract and yet won't discuss this important issue.

Finally, Ms. Barney doesn't address the safety issue of the current system. We were promised background checks would be completed on all Inland employees. We now know Inland is hiring temporary workers and no background checks are being completed on these workers. Indeed, we currently have a convicted felon working for Inland. So much for safety.

I'm happy to report the trash initiative will appear on the Nov. 4 ballot thanks to the dedication of countless UA residents. The Franklin County Board of Elections has certified enough valid signatures have been obtained and the initiative has made the fall ballot. In the meantime, let's hope our city manager begins to offer a fair and accurate account of the facts of this important issue. I urge all residents to visit uatrash.org for a detailed analysis of the issue before they vote in November.

Michael Schadek

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