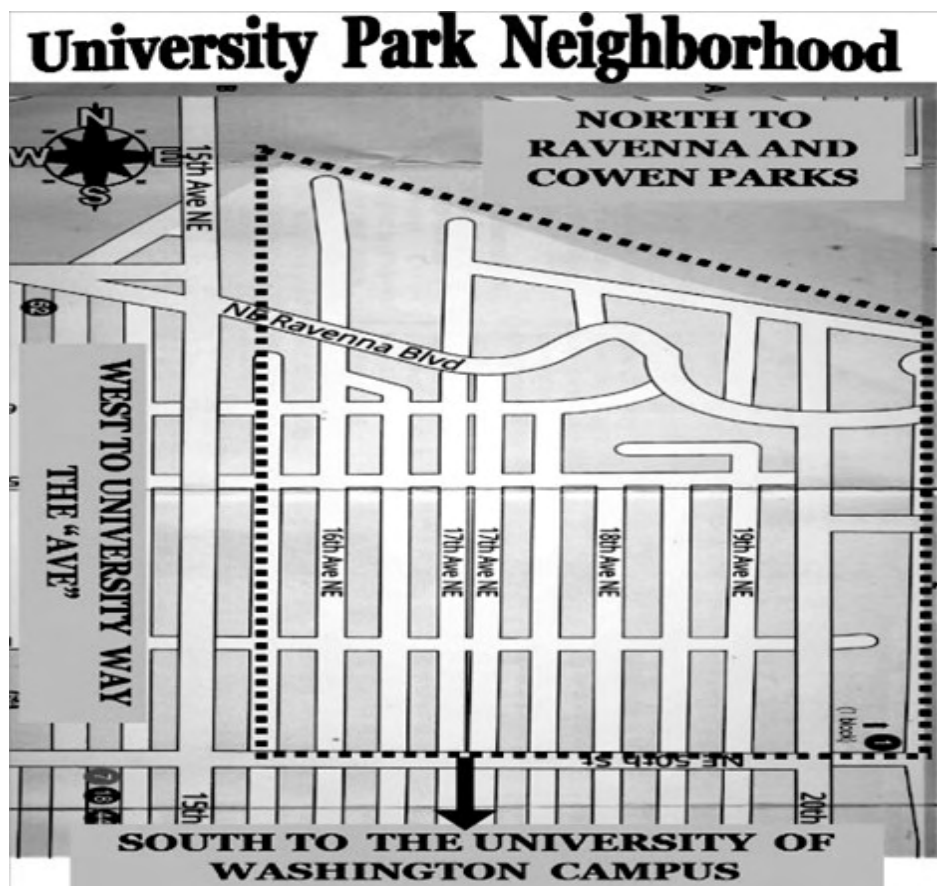


# **UPCC NEWSLETTER**

## **AUTUMN 2021 EDITION**



### **UPCC BOARD MEMBERS 2021-2022**

**Dave Rodgers**  
**Ray Kraft - Treasurer and Website Manager**  
**Aileen Langhans - Secretary and Editor**  
**Barbara Quinn**  
**Kent Wills**  
**Mary Louis**

# Welcome Back!

## STAY TUNED FOR MORE EXCITING UPDATES!

We have great hopes for 2022, including renewing our Annual Membership Meeting and our ever-popular Neighborhood Picnic. Last year, we wanted to start a new tradition, by holding them together in Ravenna Park, so that more families can attend both.

If you have any great ideas, just let us know at [upark.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:upark.secretary@gmail.com)

Meanwhile, don't forget to check out our website: [www.upcc.org](http://www.upcc.org)

**Our University Park Map has returned  
Can you find your house on our star map?  
Join us at one of our events and find out!**



# UPCC Membership Updates

**Yes, your UPCC board is quite active!!!**



In spite of the Covid19 shutdowns, your board has remained alert to activities in and around our neighborhood and city-wide proposals that directly effect us. Often, that can be challenging, as many announcements are difficult to uncover, hidden within such documents as the “Land Use Information Bulletins”, which are distributed by email twice a week and which we scrutinize each time.

Here are a few of the specific issues we are presently confronting:

- ♦ **An amendment to eliminate the ‘single-family neighborhood’ designation:** The City has declared this to be a merely administrative change, justifying the creation of a new designation in order to more accurately reflect the housing presently found in those neighborhoods. But, upon digging and questioning, the City revealed that this is just the first step toward vast, aggressive changes to impose increased densities in these communities city-wide, with no regards to potentially negative impacts facing individual, unique neighborhoods.
- ♦ **An amendment, requested by a single-lot developer, to expand the Urban Center along the west side of the 5600 block on 15th Ave NE:** While this is not considered to be an ‘up-zone’, it will allow the owner/developer to increase the height of any future project by one floor. Again, they failed to reveal this information, until we made a formal inquiry. But, that also revealed that the property owner is not even satisfied with this advantage; he is already working with the City to request a ‘contract rezone’, an effort that has already been tempted by other developers along 15th Ave NE, and which we have been successful in thwarting through active engagement.
- ♦ **The Sound Transit Surplus Property at 1000 NE 45th Street:** This vacant lot is presently to be used for a Tiny House Village as transitional housing to address homelessness. Eventually the property will be used for a major development, as revealed in a recent survey outreach to the U District. Unfortunately, the survey also revealed Sound Transit’s efforts to potentially allow a the construction of a for-profit high-rise with office space, retail, and market-rate apartments, all in violation of state law requiring that their surplus land should be used for affordable, low-income housing. We are monitoring the situation, although the formal comment period has not been released.
- ♦ **Within our neighborhood boundaries:** The vacant lot at 55xx 16th Ave NE has a new owner, who has submitted plans for a single-family house, with a backyard detached accessory dwelling unit (DDAU). We have sent a letter to that owner to discuss the potential design, as he is not required to send out notices to neighbors or to go through a design review. Thus far, we have not heard back.

Our intention is always to represent the voices of the entire membership in all our endeavors. But, that is why we need to keep open a line of communication. So, if you are interest in any of these broader issues, please contact us at [upark.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:upark.secretary@gmail.com) or consider joining the board.



**The UPCC board needs your eyes and ears!**

**Just like the City’s ‘find it and fix it’ program,  
you are our ‘app’  
to what’s happening in our neighborhood:  
Hear something? See something? Give us an alert!**

If you see some activity of concern, if you receive a letter from a City Department or developer, if you hear about any issue that might affect our neighborhood, even if it only involves one block, please contact a board member right away. The sooner we are alerted, the more effective will be our efforts.



## UPCC board seeks more volunteers

Do you care about our neighborhood, but are concerned you cannot meet the challenges of being a board member?

Think again!

Read what current board members have to say about their experiences:



- ♦ **Aileen Langhans, secretary:** *"Suddenly, I was on the board, with little knowledge of city government. I have learned so much since then, just by listening, reading, and investigating. My experiences have been mutually enriching and I cannot believe how much more I now enjoy being part of our larger community. (PS. And it's never 'boring' to be on the board!)"*
- ♦ **Ray Kraft, treasurer:** *"Serving on the UPCC board helps give me a stronger connection to our community, a greater awareness of the issues that effect it, and the tools to help keep it a fabulous place to live and raise families."*
- ♦ **Kent Wills:** *"As a 20+ year UPCC board member, I have directly or indirectly been able to work with other board members, to accomplish a number of city-wide and U of W initiatives, which have resulted in a significant improvement in the quality of life of our neighborhood. Your eyes, ears, and initiative are critical to help us identify and work to resolve a wide variety of new and on-going community issues."*

University Park neighborhood's diversity goes far beyond our rich architecture and history. You, our neighbors, are what make our community so special. Given so many outside pressures, we need your talents, your love of community, and your unique skills to create a unified force to fight our battles, but also to nurture a wonderful place that is inviting to all families.

So, come join us!

Just contact us at [upark.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:upark.secretary@gmail.com)

## Our Night out Against Crime Block Party

Thanks to the Seattle Police Department, the City of Seattle's neighborhoods were permitted to participate in the National Night-Out-Against-Crime event. University Park Neighborhood held its traditional block party on 18th Ave NE and NE 55th Street. A grand time was had by all.

Special thank you to Mary Louis, board member and hostess!

Here are some photos!



## NPAC (North Precinct Advisory Council)\* Summary Report (September 1, 2021)

**BLEA (Basic Law Enforcement Academy):** Washington State's 4-month long training academy for all city and county entry-level peace officers. It teaches the basics, including the following:

- i. De-escalation: it is important to slow down the situation, so officers have time to make good decisions and to allow the citizens to comply via talking instead of force. Concept of "distance and shielding" helps buy time for good decision making.
- ii. Training in many types of situations, requiring different tactics.
- iii. Management of time and equipment; communication to fellow officers and to the public.
- iv. Training updates to comply with the police reform and accountability laws recently passed in the state. For instance, 'reasonable suspicion' is very broad; while 'probable cause' is very narrowly defined. Officers must comply with the laws as they try to protect the community in each contact.

Note: the public is invited to come to the training center to see the training.

\*NPAC: *"The goal of the councils was to have groups of citizens, who were geographically based, become more knowledgeable about law enforcement in their communities and more invested in partnering with the Department on public safety issues."*

## Architecture 101 PRAIRIE AND FOURSQUARE

**PERIOD OF POPULARITY:** Roughly 1900 – 1920

**BACKGROUND AND INSPIRATION:** This is one of the few indigenous American styles, developed by a creative group of Chicago architects known collectively as the Prairie School. Frank Lloyd Wright is essentially the "father" of the Prairie style, and the acknowledged master of the prairie house. Considered one of America's most influential architects, Wright proclaimed that "Democracy needed something better than the box".

Wright's prairie style focused specifically on midwestern regionalism, with its horizontal, open floor plans representing the expansive prairie region. Though avoiding historical stylistic trends of the competing revival styles, the prairie style made subtle use of Japanese architecture, specifically its use of horizontal space, flowing interior spaces; low-pitched, hipped roofs with broad eaves, and long bands of windows that apparently invoke the idea of Japanese screens (small, patterned pane glass). Though short-lived in the U.S., this is the first American style to be taken seriously in Europe (Source: McAlester & McAlester).

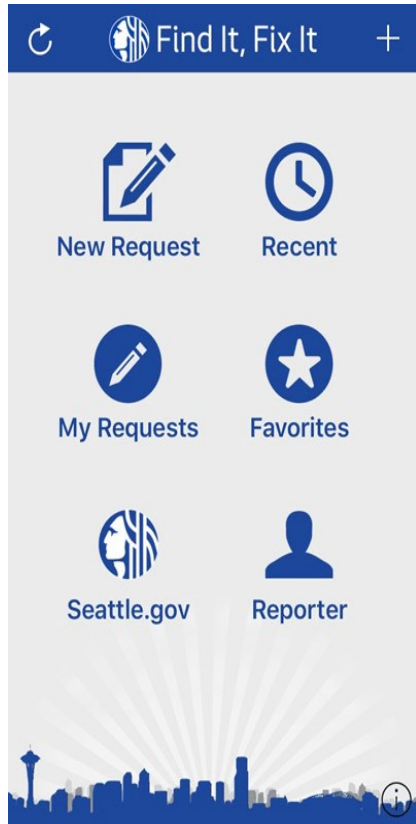
A vernacular variant, and much more common, is the so-called **American Foursquare**, or "Prairie Box". These are simplified Prairie houses (though occasionally with elaborate facades and porches), named "Foursquare" due to their characteristic boxy shape and four rooms per floor. They are typically two-and-a-half stories with a large, central dormer. They often include a full-width front porch and four-room over four-room floor plan. Many foursquare homes include various craftsman features including heavy piers and square columns, 4-over-1 or equivalent craftsman windows, wooden shingles, and exposed rafter tails.

Prairie-style home plans came of age around the turn of the twentieth century. Often associated with one of the giants in design, Frank Lloyd Wright, prairie-style houses were designed to blend in with the flat prairie landscape. The typical prairie-style house plan has sweeping horizontal lines and wide open floor plans. Other common features of this style include overhanging eaves, rows of small windows, one-story projections and in many cases a central chimney. Our prairie-style home plan collection represents work from a number of designers. You'll find designs featuring many different exteriors and shapes. All of them will share some similarities of the original prairie-style home designs from the early and mid-twentieth century with upgrades we've all come to enjoy today.



## How to keep our neighborhood safe: The Find it-Fix it App

(visit Find It, Fix It - Service Request Mobile App - Customer Service Bureau | [seattle.gov](http://seattle.gov))



### The app includes the following service request categories:

- Abandoned Vehicle: Report vehicles parked in a public right of way more than three days.
- Clogged Storm Drain: Report a clogged storm drain.
- Graffiti Report: Report graffiti, including what it is on — parking meter, utility pole or building — so it gets automatically routed to the appropriate department for response.
- Illegal Dumping: Report illegal dumping — junk, garbage or debris — on public property, including roadsides, open streets and paved alleys.
- Overgrown Vegetation: Report overgrown vegetation in public right of way areas or on City property.
- Parking Enforcement: Make an inquiry regarding a parking issue.
- Pothole: Report a pothole.
- Public Litter & Recycling Cans: Report overflows or damage to public litter cans on sidewalks.
- Scooter or Bike Share Issue: Report a parking or maintenance issue with a shared scooter or bike.
- Sign and Signal Maintenance: Report damaged street signs and malfunctioning traffic signals.
- Streetlight Report: Report a streetlight outage or damaged streetlight.
- Other inquiries: Open to other concerns, such as unsafe sidewalks.

## Getting out and about in our neighborhood!



How much do you know about our University Park Neighborhood? We have incorporated some interesting facts into a Welcome to University Park Guide.

Here is a peek at some of its contents:

- \* A handy reference of important phone numbers and other contact information
- \* A brief history of our neighborhood.
- \* Our rich architectural heritage

While some of the information is out-of-date and the Board is working on an update, if you would like a copy for yourself or new neighbors, simply contact us at: [upark.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:upark.secretary@gmail.com)

**Also, contact us to share your ideas for this guide, as we want it to be a practical guide for our all of our residents. Thank you!**



# The U District News

## Grand Opening of the Light Rail Station On Brooklyn Ave NE

### U District Station Opening Festival and \$3 Food Walk

- ♦ Make your way to the U District as we celebrate the opening of the new Light Rail Station with a day of festivities, live music, beer garden, and \$3 Food Walk!
- ♦ Presented by The Graduate Hotel
- ♦ Save the Date: Saturday, October 2, 2021, 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM

### \$3 Food Walk:

Come hungry and win prizes! Nearly 50 U District restaurants are participating in a \$3 Food Walk, each offering two signature bites. Get your Food Walk passport stamped by five restaurants and drop off your entry for your chance to win roundtrip airfare and a stay at a Graduate Hotel. (List of restaurants at this website: <https://udistrictpartnership.org>)



## Shops in our District

- ♦ **The Seven Coffee Roasters Market and Cafe:** (from an article: “Bring back corner stores to create a connected, equitable city, June 25, 2021, by Sam Kraft, The Seattle Times) (2007 NE Ravenna Blvd, Seattle, WA 98105)

“... this small one-story gabled market, originally a garage [was] then converted into a grocery in the 1920s....”

There are a small handful of stores and cafes like Boulevard Grocery (now called Seven Coffee Roasters Market & Cafe) speckled throughout the city’s residential neighborhoods. They have all been in continued operation since at least 1922, weathering the depression, WWII and the Vietnam War, the oil embargo, the Great Recession and now online commerce. Why have they been able to maintain business for 100 years? Because they are beloved local places that connect us — to Seattle’s past; to each other; to the food, drink, art, culture and life of a specific neighborhood. They create more activity on the sidewalk, reducing crime and cars and increasing walking, biking, skipping, scootering and maybe even laughing. (There’s no data yet on that last one.) They create more equity by opening up small business opportunities that tailor their offerings to the neighborhood, generating jobs and keeping economic multipliers in the community.”



Note from the editor: When we were young, we called it the “Little Store”.

- ♦ **Scarecrow Videos:** (from “How Seattle’s Scarecrow Video plans to share its vast library nationwide”, a Seattle Times article August 10, 2021, By Moira Macdonald) (5030 Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA, 98105)

This valuable and treasured business, was founded in 1986 and has been located in the U District since 1993. After surviving the Pandemic shutdowns, it is making a bold leap to “take physical media, which people associate with 20th-century technology, and find a place for it going forward in the 21st century”. They have launched “Scarecrow 2.1: The Future of Physical Media”, to raise \$250,000 for an upgrade of its digital infrastructure and an overhaul its website. They will also continue to expand their free community offerings.



For more information, visit their website: <https://www.scarecrow.com/>

## *From the of Blog of Council Member Alex Pedersen, District 4*



*"I am thankful for the recent Seattle Times' article on Seattle's Mandatory Housing Affordability (MHA) program because the reporter objectively assessed the data and interviewed a broad range of stakeholders, not just supporters of the "grand bargain." Based on the 2020 figures from the City, the MHA program appears to be a grand bargain mainly for developers who get the ability to build more while skirting the full cost of providing the affordable housing originally promised. The first iteration of MHA has been a disappointment with the vast majority of developers choosing to write a check to avoid building any affordable housing on site in the neighborhoods that need them.*

*The failure of MHA to result in inclusionary low-income housing is not the fault of developers whose profit motive will maximize whatever opportunities are allowed. The shortcoming is on City government policymakers, especially if improvements to the MHA program are avoided by City Hall.*

*One of the easiest ways to improve the MHA program is by increasing the fees so that developers are incentivized to produce more low-income housing on site, serving households earning no more than 60% of the area median income. Rather than an indirect tinkering with land use code definitions and acquiescing to for-profit developer requests for additional blanket upzone giveaways, let's do what's actually needed: increase the fees so that growth pays for growth and we produce more low-income housing faster.*

*It's also important to consider measures to prevent (or at least mitigate) the demolition of existing affordable housing. Too often the city government approves large-scale changes without first putting in place protection measures to prevent displacement of existing residents and small businesses."*



### **New Murals on the Ave**

**Councilmember Pedersen joined volunteers earlier this month to paint festive murals on buildings along The Ave in the heart of our University District. Thank you, University District Partnership, for brightening the neighborhood.**



# Trees - Marvelous Gift of Nature and Generous Gift of the City

## Seattle's Tree Program Is Free!

It's never too soon to start dreaming of your spring yard projects. If you have ever thought about planting trees, it is advisable for you to work with the City in species selection, in location, and in various long-term maintenance requirements. Each year the City's "Trees for Neighborhoods" has a formal application period. Go to their website @Trees For Neighborhoods - Trees | seattle.gov. There you will discover a wealth of valuable information, including a webinar on planting and care.

**(The Plant a Tree program is closed for 2021; stay tuned for the 2022 announcements).**

When you participate in Trees for Neighborhoods, you receive:

- Help selecting the right tree and planting location
- Free trees (up to 4 per household, lifetime max of 6)
- A watering bag & mulch for each tree
- Training on proper planting and care
- Assistance applying for street tree planting permits
- Ongoing care reminders and future pruning workshop opportunities
- Planting assistance (on a limited basis due to COVID-19 concerns).
- Street tree evaluations for the first couple of years to let you know how your trees are doing.



## THE OFFICIAL UPCC WEBSITE:

[www.upcc.org](http://www.upcc.org)

Please visit this site to learn more about our organization and the various issues we are currently addressing, as well as upcoming events.

The website also contains the following information:

- ♦ Our bylaws and membership information
- ♦ Our recent newsletters and flyers
- ♦ **"WELCOME TO UNIVERSITY PARK - Where things are and how stuff works." (PDF Version)** This is an introductory booklet to our unique neighborhood. Be sure to share this valuable resource with your neighbors, especially those new to University Park.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Aileen M. Langhans, UPCC board secretary:  
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For public safety issues and nuisance property concerns:  
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