

Urbana snow law will clear sidewalks

The Urbana City Council recently passed an ordinance requiring property owners to clear snow from sidewalks in the downtown and Philo Road business districts and in the university district. This was done for pedestrian and driver safety. Snow plow drivers will assist in this effort by reducing the amount of snow piled onto sidewalks in some areas and by removing snow from ramps at key intersections. We hope that residents will continue to clear sidewalks in their neighborhood so that people can navigate safely to school, work and local businesses. One good example of

Urbana share the cost of a snow blower and take turns clearing the walks. I appreciate the efforts of all residents who shovel walks for neighbors who are unable to do it themselves. Working together, we can be on the move all winter long.

DIANE WOLFE MARLIN
City council member
Urbana

Majority Dems blame GOP for their failure

I read state Sen. Mike Frerichs' commentary about the recent failure to override Gov. Quinn's veto of a spending bill.

It seems ironic to me that Frerichs, a Democrat, would blame Republican legislators for failing to muster up enough votes to support the Democrats, who hold a majority in both houses, when those Dem-

other things, but the failure of this bill is not one of them.

I suggest responsibility for the Democrats' failure to originally propose legislation that they could get sufficient Republicans to sign on to, to make it veto proof, lies directly at their doorstep.

MARK T. PETTY
Arcola

Fuzzy thinking begets more fuzzy thinking

Is anyone surprised that the woman, State's Attorney Julia Rietz, who thought that killing a graduate student (driving while downloading a ringtone) called for slap on the wrist now finds that pepper-spraying a jaywalker is no big deal?

J.L. DILVILBISS
Champaign

... and Wednesdays

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Yes, give us pause and cause to mourn or celebrate, give us on-air time or front page opportunity to red-carpet our accomplishments or our misfortunes and we are world-beaters. Reference here our Fourth of July or Labor Day parades, our Gabby Giffords moments of sadness and solace, our presidential inaugurations, even our honoring of foreign dignitaries like the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, William and Kate. We sing, dance, salute, offer touching poetry, affirm our solidarity, and parade our way through the event like there is no tomorrow.

But give us tomorrow, an ordinary Wednesday, and we can get nasty in a heartbeat. All of that pride and pomp and circumstance and credit seems to quickly flee as we work with the next moment of family, neighborly, city, country or international discord. We react and our reactions are quick to find blame, temper pride, fix fault, and slam each other and the situation onto a mat of mess.

Understand these points: Let us continue to celebrate and mourn those major events that need to be celebrated and mourned. We do it well. That's OK. Let us not celebrate nor mourn our normal Wednesdays with parades and songs and tributes to our greatness. It's unnecessary.

Some days we just survive. That's life.

Finally, let us translate the same values of honor and dignity and pride, passion, persistence and resilience to our normal Wednesdays that we seem to reserve for our pomp and circumstance days. There is not a limit to our use of these values. Let's translate them to our everyday experiences at our city council meetings, board meetings, neighborhood naggings; yes, even our national debates to determine who will run against whom in this great country of ours.

We are better than we show. We are better than cat-fighting over economics and war and peace and unemployment. These are big issues. Let's treat them in big-issue ways — on Wednesdays and Thursdays and debate days with an openness for varied positions and a respect for our differences in finding some common ground on which we can land and lead. This is the stuff that makes our country great.

Then, when we get through both crises and Wednesdays with dignity and determination, we will know we are the United States (and state) America.

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