

Email from Jane:

I'm so sorry that I won't be able to attend this session; I will be out of town that weekend. But here is info about our alley plowing:

For many years, our neighbor on the alley plowed the alley. The cost was \$20 per house and we had an envelope that passed from neighbor to neighbor all the way around the block until it got back to his house. Another neighbor had initiated the envelope passing. One year, it took all winter to get around the block because one neighbor forgot he had it so it didn't get passed. But we figured it out. Unfortunately, the neighbor who was doing the plowing had some health issues in 2016 and could no longer do the plowing.

So another neighbor's brother who lives fairly close said he could do the plowing and has been ever since. But the money collection has changed. Since I'm retired, I thought I could easily do the money collection. Every fall, I make a notice (half sheet of paper) that I put in a plastic ziploc bag and tape it to the front door of the participating neighbors (that is, all the neighbors whose driveway empties into the alley.) Pre-pandemic, people could put their check or money on my front porch (which I could check many times a day so there were no problems with losing any money) but because of the pandemic, I now put a self-addressed stamped envelope into the bag with the notice so people can just send me their check. Those without checking accounts have to make arrangements with me to get cash to me. (One neighbor asked if we could use Venmo... and I will have to leave that to a younger plow-coordinator!) I gather all the money, give it to the neighbor who then gives the money to her brother.

I have attached a copy of what I send, with the specific identifying info left out, just so you can see what we do.

Every year, I have to followup in person with a couple of houses. Always the same houses -- people with kids and busy lives, so I don't mind doing it.

We have been happy with the plowing.

Hope that is enough information to help someone and I look forward to see what others do that might help us!

Jane