



Newsletter

NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

REPRESENTING CLIFTON HEIGHTS • UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS • FAIRVIEW

October, 2009

Next monthly meeting:

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2009, 7:30 p.m.
Deaconess Hospital Cafeteria,
Lower Level
Straight Street

From the President's desk



In 1516, Sir Thomas More wrote *Of the Best State of a Republic, and of the New Island Utopia*. The book described a fictional island with an ideal society, where poverty and war did not exist, where tolerance was the rule and there was little need for laws. In great detail, More described this unique and wonderful society. This was based on Plato's *Republic* written in 380 BC. This was clearly not a new idea, but an echo of the past, and man's hope and ability to dream about perfect societies.

So what is the perfect society? I see our community as a potential bridge toward this utopia. Our neighborhood is made of all the different types of people in this society. Different ages, different races, different genders, different economic backgrounds. Again we are celebrated this November as one of the most integrated neighborhoods in the city by the Cincinnati Human Relations Committee. Where teachers and lawyers live side by side with students and those with physical and emotional disabilities; where the rich can live on the same block with the working poor. Where we do not always agree, but we work together for the future. This is my version of Utopia. Definitely not perfect, but always a work in progress.

What is little spoken of, is that the word Utopia actually carries a double meaning. *Topos* is the Greek word for place, but the prefix "U" can be taken from the prefix "Eu" meaning true or good, or "Ou" meaning "not." Blatant pessimism or sarcasm? Who knows? But I encourage everyone to work toward his or her own version of utopia. It is in the labor toward making society better that we can find mean-

ing in our day-to-day lives.

Please join your neighbors in working toward making CUF better, whether it is by volunteering to clean up a park, working with artists to bring beauty to the community, or merely participating in friendly conversation with your neighbors.

'See everyone at the October 20th meeting. Don't forget to come early to hear ideas from Karin Manovich of South Park in Dayton and how they worked toward building a better community.

Rob Neel

Minutes of the CUF general meeting, September 15, 2009

- Police Report
 - The police, the landlords and UC are meeting with students to curtail parties in the neighborhood.
 - Officer Johnson explained right of entry forms.
 - On September 6, the UC shift overlap was changed to provide extra coverage between 8:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m.
 - Explanation of who handles which violations was discussed.

- Patrick Ward, of Deaconess, reported that the hospital will be maintained. An eldercare transportation service is the first part of a comprehensive plan to make Deaconess an adult hospital with the focus on the elderly.
- Steve Briggs, Senior City Planner, discussed the next city plan and requested citizen participation. More information can be found @ www.plancincinnati.org.
- Board members were identified by wearing nametags.
- The Board's vote on the Adriatico's variances was discussed.
- Craig Lloyd and Matt Bourgeois are continuing their revitalization efforts.
- Old St. George repairs are to be scheduled soon.
- The CUF council's stance on Issue 9 was

explained — recommendation is to Vote NO on Issue 9.

- Sandra Wilson of Citizens on Patrol urged people to be proactive on dealing with parties, noise, and trash.
- The community mural is to be unveiled on October 3; lighting of the mural will be next.
- Colman Kane requested that any new information about upcoming meetings be included on the CUF Web site. Information should be sent to Rob Neel.
- The mayor's Young Professionals Kitchen Cabinet Neighborhood video contest was announced.
- The Re-Leaf campaign is underway.
- Nate Wessels was chosen as a representative for the bike planning.
- Another potentially illegal parking lot at 2355 and 2359 Ohio Avenue was discussed.

CUF Financial Report, October, 2009

Balance on September 1: \$4,125.54

Income:

Dues 99.00
Total income: 99.00

Expenses:

Fed Ex Aug. newsletter \$134.19
U.S. Post Office 1000.00
reimburse P. Gallagher 111.96
Total expenses: 1,246.15

Balance on: October 1 \$2,978.39

Cincinnati to host Comprehensive Plan community input meetings

Have a vision for Cincinnati's future development? If so, the Department of City Planning and Buildings invites you to attend one of four community meetings held in late September and throughout October to provide input for the City's first Comprehensive Plan in 30 years.

What is a Comprehensive Plan? A Comprehensive Plan is a plan that will guide the City's neighborhood and business growth for the next 10 to 20 years. The plan contains specific recommendations that enable the City to better understand current development and plan for future improvements. As a vision for the City's future, the Plan recommends policies, prioritizes key projects, and determines implementation partners on a City-wide basis.

Attend a community meeting at one of the following locations:

September 30, 2009, 6 p.m. – Corryville Recreation Center

October 5, 2009, 6 p.m. – Price Hill Recreation Center

October 15, 2009, 6 p.m. – College Hill Recreation Center

October 22, 2009, 6 p.m. – Madisonville Recreation Center

For more information, visit the Plan Cincinnati website at www.plancincinnati.org or call 513-352-4845.

Muralworks mural dedication in Clifton Heights

On October 3rd, members of the CUF neighborhood joined members of the Artworks community to dedicate the Clifton Heights mural. A great crowd came to join the artist, Jenny Ustick, and her team of junior artists and artist apprentices to dedicate the mural. Details of the mural, included the architectural highlights of Hughes, McMicken, and old St George, framed by row houses and our beloved sidewalk trees that pay homage to Paul Gallagher and the Tree Board. The teamwork of multiple partners, led by Debby Herman, has brought the neighborhood a lasting monument to art and our history.

The group was treated to a guest visit and inspirational words from the Mayor, Mark Mallory. Monica Rimai, interim president of UC, also addressed the group, again reinforcing the importance of the relationship between the University of Cincinnati and the CUF Neighborhood. Thanks to Colleen Houston and Allyson Knue from Artworks for working with our neighborhood and encouraging the future of art for Cincinnati.



Community clean up

On October 3rd, over 207 students from UC volunteered their Saturday to go out into the Community on a variety of projects, including 3 in our own community. Students joined Jason Pastoor and Cathy Rafales and Paul Gallagher and Truman Toland to do plantings and clean up at Bellevue Park. Another group joined Rob Neel, Maureen France, Linda Ziegler, Daniel Lewis, Tom Merriman, Brandon Lecrone, Jeff Caywood, Dave Leonard, and Tom Walter to work on the entrance of Fairview Park, which was in desperate need of a facelift (see below).



Beth Nagy led the third team to the Business District to clean up trash and to clean up the parking lot at McMillan and Wheeler for the Muralworks dedication later there that day. Thanks to UC's Center for Community Engagement and the neighbors who gave up their Saturdays for the community!

Streetcar open house Oct. 27 at Corryville Recreation Center, 6 - 8 PM

No presentation. Just open house style. But the public will be asked "to provide comments on the system and particularly the 'connector route' to Uptown. This is the path the streetcar will take from its downtown route to Uptown, which includes the area around the University of Cincinnati, the hospitals and the zoo. These are the city's two largest employment centers with about 130,000 workers every day. The proposed system does not currently include a route that circulates through the streets in Uptown."

Pending home sales on a record roll

Contract activity for pending home sales has risen for six straight months, a pattern not seen in the history of the index since it began in 2001, according to the National Association of Realtors®.

Lawrence Yun, National Association of Realtors chief economist, said the housing market momentum has clearly turned for the better. "The recovery is broad-based across many parts of the country. Housing affordability has been at record highs this year with the added stimulus of a first-time buyer tax credit," he said.

"Other buyers are taking advantage of low home values before prices turn higher. Nationally, the typical mortgage payment now takes less than 25 percent of a middle-income family's monthly income to buy a median priced home, with payment percentages so far in 2009 being the lowest on record dating back to 1970. As long as home buyers stay within their budget, mortgage payments will be very manageable," Yun said.

NAR estimates that about 1.8 to 2.0 million first-time buyers will take advantage of the \$8,000 tax credit this year, with approximately 350,000 additional sales that would not have taken place without the credit. Buyers have little time to act because they must complete the transaction by November 30 to qualify for the credit. Unless extended, contracts signed but not completed by that date will not be eligible – it is taking approximately two months to complete home sales in the current market.

Yun expects existing-home sales to rise through the fourth quarter. "Unless the tax credit is extended, no one should be surprised to see home sales drop in the first quarter of next year," he said. "However, the fundamentals of the housing market and the economy are trending up, and we expect home sales to generally pick up in the second quarter of 2010. The buyer psychology may be shifting from, 'Why buy now when I can purchase later,' to 'I don't want to miss out on a recovery'."

The National Association of Realtors®, "The Voice for Real Estate," is America's largest trade association, representing 1.2 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.



CLIFTON HEIGHTS
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
FAIRVIEW
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

2364 West McMicken Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

Non-Profit Organization
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President of Historic South Park to speak at the October 20 CUF meeting

Karen Manovich of Dayton Ohio's Historic South Park will be our guest at the next CUF meeting on October 20. Historic South Park is a 700-structure historic district just southeast of downtown Dayton.

In 2008 it was recognized by Neighborhoods, USA (www.nusa.org) as the first-prize winner for Neighborhood of the Year in the Physical Revitalization category. The annual award recognizes projects that are initiated by one neighborhood organization and focuses on the physical aspects of a neighborhood such as parks, green spaces, housing improvement, lighting, litter control, traffic management, signage and business district enhancement.

Two major projects helped

South Park earn the award: the development of an ambitious neighborhood master plan in 2007 in cooperation with American Institute of Architects volunteers; and the October 2007 Rehabarama, which restored 10 historic homes for public tours and subsequent sale.

Come hear Karen discuss the history of South Park and some of the innovative projects they have developed. Her presentation will start at 7pm in order to allow her time to answer questions.

JOIN!
A CUF MEMBERSHIP IS ONLY \$6.00
CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL
RENEW!