



**NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION**

# Newsletter

REPRESENTING CLIFTON HEIGHTS • UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS • FAIRVIEW

**March, 2009**

## **Next monthly meeting:**

Tuesday, March 17, 2009, 7:30 p.m.  
Deaconess Hospital Cafeteria,  
Lower Level  
Straight Street

## **From the President's desk**



What is the purpose of the neighborhood association? To preserve our history? To advocate for the future? To make our community stronger? To create a sense of community?

Is it more concrete? Is it to plant more trees? Is it to talk to and smile at your neighbors more? Is it to keep the grass cut nicely and the front gardens of our houses looking well-kept? Is it sweeping the sidewalk? Is it running through the park? Is it having a beer at a corner bar? Is it renovating an old home? Is it attending a community meeting?

Is it to encourage the business district? Is it to work with the police to increase safety? Is it to keep our streets clean? Is it to make it safe for children to play? Is it to work with the University to create a more diverse and academic community? Is it to invite those who we would not normally socialize with to come together with us?

I think on this often and wonder how do we make our community better. Community can be defined many ways. It can be a group of people with a similar goal. It can be that feeling of safety and belonging, knowing you are part of something bigger than your self alone.

I think it should be all these things. We all need to feel part of something bigger than ourselves. I am setting a challenge to everyone. Talk to someone on your block

you usually would not talk with. Invite someone you might not know to come to a neighborhood meeting or happy hour. Give a little of yourself to those and ask something of them in return. Ask them to give back to their community.

Happy March everyone. Spring is just around the corner and I am looking forward to the growth we will see.

Rob Neel

## **Minutes of the CUF general meeting February, 17, 2009**

After opening the meeting, a brief synopsis of the Feb. 3 Board of Trustees meeting was presented and discussed.

- Officer Lisa Johnson gave the police report. Overall crime is down, the January figures are slightly less than even 2 years ago.
- Captain Bailey announced the police will be distributing crime prevention flyers to all residents and that extra police will patrol the CUF area.
- The CUF police forms are now ready and should be available at every meeting. They provide a paper record of your problem for easy follow-up.
- The Board of Trustees sent a thank you card to Officer Williams for his presentation. A repeat performance with special guest Lisa Johnson is hoped for in May.
- A membership tally was announced. Meeting announcement cards were made available. Everyone is encouraged to bring in new people.
- The January party was a great event, maybe a summer solstice next?
- The Tower Fund meeting was announced. This is a once a year event that all eligible members are encouraged to attend.
- The NSP funds are now available through the city, as Invest in Neighborhoods has lost its contract.
- Empowerment zone requests and deadlines

were explained. Each board member joined one of the four groups to write proposals for funding — keep your fingers crossed.

The four groups are:

- 1) Old St. George
- 2) Fairview School
- 3) Homeowner loans
- 4) Classen Park

- Lajuana Miller of Uptown Consortium has been invited to our April meeting.
- The cloth shopping bags promoting the Clifton Heights Business Association made another appearance at our meeting. Think blue and be green (environmentally).
- A MuralWorks mural will be painted in our community, probably on the side of the former Lance's (now Plaza) art store on Calhoun St.
- The Great American Clean-up is scheduled for April 25. As in past years, coffee and goodies will be provided by Lenhardts.
- The improvement to West Clifton up the hill from downtown is making great progress.
- The amendment to the CUF Bylaws concerning trustee residence in the neighborhood was voted on and passed without objection.
- A letter was sent to the Shop Local manager concerning the recent distribution of their sale flyers in the orange bags. Instead of hanging on your doorknob, or sitting on the porch, they were deposited in the street gutters, on top of cars, in driveways, making them a great contribution to an already existing litter problem.
- Dave Lockhorn of the City Planning department attempted to explain the process that the city uses in the removal of abandoned buildings. It is a many-staged process that involves lots of steps and time. This is all done to protect the rights of the property owners and to keep the city out of legal recriminations.
- Pat Briscoe DeJarnett of Neighborhood Health Care spoke about the plans for a clinic in the Hughes High School. Funding for the first two years has already been secured. She will appear at a future meeting for community input.

#### CUF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION Financial Report, March, 2009

Balance on: Feb. 1	\$288.44
Income:	
Dues	18.00
NSP reimbursement	5,663.41
Dues	<u>12.00</u>
Total income:	\$5,693.41

Expenses:	
Clifton Senior Center	\$250.00
R. Neel	<u>636.00</u>
Total expenses:	\$886.00

Balance on: Mar. 1                   \$5,095.85

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## Mayor's small business seminars

It is time again for the Mayor's Shop 52 seminars! The series will educate both current small business owners and individuals who plan to open a small business in the future.

The dates for the upcoming seminars are March 26, June 9, July 18, and September 26. All of the seminars will be held at the Cintas Center on the Xavier University campus. We are hoping for a community wide effort to make the seminars a success.

There will be more information as the dates approach. We look forward to your participation. Questions? contact: (Teria. Thornton@cincinnati-oh.gov) or (513)352-3250.

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## Great American Clean Up

Mark your calendars!!

Saturday April 25 will be the Great American Clean Up. Plan on working that morning in our neighborhood on a variety of tasks, including spring brush clean up, trash pick up, and park projects. Get your working gloves ready and bring a friend or family member with you to the event!! Look for more details in the next newsletter.

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## Raymond Brueckner

Ray Brueckner, a life-long resident of Clifton Heights passed away peacefully on February 14. Mr. Brueckner was a graduate of Hughes High School and a World War II veteran.

An animal lover, he was most recently remembered by CUF residents as a champion of the spaying and neutering of stray cats. Ray gave a substantial donation to CUF for this purpose. He was honored at the May, 2008 CUF meeting for his efforts and presented with the "CUF Cat's Meow Award."

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## Old St. George

With a growing population of German and Irish immigrants moving north from Downtown into Corryville, a Catholic parish was needed for the area. German Franciscans began the parish in 1868. As more people moved to the area, more space was needed and eventually a new building was begun.

The building was designed by Cincinnati architect, Samuel Hannaford. Mr. Hannaford created many other notable structures in the city, including Music Hall, the original McMicken College (University of Cincinnati, 1874), the now demolished Walnut Hills Presbyterian Church, and the Norman Chapel in Spring Grove Cemetery. St George's Church was finished and dedicated by June 1874. The building style was considered Romanesque Revival.

In 1895, the church ministered to over 700 families. A school was built in 1914 adjacent to the main church. A monastery, rectory, and teacher's college for the archdiocese were added in 1928. But membership waned as St Monica's and Holy Name Parish in Mt Auburn thrived. The Teacher's college was torn down in 1947 to provide a parking lot.

By the 1970s, the church had only 70 families. It gained another boost in 1974 when the archdiocese consolidated six parish schools into what is now Corryville Catholic. It gained new members from the University population. The parish functioned from 1868 until its closure in 1993.

In 1994, a community group bought it for \$600,000, renovated it and operated it as a community meeting place. Old St. George hosted a coffeehouse, bookstore, concerts, discussions, weddings and worship events hosted by the Christian Ministries Center housed at the location, and other religious organizations until 2004. At that point, the building was again in financial straits and Walgreens had offered to buy the building and tear it down. Luckily, CHCURC bought the building



in 2005 for \$1.6 million and has been working to find a way to save the historic monument of days gone by.

On February 1, 2008, the top part of the church caught on fire, destroying the two steeples. The Community and the Business Association and the University continue to work to save this historic building.

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## 2009 tax credits for homeowners

The 2009 Recovery Act signed into law recently has something for everyone. Make sure you take advantage of what is being offered to you. Please consult with your accountant or the IRS for further details & tax implications regarding these new credits.

The first time homebuyer credit that passed in July of 2008 was, thankfully, improved upon. Polls conducted by the National Association of Realtors found that the overwhelming majority of first time buyers (76%) viewed the 2008 credit as a loan rather than a credit since it had a recapture period. Consequently, the results were negligible with regard to stimulating sales. As a result, the 2009 credit was increased and the recapture provision was eliminated as long as the home is not sold in the first 3 years. The 2009 credit is as follows;

- \$8000 tax credit for first time buyer or anyone who has not owned a house in the past three years
- Valid on primary residence purchases from January 1, 2009 to on or before November 30, 2009
- Income limits; \$150,000 if filing jointly and \$75,000 if filing single
- Credit can be claimed on 2008 tax return. You can amend your return if you buy a home after filing or claim it when you file your 2009 return

As part of the Stabilization Act in October 2008 homeowners received tax credits for energy efficient home improvements. This was once again addressed in the Recovery Act of 2009 with extensions and modifications to tax credits. The credit is for qualified energy efficient improvements & can be captured on your 2009/2010 tax returns for a cap of \$1500.

- Storm doors, exterior windows & skylights
- New high-efficiency air conditioners, heat pumps, water heaters, corn fueled stoves, furnaces, boilers & geothermal heat pumps
- Roofing & insulation
- Each improvement comes with its own qualifications and efficiency standard. Please refer to your accountant or the IRS for further information.

There are two portions to the final agreed upon bill. For those who would like to read the full text of Div. B- tax provisions please visit <http://www.sellingcincinnatihomes.com/>

As always, please do not hesitate to call or email me with any real estate related questions or concerns that you may have.

Thanks,

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