



NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

REPRESENTING CLIFTON HEIGHTS • UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS • FAIRVIEW

April, 2008

Next monthly meeting:

Tuesday, April 15, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
Deaconess Hospital Cafeteria,
Lower Level
Straight Street

From the President's desk



The Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) continues into the second month in the target areas. So far fire and building inspectors have completed about 470 inspections. Orders were written on 350 properties. A number of resources are available to help with repairs for any low-income homeowner. The Uptown Consortium is contributing \$5,000 to be used for painting and other environmental problems, and People Working Cooperatively will hold a "Repair Fair" on May 10. Next will be a house-by-house inspection for litter infractions: garbage cans with no lids, littered properties, etc. We have received additional funding from other sponsors of the NEP program. U.S. Bank and Third Federal Bank have each kicked in \$3,000. Since litter is such a big issue in this community, we are using these funds to partially subsidize the purchase of heavy-duty lidded garbage cans.

District 5 police have also been participating in the NEP program. Using Take Back Our Streets funding, they have provided two hundred extra hours of patrols in the target area. In February they conducted two reverse prostitution stings and arrested 15 "customers." A curfew sweep is coming when the weather improves. On March 26, a Landlord/Tenant training class will be held at the Police Academy from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm; all are welcome. Officers are now gearing up for Cinco de Mayo. There will be a DUI checkpoint on April 26th at the corner of Clifton and M.L. King to remind people of the dangers of drinking and driving.

Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, another key participant in NEP, is coordinating several ac-

tivities. They conducted an initial blight index, to be repeated at the end of the NEP program and in one year. Hundreds of recycle bins will be distributed along with safety kits containing energy-efficient light bulbs. We are currently planning activities for the Great American Clean Up Day on April 26.

The city NEP team, including representatives from many departments, meets weekly; CUF Stakeholders and Community Partners meet monthly to discuss progress with the program. Stay tuned.

On the education front, Doug Sanker and Dorothy Wilson have been working with a small group of parents, UC and Cincinnati Public Schools concerning the fate of Taft Elementary. This school, off Auburn Avenue, is CUF's neighborhood elementary school. Some radical changes have recently been instituted as it has had a history of low performance. Current plans call for the existing school to be torn down and replaced. While this is happening Fairview will be used as the "swing" school. The new school will use the STEM model, emphasizing science, technology, engineering and mathematics. UC is interested in being a partner in this effort. Doug and Dorothy will continue to be CUF's representatives in this process and keep us posted.

Finally, Invest in Neighborhoods, Inc. is the not for profit organization that administers the Neighborhood Support Program, Merit Grant Program and Neighborhood Business District Support Fund, from which CUFNA and the Clifton Heights Business Association receive funding. CUF has not had a representative on this board for quite some time. This year there will be eight vacancies on the board of trustees for which they are soliciting candidates. Positions will be filled at the annual meeting in June; terms are three years. Potential candidates may be past officers and current members of community organizations. If anyone is interested in applying, please let me know.

Linda Ziegler

CUF Neighborhood Association minutes for March 18, 2008

In place of our March general meeting, CUF hosted Laketa Cole's Vibrant Neighborhood, Recreation and Public Services Committee. In addition to Ms. Cole, council members Cecil Thomas and Chris Monzel plus numerous representatives from various city departments were in attendance. On the agenda were a number of items including weed removal, corner garbage cans, insurance for community councils, citations for building code violations, and designation of an "Incline District" in Price Hill. At the end of the meeting two CUF members spoke of our concerns for a few minutes. Ms. Cole asked for this information to be forwarded to her for her response.

As the committee meeting lasted several hours, there was no official CUF meeting, and hence no minutes.

Treasurer's Report April, 2008

Beginning balance, Mar. 1:	\$ 5,095.91
Income:	0
Expenses:	
Soapbox Derby Registration	50.00
Cat spay and neuter	203.00
Total expenses:	253.00
Balance, April 1:	\$ 4,842.91

Community garden opportunities

There are currently garden plots available in the West McMicken Community Garden. Call Cheryl for details: 651-0985.



Great American Clean Up

This year the Great American Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, April 26. We will be meeting at Christy's on McMillan at 8:30 am for coffee and assignments; the clean up begins at 9:00 am.

There is an ambitious list of projects for this year: Schorr Alley, Classen Park, Hollister Triangle, Bellevue Park, the Chickasaw/Warner garden, the business district and a general street sweep. Suzanne Summer and the Block Captains are coordinating activities. If you are interested in participating or in being a team leader, contact her at: blockcaptain@cliftonheights.org.

Otherwise, just show up Saturday morning.

Volunteer opportunity for Pet Health Day

The Free Store/Food Bank is hosting a Pet Health Day in April. Veterinarians and technicians will donate their time to service our client's cats and dogs with basic examinations and other treatment recommendations. In addition volunteers are needed to help make the event successful.

Event date: Sunday April 20, 2008

Location: Free Store/Food Bank, 112 E. Liberty Street Cincinnati, OH 45202

Shifts: 11 am - 3 pm; and 2 pm - 6 pm

Volunteer responsibilities: Assist with setup, registration, crowd control and hospitality.

Please contact Margaret Walker at the Volunteer Services Department at 513-482-7543 for additional information.

Cincinnati Public School Superintendent selection

This week the Cincinnati Board of Education launched an online survey to be used by parents, community members and district employees to provide input on the characteristics, skills and experience they would like to see in the next superintendent for Cincinnati Public Schools. The survey takes only 5 to 10 minutes to complete. It asks respondents to list their views on the top district strengths and concerns, select the most pressing issues the district and the next superintendent will need to address, rate the most important characteristics in the next CPS leader and suggest any questions they would like asked

during the candidate interview process.

The school board's goal is to have a new Superintendent selected by June 30 and in place by August 1. He or she will succeed Superintendent Rosa Blackwell, who is retiring at the end of her contract on July 31.

Take the survey. <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB227K2XDTNCU>

Read the news release on the superintendent search process. <http://www.cps-k12.org>

Feel free to forward the survey link to those who may be interested in providing input.

Thanks for all you do to support our students, schools and district!

Janet Walsh
Director of Public Affairs
Cincinnati Public Schools
walshja@cps-k12.org

Hamilton County celebrates Earth Day 2008

Earth Day 2008 is almost here and the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (HCDOES) cannot wait for the "greenest" holiday of the year! To celebrate Earth Day, HCDOES will be present at numerous Earth Day events for the community to attend and enjoy. Come visit us at the following events:

April 19, 2008
Earth Day at Sawyer Point
12:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

April 23, 2008
Christ Hospital Earth Day
11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

April 24, 2008
Cincinnati State Earth Jam
Cincinnati State ATLC Courtyard
11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

April 25, 2008
2008 Earth Day in Butler County
Butler County Government Services Plaza
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

What is Earth Day?

Earth Day is celebrated on April 22nd of each year and it marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. The day is intended to inspire awareness of and appreciation for the Earth's environment. Earth Day is a time to celebrate gains we have made

and create new visions to accelerate environmental progress.

Take the Go Green Challenge
HCDOES has also made strides throughout the year to keep the environment safe, clean and healthy, promoting environmental progress through the development of programs like the Go Green Challenge. The mission of the Go Green Challenge is to encourage organizations, both large and small, to reduce their environmental impact through initiatives such as waste reduction and energy conservation. To date more than 50 organizations have taken the challenge. All participants that have taken the challenge will be publicly recognized on Earth Day, April 22nd at a ceremony at Paul Brown Stadium.

HCDOES would like to congratulate all the organizations that have taken the Go Green Challenge. For an updated list of participants, visit www.hcdoes.org/gogreen.htm or for more information about Earth Day and community activities, please contact Leslie Meiring at 513-946-7754.

Smog Season

Smog is a term used to describe air pollution that is a result of the interaction of sunlight with certain chemicals in the atmosphere. The two primary pollutants in smog are ground-level ozone and particulate matter (PM).

- Ozone

Ground level ozone is formed when vehicle emissions containing nitrogen oxides (primarily from vehicle exhaust) and volatile organic compounds (from paints, solvents, and fuel evaporation) interact in the presence of sunlight.

- Particulate Matter (PM)

PM (dust, soot, ash, and aerosols) can come from a variety of sources, including wood burning, diesel engines, gasoline engines, factories and power plants. Individually, these particles and droplets are invisible to the naked eye, but collectively, they can appear as clouds or a fog like haze.

A Smog Alert is typically issued by the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (HCDOES) the day before high ozone and/or high particulate matter levels are anticipated. HCDOES, in cooperation with local meteorologists and the National Weather Service, determine if conditions are favorable to issue a Smog Alert. If the data indicates that ozone or particulate matter may exceed National Ambient Air Quality Standards, a Smog Alert is issued. Air quality standards are based on the Air Quality Index (AQI).

The Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (HCDOES) monitors the levels

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of ozone and PM with a number of monitors set up throughout the Cincinnati area. Using data collected at these sites, HCDOES compiles an Air Quality Index numerical value for each day. To view the AQI, visit www.hcdoes.org. or Air Quality Hotline at (513) 946-7753.

Want to do your share?

- Use gas powered lawn equipment after 6:00 p.m.
- Refuel after 6:00 p.m. and don't top off your tank at the pump.
- Conserve electricity — turn off unused lights, computers, televisions and radios.
- Ride the bus — contact METRO at (513) 621-4455.
- Combine car trips or eliminate them by walking or biking. Contact RideShare at (513) 241-RIDE.
- Keep your vehicle properly maintained — check the tire pressure and change air filters and oil regularly. When an engine is running properly it runs more efficiently.
- Avoid excessive vehicle idling such as at a drive thru.
- Walk to desired destinations
- Spread the word to others!

Free recycling bin

Cincinnati residents living in single-family homes or in apartment buildings with fewer than 5 units can have a recycling bin provided at no cost. Bins are to be placed at curbside along with garbage on the regular trash collection day.

Acceptable items for recycling include newspaper, cardboard, glass and plastic bottles (remove lids), aluminum and steel cans. Unacceptable items include pizza boxes, Styrofoam and plastic bags.

To order a bin or obtain more information, please call 513-591-6000 or visit www.cincinnati-oh.gov.