



# Newsletter

NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION

REPRESENTING CLIFTON HEIGHTS • UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS • FAIRVIEW

July, 2009

## Next monthly meeting:

Tuesday, July 21, 2009, 7:30 p.m.  
Deaconess Hospital Cafeteria,  
Lower Level  
Straight Street

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## From the President's desk



Another month has come and gone. But not without many new accomplishments for our community.

We have seen our membership grow and a resurgence of returning members and new faces at the last meeting. This is very exciting to all of us. In this time when economic forecasts remain poor and people are feeling less optimistic, we are gaining strength and energy.

Our proposal to the Cincinnati Empowerment Corporation was passed and approved by HUD and we will see a \$150,000 improvement to Classen Park this fall by partnering with the Business Association. Block one of the business district (where the old Primetime was, at Vine and Calhoun) has been graded and replanted with grass. Grass is growing again on the grassy knoll.

Old St George has finally gotten a break. Matt Bourgeois has worked with the City and UC and repair of the roof and more permanent capping of the steeples will happen this fall. And now we have a business partner who is interested in preserving the building as a historic site, Paran Management.

Clifton Street continues its reconstruction with new sidewalks and better road construction around the bend. The Business Association is working with City planners for a renovation of the Old Towne, including new sidewalks, lights, and street paving.

Muralworks has begun and we are seeing the creation of a living piece of art that will last in our community for decades, honoring our past and our future.

But all these positives mean nothing if we do not maintain momentum. I again encourage members of our community to join and to participate in the development of Clifton Heights

University Heights and Fairview. Let's make CUF that shining "City on the Hill."

Come to our next meeting for the election and to meet with Towne Properties about any progress that has been made on the Block 3 and Block 4 development! See you early at 7 pm for election and informal chat with Towne.

Rob Neel

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## Minutes of the CUF general meeting, June 16, 2009

The meeting started a 7:00 p.m. with an explanation of the Neighborhood Watch program. We, as residents, live in the neighborhood 24/7, and know who belongs there and what normally occurs. The police may only patrol once or twice a week, so if you see suspicious or unusual activity, the police want to know about it. As Officer Johnson said, it won't hurt to have the police drive by and see for themselves. The critical element is an accurate description of the people and car or truck; even a partial license plate number is helpful. Remember to work from the top down — for example, race, sex, height, hair color, shirt, pants, shoe color, the latter two being important since a shirt can be easily changed to avoid identification.

- Mr. Jonnie Wise from the Buildings and Inspections Department reported that 94 vacant and condemned buildings were torn down across the city last year. They hope to tear down twice that number this year. If you have any questions, Wise can be reached at 352-1556.
- Another avenue to combat crime is to contact Crime Stoppers. They answer questions as well as collect information about crime. In the month of May alone they distributed \$14,000 in rewards. As always your identity remains confidential.
- Sharon Buckner was thanked for her service as Citizens on Patrol coordinator. Shawn forwards the crime statistics to all interested parties each month.
- Brian Green of the Vice Department talked about the hot spot of CUF — McMicken between Hopple and McMillan. Last month there were 39 felony drug and 40 prostitution arrests. The Vice Dept. number is 352-3715.
- Ryan McGuinness, owner of Mac's Pizza gave a presentation. He promised to respect the wishes of the neighborhood and cooperate to contain problems surrounding his business. However, he is petitioning

the city to extend his outdoor hours until 2 a.m. every night, instead of the 10 p.m. limit on Monday–Thursday, and 12 a.m. Friday and Saturday. This is a very contentious issue and more action is expected.

- Andrea Henderson and Matt Andrews of the City Transportation Department gave a short presentation. They seemed reluctant to give out specific information about proposals under consideration, but one sure plant is to stop McMicken before it reaches MLK. This would give that whole section of Riddle Rd., Taylor, Marshall, and Riddle Crest with very few options for going north to Clifton. Stay tuned. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODT) is calling the shots on this decision and open house meetings have been held. There are plans on the ODT Web site under the Brent Spence heading. If you are on the CUF e-mail list this information will be forwarded to your computer.
  - The candidates for the CUF Board were announced and acknowledged.
  - Sharon Buckner was announced as a late Board candidate.
  - Towne Properties will be present for the July meeting.
  - Block One has been landscaped and grass has been planted.
  - Old Towne streetscape project was announced. \$30,000 has been earmarked for design. Thanks to CHBA.
  - Mural Works presented their design and progress continues. Keep looking as the work proceeds.
  - Craig Lloyd presented ideas for a revitalization district. He has been researching programs from other areas that have successfully done this. This topic is scheduled for our October meeting.
  - University Heights Wednesdays on the porch latest meeting was a big success. Keep up the good work.
- Old Business
- Fairview School was purchased at auction by Five Korner. This is a group unfamiliar to us but we will endeavor to have meaningful dialogue with them.
  - \$70,000 for Claussen Park was granted.
  - UC move out days dumpsters were provided.
  - The Deaconess Hospital will probably be sold.

#### CUF Financial Report, July, 2009

Balance on:	June 1	\$4,732.99
Income:		
Dues		\$104.00
CUF Community Fund (mural)		\$1,000.00
2009 AIG		\$741.00
Dues		\$36.00
Total income:		\$1,881.00
Expenses:		
FedEx May newsletter		\$136.80
Mutt Mitts		\$194.14
Mural Works-CHIA		\$1,000.00
Total expenses:		\$1,330.94
Balance on:	July 1	\$5,283.05

## CUF Soapbox Derby news



On Sunday, June 28, the Fairview Flyer, driven by Annika Yang vom Hofe, entered the 2009 Cincinnati Soap Box Derby. Out of a field of 44 cars, Annika came in 7th. Of the 44 car total, 22 sponsored by Cincinnati neighborhoods and businesses were simultaneously entered in the Mayor's Cup competition. Annika finished 2nd in this field, winning not only a trophy but also a \$2,500 check from Mayor Mallory for CUFNA.



This is Annika's second year of racing for CUF. Earlier this spring she won 1st place in the St. Bernard derby race. Throughout both racing seasons, she has been assisted by her top notch pit crew, Joschka, her younger brother. This is the third year that CUF has sponsored a car in the derby, the longest for any Cincinnati community council.





## CUF mural begins

The Muralworks Project is off and away! You can watch the progress on the north side of building at Wheeler and McMillan (2392 Wheeler). CUF gave \$1000 to the project, along with major contributions from the Business Association, UC, CHIA, St Monica-St George, and hopefully our first collaborative with the Heights. Thanks to all who are donating time, space, and energy to this project. Stop by between 9 am and 2 pm to talk to the kids, bring them a treat or drinks to support them as they work in the summer heat.

Team photo, front row L - R:  
 Teaching Artist: John Mosher,  
 Project Manager: Jenny Ustick  
 Junior Teacher: Bryn Beary  
 Apprentices L - R:  
 First row: Terry King (Hughes Center),  
 Ebonae Ward (UC),  
 Mallory Saunders (UC),  
 Kelia Hamilton (Lloyd Memorial),  
 Mary Newberry (Walnut Hills),  
 Hannah Rains (SCPA),  
 Michael Taylor (NKU),  
 Anita Sengupta (New York University)  
 Second row: Ayan Daniels (Saint Ursula  
 Academy), Robert Barga (SCPA),  
 Stephen Cavanaugh (SCPA)



## Pending home sales rise again

Pending home sales show a sustained uptrend, rising for four consecutive months with very favorable housing affordability and a first-time buyer tax credit boosting activity, according to the National Association of REALTORS®.

The Pending Home Sales Index, a forward-looking indicator based on contracts signed in May, increased 0.1 percent to 90.7 from an upwardly revised reading of 90.6 in April, and is 6.7 percent higher than May 2008 when it was 85.0. The last time there were four consecutive monthly gains was in October 2004.

### Region

- Northeast: The Pending Home Sales Index in the Northeast rose 3.1 percent to 80.9 in May and is 6.8 percent above a year ago.
- Midwest : In the Midwest, the index slipped 1.3 percent to 89.2 but is 11.4 percent above May 2008.
- South: The index in the South declined 1.7 percent to 92.6 in May but is 7.9 percent higher than a year ago.
- West: In the West, the index rose 2.2 percent to 96.9 and is 0.7 percent above May 2008.

### Affordability at a high

NAR's Housing Affordability Index remains at historic highs. The affordability index fell to 171.6 in May from an upwardly revised 178.8 in April, which was the highest on record dating back to 1970. Lawrence Yun, NAR's chief economist reports "Under these conditions the typical family would devote only 14.6 percent of gross income to mortgage principal and interest, which is one of the lowest percentages on record."

The HAI is a broad measure of housing affordability using consistent values and assumptions over time, which examines the relationship between home prices, mortgage interest rates, and family income.

A median-income family, earning \$60,800, could afford a home costing \$296,700 in May with a 20 percent down payment, assuming 25 percent of gross income is devoted to mortgage principal and interest. Affordability conditions for first-time buyers with the same income and small down payments are roughly 80 percent of what a median-income family can afford. The affordable price was significantly higher than the median existing single-family home price in May, which was \$172,900.

### **First-time buyer tax credits offers a boost**

The first-time buyer tax credit also is benefiting the market. "Strong activity by entry-level buyers is helping to absorb inventory and allow some existing owners to make a trade," Yun says.

Existing-home sales should trend up through the end of the year, with normal local market differences. "The big question is how much the appraisal issue will impact the ability of contracts to go to closing," Yun says. "We are currently conducting a study to assess the degree to which new appraisal rules are impacting home sales."

Thanks,

Julz Brown, ABR, Licensed in Ohio & Kentucky, Group Realtors. 513.237.1072  
Julz@SellingCincinnatiHomes.com www.SellingCincinnatiHomes.com

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## **Board of Trustee Candidates 2009 (Term: August 2009 to July 2012)**

### **Sharon Buckner**

The CUF community has been my neighborhood of choice for 26 years. I contend it is the best neighborhood in the city because of its diversity, central location and naturally beautiful situation.

Being active in the Citizens on Patrol (COP) program allows me to contribute an extra layer of safety to residents and myself. I enjoy problem solving and as a previous two-term member and officer of the CUF Board I was able to hone these skills. Your vote will enable me to work on important issues, i.e. bringing more single entrepreneurs into the business mix and improving the quality of life in our community.

### **Lucille Kotzbauer**

I have resided in Clifton Heights for 25+ years and have always had concerns for the safety and the good of the neighborhood.

### **John Ligon:**

John has been a resident owner since 1971 and member of CUF (with occasional lapses) since then. Served as Treasurer in the mid-1970s and as board member of the Tower Fund in the 1980s. "In 39 years of community involvement, I have seen much hope and despair, progress and bumbling. But good things do and will happen when we work together in the spirit of Self Reliance."

### **Jason Pastoor:**

Jason Pastoor has lived in the CUF Community for the last 13 years, and has served as a Trustee for CUF for the last 3 years. He graduated from the U.C. School of Planning with a degree in Urban Studies. He and his wife, Cathy, and their two children live on Sauer St and continue to be the strongest advocates for Bellevue Park. Jason desires to continue to improve upon our assets with neighbors and friends.

### **Ric Presar:**

Ric holds a master's degree of fine arts from Indiana University and has been a Fairview Ave. resident for the past 17 years. Having previously lived in other major urban cities, I've seen the good (and bad) results of city planning - an area of particular interest to me. I'd appreciate the opportunity to serve my community as a Board of Trustee member.

### **John Stork:**

John is librarian at the University of Cincinnati and has been a CUF resident for ten years both as a renter and homeowner. He has served on the Board as Membership Secretary for the last three years and is a member of Citizens on Patrol. John wants to continue to help make the neighborhood a better place to live.

### **Karen Taravella:**

I've lived in the Fairview Heights community for 30 years and am interested in preserving the area's vitality, charm, diversity and livability. I'm a native Cincinnati, University of Cincinnati graduate and communications consultant by trade ... and would be honored to serve as a CUF Board of Trustee member.

### **Dorothy Gaeschke Wilson:**

Dorothy has lived with her husband, Jim, on Victor Street since 2002. She has remained active in the community, and serves as the membership secretary for the Clifton Heights Improvement Association and has been very active in beautification projects with the Block Captains. She has served on the Hughes High School Advisory Committee since 2003. Dorothy works as a Speech Pathologist in Kentucky Public schools.

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## Citizen observer program

The Cincinnati Police Department has moved to issuing Citizen Alerts and Press Releases utilizing the Citizen Observer Program. Alerts are coming out on a nearly daily basis.

Please pass this email on to others in your neighborhood or workgroup.

If you signed-up for Citizen Observer Program prior to this year, you may wish to re-login and sign-up for alerts from the District[s] you live / work in. We have added many new groups to our alert program.

You can sign-up for alerts using the following protocol:

Signing up for Citizen Observer:

1. Log onto [www.citizenobserver.com](http://www.citizenobserver.com)
2. Click on SIGN UP
3. Enter all your information, including address and email. (Neither the Citizen Observer nor the Cincinnati Police Department will ever sell or spam your email address.)
4. Select receive alerts by email.
5. Select areas you wish to receive alerts from
  - Cincinnati Police Department
  - District 1
  - District 2
  - District 3
  - District 4
  - District 5
6. Select Watch Groups you wish to be a member of. (Do not apply as a Captain.)

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## Summer pet care

Summertime! The season we spend most of our time having fun outdoors. But as the mercury soars, we can't forget our pets need special attention. Here are some warm weather pet care tips:

- NEVER leave a dog or child in a parked car! Even with the windows open a car's temperature can reach over 120°F in minutes. Take the little ones in with you. Leave your furry friends at home.
- Limit exercise. Hot asphalt and concrete can burn pet's paws. Walk in the cool mornings or evenings.
- Animals should have a shady cool place to rest while outdoors.
- Animals must have free access to plenty of fresh, clean water in a non-tip bowl.

- Know the signs of pet heat stress: heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid pulse, a staggering gait, vomiting, or a deep red or purple tongue.
- Be on the lookout for puddles of engine coolant. Make sure your pet doesn't drink from puddles in the street. Clean up spills immediately! Anti-freeze has a sweet taste but can be fatal to pets and children if ingested. If you believe an animal is being neglected or abused contact the Hamilton County SPCA at 513-541-6100. They investigate all reports of animal neglect and abuse. It is their job to determine if an animal is being properly cared for. For more details and information visit their website at [www.spcacincinnati.org](http://www.spcacincinnati.org), or the Humane Society of the United States at [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org). There are also opportunities to donate money directly to the care of animals the SPCA removed from the home on Vestry in May of this year.

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## Kids, Cultures, Critters & Crafts Festival

A Celebration of the mosaic beauty of our region, featuring free multicultural entertainment, crafts and access to zoo exhibits. Presented by Learning Through Art, Inc.

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is consistently ranked as one of the top zoo's in the country. Opened in 1875, it is the nation's second oldest zoo and a national historic landmark. The Zoo's 75 acres house more than 580 animal species and 3,000 plant varieties. Over 1.2 million people visit the Cincinnati Zoo annually. This not-for-profit entity is internationally known for its success in the protection and propagation of endangered animals and plants, and engages in research and conservation projects around the world.

Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden  
3400 Vine St., Cincinnati, OH 45220  
Phone: 513-242-6028

When:

Wednesday, July 15, 2009  
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Cost: \$1 zoo admission

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CLIFTON HEIGHTS  
 UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS  
 FAIRVIEW  
 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

2364 West McMicken Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

Non-Profit Organization  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Cincinnati, Ohio  
 Permit No, 4834

*Time Sensitive  
 Material*

## CUF membership

Any person subscribing to the purpose of the CUF Neighborhood Association, Inc. and paying dues set by the Association may become a member. Election of Trustees is held at the annual meeting in July. Eligible voters are residents of the community who are at least 18 years of age and who are fully paid members of the Association and who have attended three general meetings after payment of dues during the year prior to the annual meeting. Non-resident members have voice but no vote in Association meetings and may not hold elective office. Annual CUF dues are \$6.00.

### CUF general meetings:

3rd Tuesday of each month, except August and December, 7:30 pm, Deaconess Hospital Cafeteria, 311 Straight Street

### CUF Trustee meetings:

1st Tuesday of each month, 7:00 pm, Deaconess Hospital Cafeteria, 311 Straight Street

### CUF annual meeting and election:

3rd Tuesday in July, 7:30 pm, Deaconess Hospital Cafeteria, 311 Straight Street



CUF Neighborhood Association  
 2364 West McMicken Avenue,  
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Type:

Voting Membership: CUF resident \_\_\_\_\_  
 Non-Voting Membership: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CUF organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 CUF business owner \_\_\_\_\_  
 Non-resident \_\_\_\_\_  
 Non-resident property owner \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Fee: \$6.00 per year.  
 Make checks payable to CUFNA.

*(please check the membership expiration date on your newsletter mailing label)*