



**NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION**

Newsletter

REPRESENTING CLIFTON HEIGHTS • UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS • FAIRVIEW

April, 2009

Next monthly meeting:

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

From the President's desk



I have been most impressed with our little community recently. We have again been working very hard to keep Clifton Heights/University Heights/Fairview the eclectic, beautiful neighborhood that it is, and make it even better. I want everyone to be aware of the team-building we have accomplished.

Your Board worked very hard with Matt Bourgeois on two development grants through the Cincinnati Empowerment Corporation. One was written through CHCURC to save Old St. George and find a new business use to save the building. Beth Robinson, from UC, put forth the presentation to the CEC review committee on April 8th. Talk about partnering with our neighbors! The second grant application was a partnership with the Parks Board and the Business Association to renovate Classen Park.

Suzanne Summer is planning our annual Great American Clean Up event for April 25, 2009. Thanks to Suzanne for lending her energy again to the community! Debby Herman has been working with Artworks and John Schuler from the Business District to secure a location for a Muralworks project to start this June. We will now have our own mural! Thanks to Debby for all the legwork on this.

Dr. Susan Montauk put together a meeting of concerned neighbors with Councilwoman Roxanne Qualls to discuss the reconstruction of the Western Hills Viaduct and the impact on McMillan that we can

expect to begin around 2015.

I am impressed again with the initiative and the changes we are seeing. Partnering with our redevelopment corporation (CHCURC), the University of Cincinnati, the Clifton Heights Business Association, and the other neighborhoods of Uptown, we will march steadily toward progress. Despite gloomy economic forecasts and nay-saying, CUF is still moving forward and dreaming for the future.

Our challenge will be to create a Community Development Plan for the next 30-50 years. We must come together with our businesses, our neighbors, and our city to re-envision what CUF will be in the future. Let's not wait for someone else to tell us who we will become; let us start the process.

Rob Neel

Minutes of the CUF general meeting March 17, 2009

- Officer Lisa Johnson reported that crime is up, especially theft from autos. Four different graffiti "artists" were arrested recently. Captain Bailey stated that up to twenty plain clothes officers are on the beat in CUF. The police also have put into place a contingency plan to deal with any Cinco de Mayo events.
- The Board of Trustees' meeting minutes were discussed.
- An application for a grant to repair Old St. George was submitted.
- A grant application to improve Classen Park was submitted.
- Fairview School, the hoped for site of the Cristo Rey, a Catholic school program is still alive.
- Results for these three grants and programs should be known by April or May.
- Diego Jordan of the City presented the latest plans for the incline bus stop on West Clifton.
- The letter of support for Mac's Pizza parking lot improvements were discussed, but contrary to the information on the agenda, no letter was

available for review.

- Andrea Henderson from Transportation and Engineering requested suggestions for the upcoming MLK improvements between I-75 and Clifton Avenue. Forms for your ideas were available.
- Janita Harekamp from Chris Monzel's office announced the Monzel Reports were at the sign-in table.
- Once again, it was announced that signs will go up at the grassy strip to prohibit parking there.
- Streetscape planning in the Old Town District has begun. The intent is to be the new and old together for a unified look.
- Another business has announced plans to move into the Calhoun retail. Five Guy Burgers were voted the best in the Washington Park area.
- Two employees were hired to clean the Old Town area.
- Lajuana Miller from the Uptown Consortium will be presenting at the May meeting.
- CHIA's president, Debbie Herman, has secured an artworks mural for the Old Town area.
- The Great American Clean Up is scheduled for April 25. Some streets in need were suggested.
- Enquirer Media states that anyone not wishing to receive the Shop Local Direct flyers can contact either of the following people to stop delivery: Mark Jamar at 513-248-7685 or Stephanie Zimmerman at 513-768-8128.
- Cincinnati School Board will auction off the Fairview School in April.
- Mark Wahl of Roxanne Qualls' office arranged to have a property that had been tagged but the graffiti had not been removed to comply. There is a city ordinance requesting removal.

Financial Report, April, 2009

Balance on 1-Mar \$5,095.85

Income:

<u>Dues</u>	<u>\$145.00</u>
Total income:	\$145.00

Expenses:

FedEx Jan newsletter	\$93.60
PO bulk mail permit	\$180.00
FedEx Feb newsletter	\$82.20
<u>Cinti Soap Box Derby</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>
Total expenses:	\$405.80

Balance on: 1-Apr \$4,835.05

Message from the Mayor

The mayor's upcoming 4th Annual Youth Job's and Opportunities Fair for young people ages 16-24 will be held at the Duke Energy Center on April 23, 2-6 p.m.

Giving an early opportunity for employment allows young people to gain important skills that expand their prospects for a productive future. This event will benefit the youth by providing the fundamental initial steps in order to build a successful future. The employment opportunities provided will help to create well-rounded individuals, and productive citizens. This can only help to strengthen our economy and build a stronger Cincinnati.

For more detailed information about the job fair, visit the mayor's webpage at: www.mayor-mallory.com

Or, if you should you have any additional questions please call Shawn Butler directly at (513) 352-3649 or e-mail him at: shawn.butler@cincinnati-oh.gov.

Mark Mallory
Mayor, City of Cincinnati

Great American Clean Up

Homeowners, residents, and students— get ready for the annual Great American Cleanup on Saturday, April 25! On this day, volunteers of all sorts will be getting together to clean and beautify neighborhoods across the US. Why not help out in your community?

Join your neighbors in Clifton Heights/University Heights/Fairview (CUF) for a day of fun, socializing, and of course - cleaning up!

Date: Saturday, April 25

Time: 8:30 - noon

Place: meet at Christy's/Lenhardt's Biergarten, 151 W. McMillan Ave, Clifton Heights

Dress: wear clothes suitable for the weather, and comfortable walking shoes

Coffee and breakfast will be provided in the morning. LUNCH donated by local restaurants will be served at Bellevue Park (Ohio Ave) after the cleanup.

But wait, there's more . . .

Go Green and win great prizes!

This year, the CUF community has decided to make our Great American Clean Up a Green Event. We will collect both trash and recyclables in separate bags during our cleanup, in order to reduce the number of recyclable goods going into the garbage.

Individuals can also go Green and win a prize. Here's how: when you show up in the morning, bring your own non-disposable cup for coffee or other beverages. Everyone who does this will be entered into our Green Raffle. Several prizes will be available, so don't forget your cup!

Yard waste collection resumes

Regular yard waste collection resumed on April 6 for Cincinnati residents. The type of yard waste accepted includes grass clippings, leaves, branches and brush. Yard waste should be put out by 6 a.m. on your trash collection day.

Place yard waste in special brown paper bags (available at grocery and hardware stores)

or in trash cans clearly marked "Yard Waste." Branches should be tied into bundles no larger than 2 x 4 feet. Tree limbs should be no larger than 6 inches in diameter. For more information please call 513-591-6000.

Subsidized housing list

The Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) makes available the addresses of all Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) and subsidized housing units located in Hamilton County. The list can be found on their web site at: www.cintimha.com/about.html Properties are identified as "HCV."

For more information or to report a problem with one of these properties, call 721-2642. The list is updated monthly.

Fairview School at 2232 Stratford Avenue (Stratford and Warner)

Fairview School was built in 1888-1889 in the Romanesque Revival style with a design by H.E. Siter. It was created to fill the need for neighborhood students, who were primarily of German descent. The school was part of the master plan of Cincinnati businessmen like Christian Moerlein, John Goetz, and Isaac Miller, who wanted to develop our hillside neighborhood and make it more attractive to families from the city and river basin.

Fairview holds several distinctions, notably as Cincinnati's second oldest magnet school, beginning to teach as a specialized bilingual school for German language in 1974 for elementary students. The magnet schools were created to promote desegregation and to offer specialized education to parents who wanted something different for their children. Of note, it was the first public



school in the U.S. to teach German after World War I as an intensive language program. It is also interesting that the Cincinnati School Board had banned teaching German as a second language in 1918.

In 2008, the school moved to its new location on Clifton Avenue. The building remains, in all its un-restored glory, and will be put up for auction this spring. Help us preserve this great building.

Source: The Bicentennial Guide to Greater Cincinnati: A Portrait of Two Hundred Years.

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CLIFTON HEIGHTS
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Affordability shines in Cincinnati area home sales

Local home sales increased by 22% February over January. Nationwide, seasonally-adjusted home sales climbed 5%. The increase in home sales is partially attributed to a recently-enacted tax credit program. It is a favorable time for all buyers.

"It's a Buyer's market." You've probably heard that phrase before when it comes to home buying. It means that conditions favor buyers at the moment. It relates to three primary reasons: Inventory of homes for sale is strong, mortgage rates are low, home prices are favorable.

Considering today's market place: 1) there is an ample supply of homes for sale, 2) mortgage rates are near 5%, and 3) the median-priced home for sale in the Cincinnati, 4-county, area is \$123,000. What more could a buyer want?

Whether you're a first-time homebuyer or repeat buyer, home affordability shines equally well in the Cincinnati area. You can't say that for some parts of the nation, where housing and living costs are higher.

So how, exactly, is the Cincinnati-area housing market for affordability? Look at these "local-to-USA" comparative facts for the purchase of a single-family home:

Location & Time Period	Median Priced Single- Family Home (a)	Monthly House Payment* (b)	Median Family Income (c)	Index Affordability
Nationwide Jan 2009	\$169,900	\$747	\$59,821	166.8
Cincinnati Area Q4 2008				

The above numbers show more home buying power in the Cincinnati area market vs. the USA as a whole due to: 1) more attractive home prices, 2) lower monthly payment (because of lower housing cost), 3) higher median income, and 4) greater affordability. The "affordability" index takes into consideration all "a-b-c" factors shown above. An Affordability Index of 100 means a person with a median income has exactly enough income for an 80% mortgage on a median-priced home (assuming a favorable credit score). Note: Other mortgage loans are available with lower down payments. In the end, you need to be comfortable with your monthly housing costs.

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