



NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION

# Newsletter

REPRESENTING CLIFTON HEIGHTS • UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS • FAIRVIEW

August, 2009

## Next monthly meeting:

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009, 7:30 p.m.  
Deaconess Hospital Cafeteria,  
Lower Level  
Straight Street

## From the President's desk

Hello CUF!

I hope everyone is still enjoying the quiet of summer. Soon enough the University will be back with fall classes and we will all be abuzz again.

We had our first Board meeting of the new year, and I am glad to welcome Sharon Buckner, John Ligon, Ric Presar, and Karen Taravella to the Board as well as welcoming back John Stork and Jason Pastoor.

Elections happened and here are the results:  
President, Rob Neel  
Vice President, John Ligon  
Treasurer, Linda Ziegler  
Membership Secretary, John Stork  
Corresponding Secretary, Dennis O'Brien  
Recording Secretary, Rolf Kuhn  
Membership Advocacy Team: Maureen France, Ric Presar, and Sally Larson  
Nominating Committee: Karen Taravella, Daniel Lewis, Jason Pastoor  
Business Association Advocacy Team: Sharon Buckner, Karen Taravella, Rob Neel

I am very excited about the Board and the movement we can take and build on from this last year.

The Board wrote a letter to the Mayor and the City Manager and the Fire Chief to make sure Ladder 19 is not closed. This is the busiest Ladder company in the City, and just saved three of our residents the week before it was announced they would be shutting it down. Hopefully with a galvanized effort of Corryville, Mt. Auburn, Clifton, and Avondale with us, as well as the combined efforts of UC, University Hospital, Childrens, The Zoo, and Good Samaritan (collectively known as the Uptown Consortium), we will be able to avert this from happening in the budget crisis.

I have been meeting with representatives from UC, Childrens, and Good Samaritan, along

with Freeman McNeal, the Mt Auburn Community Council president, and Clyde Nowlin, the Corryville Community Council president, on working out ways to partner the Uptown Consortium and the communities better when petitioning City Council and the City Manager, including The Charter Amendment Issue and Streetcar Issue, and Approaching Christ Hospital about rejoining the Uptown Consortium.

On July 30th, Julie Murray, Renata Beckner, Matt Bourgeois, and John Ligon and I went to the Empowerment Corporation grant party. Our Classen Park project is one of many great community grants the Empowerment Corporation gave out that will benefit our City. We spent an evening entertained by Bootsy Collins and Curtis Fuller.

On August 4th, I met with UC Interim President, Monica Rimai, and Mary Ronan, the Superintendent of Cincinnati Public Schools, as well as Arn Bortz from Towne Properties, Doug Barclay from the Clifton Heights Business Association, Jason Masterson from Clifton Heights Improvement Association, and Matt Bourgeois from CHCURC. Hughes High School and Taft Elementary School have great promise and we will work together to make sure the STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) programs are a success for not just our neighborhood, but also for the City of Cincinnati.

Craig Lloyd continues to make progress with the Revitalization District concept. Joe Gorman will be speaking to the Board in September about their journey in Camp Washington with their revitalization, and the October meeting will welcome representatives from South Park in Dayton, a very successful urban revitalization district.

The Business Association, CHCURC, UC, the City and CUF continue to work on plans for Classen Park with the Park Board. Human Nature will be working with us and the Park Board for green design. This should happen in the fall. And Matt Bourgeois is still working with the

Craig Lloyd and I met up with Coleman Kane and Cherie Wallpe and we will be working to update the website for those of us who are computer users. We are hoping to use this as a marketing tool for our community to attract membership.

And in our efforts to help improve partnering with our community institutions, remember that

Patrick Ward from the Deaconess Foundation will come to talk about possible plans for better senior care in our area at the September 15th General Meeting.

Don't forget: we all have vacation from a meeting and there will be no general meeting in August. The next general assembly of CUF meeting is on September 15th. See you then at 7:30 pm!

Rob Neel

## Minutes of the CUF general meeting, July 21, 2009

- Officer Lisa Johnson was working with Channel 5 on a series that put a spotlight on the recurring criminals that populate our neighborhood.
- Officer Barbara Henson from the UC Police Department reported they are looking at changing when their shifts end in a way that will make more officers available at peak demand times. Fall quarter classes begin September 23, the first UC football game is Saturday, September 12, 7:30 p.m.
- Brad Austing from Towne Properties and Graham Kalki from CR Architecture reported that 150 units of housing and 85,000 square feet of retail were envisioned for the development between Calhoun and McMillan.
- One of the most contentious issues of this development is parking. While the city mandates that parking be provided for both the residents and businesses, the parking is not necessarily included in the lease, i.e. an additional cost would be incurred by the new residents. The neighborhood's fear is that by not providing the parking in the lease, an additional 150+ people will be parking on the streets surrounding the development. We are not asking Town Properties to solve our problems, but we must ask them not to add to them.
- Questions were asked about the retail business mix and a request was made for more resident-centered shops, not just the student-oriented businesses currently available.
- A mistaken idea that certain members of the community want to close Mac's Pizza was addressed. The concerned members only want Mac's to follow the current law concerning his outdoor hours of operation.
- Matt Bourgeois gave a CHCURC update —
  - Grass has been planted and is growing on Block One.
  - Streetscape design meetings for Old Town have started. Anyone interested in participating contact Matt at 564-0078.
  - Old St. George will be getting new steeple caps and roof upgrades. New steeples, like the originals, will follow later. Paran Management will be the new development partner. They specialize in this area.
- Bobby Maly from Cincinnatians for Progress spoke. His group is opposed the ballot initiative that seeks to stop light rail transport by subjecting every decision to a general election vote. They feel this is unnecessary restrictive. He urges us, and everyone that supports light rail or other transportation options, to vote no on the ballot.

• There was a tie in the election for the board between Sharon Buckner and Lucille Kotzbauer. Lucille conceded to Sharon and a run-off vote was not needed.

- Thanks were extended to those who have served on the board and were stepping down: Jerry Cummings, Craig Lloyd and Gayle Prager.
- The newly elected members of the board were recognized and congratulated.
- The Muralworks project was noted. Debbie Herman thanked the community for the donated funds. She announced that lighting is planned for the mural. All are welcome to attend a celebration to be held in late September/early October.
- The University Heights meeting was noted.
- Block captain activities were recognized.
- Into the Streets will be held on October 3 this year. Formal projects are requested.
- Make a Difference Day is October 29.
- Old Business
  - Clean and Safe grant for August 7
  - Revitalization district group has invited a guest from Dayton to speak at the Oct. general meeting on their successful project. That meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.
- New Business
  - Greater cooperation with The Heights was announced; a pooling of resources and the identification of common goals is the plan.
  - The new Rookwood Pottery group is coming to the October meeting.
  - Invest in Neighborhoods will host a City Council public forum on September 29 or September 30.
  - Mt. Auburn Day celebration will be September 12 from 1- 7 p.m. at Jackson Park.
  - Virginia Rhodes, the new principal at Hughes High School spoke. She has programs in place to better monitor off-campus activities of her students who have in the past been disruptive. She has pledged to support the area in this regard. August 18 is the first day of classes.
  - Personal pocket ashtrays were discussed, as were the units on the poles in the business district.

### CUF Financial Report, August, 2009

Balance on July 1:	\$5,283.05
Income:	
Dues	12.00
Dues	150.00
Total income:	\$162.00
Expenses:	
FedEx June newsletter	\$152.99
P. Gallagher, hardware	\$16.19
D. Herman, mulch	\$61.33
J. Stork	24.49
P. Gallagher, plants	55.94
Fed Ex Trustee copies	16.38
Plaza Art	30.00
Total expenses:	\$357.32
Balance on: August 1	\$5,087.73

## **Neighborhood clean ups**

Two neighborhood clean ups are planned for October. Make A Difference Day will happen on October 24th in the morning. Meet your friends and neighbors out to clean trash, clear brush, and other clean up projects on the City.

On October 3rd, UC's Center for Community Engagement will be working with us on several projects in the community, including a clean up of Fairview Park. Plan to work for your community in October!

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## **Mural opens**

October 3rd will be the official opening of the Clifton Heights mural at the intersection of Wheeler and McMillan. The Clifton heights Improvement Association is working on lighting for the mural.

Plan on celebrating with Artworks and our artists, as well as City officials and your friends, neighbors, and businesses from 4 to 7 pm, after UC's Center for Community Engagement Into the Streets day.

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## **Landscaping & curb appeal increase property value**

Attractive landscaping is one of the best ways to make a good first impression, help increase property value & show that a home is loved.

Though a well-designed landscape can be simple, it also can move far beyond a velvety lawn and colorful flower beds to encompass trees, shrubs, irrigation, and lighting. By making informed choices, home owners can transform their properties, whether they're selling or just moved in and plan to stay for years.

When budgeting for a landscaping overhaul, home owners should plan to spend about 10 percent of the value of the home. To achieve a grander look, a bigger budget of 15 percent may be necessary.

Here are some simple projects that experts say will make a big impact on the property's appearance — and possibly boost resale value.

- Plant trees. Trees look nice, cut down on heating and cooling costs, and can even help a home sell for more money, the USDA Forest Service says. Properly placing just three trees can save an average household between \$100 and \$250 in annual energy bills, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.
- Go for year-round color. Rather than make do

with empty beds and a brown lawn in winter, home owners can pick materials that remain green all year. Examples: evergreen arborvitae, junipers, and boxwood.

- Help the environment. There are dozens of ways to be a good environmental steward. A rain garden can retain water rather than send it into the nearest storm sewer. Large shade trees can screen a roof and windows from sun and block cold wind and air.
- Make your yard livable. A yard can be transformed into livable outdoor "rooms." High on the wish list are outdoor kitchens and fire pits, and the newest star — media rooms.
- Just add water. Everyone loves water's soothing sound, whether it cascades into a pond, fills a fountain, or churns in a hot tub.
- Build a pergola. A pergola — a set of columns supporting a roof of trelliswork on which climbing plants can grow — adds architectural interest, vertical growing space, and shade.

### **For Home Owners on a Budget**

Landscaping doesn't have to cost as much as your house. There also are many affordable improvements home owners can make to enhance curb appeal.

- Clear away lawn art, toys and other "clutter."
- Edge beds and add fresh mulch.
- Paint or seal terraces and replace rotted wood.
- Add a touch of color. A few pots of tulips in March work magic; red and white colors add the most punch.
- Use container gardens. Pots are an affordable, portable way to line a path, embellish an entry, grow herbs, and decorate indoor rooms when weather changes.

Thanks.

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

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## **Burnet Woods**

- *Dragonflies*, Sat., Aug. 15, 11 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Stop by the lake for this drop-in program on Dragonflies and Damselflies. We'll learn their fascinating life histories, explore the lake in search of the little beasties, and meet them up close and personal. Meet at the Trailside Nature Center

### **Wolff Planetarium, Burnet Woods**

Programs are open to adults and older children accompanied by adults. Seating is limited; please call 751-3679 for reservations.

Fee: \$3.00 per person.

- *Arabian Nights*, Fri., Aug. 21, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.



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

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## 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)

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