



**NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION**

Newsletter

REPRESENTING CLIFTON HEIGHTS • UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS • FAIRVIEW

September, 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, neighbors.

As September rolls in and the smoke from the fireworks fades, it is time to get back to work and build on our successes from last year. We need to begin to focus on plans for the year and accomplishments to set our eyes and hearts on. Collaborating with police, our institutions, and each other will bring us greater successes for the 2009-2010 year.

As a reminder of progress... Look to seeing Old St George repaired his fall. Thanks to the Empowerment Corporation, look to see Classen Park refurbished. New local businesses will be joining our neighborhood (more details to come). Clifton Avenue will be finished with its tree lawns and new sidewalks/new street paving. Your friends and neighbors continue to work on a revitalization district. The City is beginning its 2010 Comprehensive Plan. Hughes continues its 40 million + renovation and begins its new STEM program with Dr. Virginia Rhodes at the helm.

And UC will have a new visionary president.

I put out a request again for articles and submissions for the newsletter for October. I am grateful to Cherie Wallpe for her article on pet safety in the heat in July's newsletter.

I continue to meet with the other Neighborhood presidents in Uptown. Establishing a tighter working relationship with the neighborhood associations and institutions of Uptown will become more vital as we help solidify our position to the City for future development. A special prayer for Clyde Nowlin, Corryville's president, who has been hospitalized just recently.

Watch out for your neighbors. Do what you can and be willing to offer that helping hand, even when it is not asked for. Inspire positivity,

creativity, and teamwork to those around you. I know we can make things better!

See you at the meeting!

Rob Neel

Save the date!!

October 3rd, 9 am to 2 pm. Partnering with UC's Center for Community Engagement, join your community for Park projects at Fairview Park and Bellevue Park. Cathy Raffles will be leading the Bellevue team and Rob Neel will be leading the Fairview team. Please talk to either of these two if interested in making our local parks more beautiful!

Also on October 3rd, the "unveiling" party of the Clifton Heights Mural will be held from 4-7 pm at the intersection of . Join the Mayor and other City officials as we officially welcome the newest artwork to our community!

October 24th, 9 am to 12 noon. Join your neighbors in the annual Make a Difference Day and help clean up trash in the neighborhood! We are looking for volunteers to participate and for someone to head up the event as Suzanne Summer, who normally heads this project up every year, will be out of town. Contact Suzanne at Suzanne.Summer@cchmc.org.

City Council Candidate Forum

Wednesday September 30th, 7-9 pm
Cintas Center

Invest in Neighborhoods is conducting a candidate forum on behalf of community councils on Wednesday, Sept. 30. Those running for City Council and the Mayor's office will state their positions and answer question of neighborhood interest in this event which starts at 7 pm at the Cintas Center on the Xavier University campus. This is a great opportunity for community council members to learn which candidates for City Council and the Mayor's office understand neighborhoods and what we do for the City. Gene Beaupre, assistant director of the Xavier University Institute for Politics and

Public Life, will moderate. We are grateful for support from the Scripps Foundation on behalf of WCPO and the Institute for Politics and Public Life. Put it on your calendar!

CUF Financial Report, September, 2009

Balance on August 1:	\$5,087.73
Income	
Dues	6.00
Tower Fund Refund	2,775.00
Total income:	\$2,781.00
Expenses:	
Acorn Host	\$30.00
D. Carr, (water tap)	\$3,500.00
Fed Ex Office	173.19
Keep Cincinnati Beautiful	40.00
Total expenses:	<u>3,743.19</u>

Balance on: September 1

November is election time!

We will be voting on City Council positions, Mayor, and several key issues.

There are several key issues on the ballot again this year:

- Hamilton County Mental Retardation Developmental Delay. Kate Hamilton from the Hamilton County MR/DD Board will be speaking with us at our October 20th meeting.

To learn more about what Hamilton County MRDD does for people in our community, visit <http://www.hamiltonmrdd.org/>

For an update on the MR/DD Levy for the November ballot, check out: <http://www.hamiltonmrdd.org/documents/levy/20090908LevyUpdate.pdf>

- The Casino Initiative
 - Passenger Rail Charter Amendment: Issue #9
-

City Comprehensive Plan

In 1925 Cincinnati was the first city in the nation to have a formal comprehensive plan adopted by its city council. The 1925 plan has only been updated twice, once in 1948 and again in 1980, and will soon be completely updated for the first time in nearly three decades in an effort being dubbed Plan Cincinnati.

Contemporary comprehensive plans are typically updated every five years and are often tied to capital improvement plans so that there is legal standing and financial support for the elements of that plan – something that city officials hope to have done with the City's new comprehensive plan

that is currently getting underway.

Current Mayor Mark Mallory pledged his support for city planning when he originally ran for mayor. That support translated into the recreation of the City's Planning Department that had been dismantled by the previous administration, and this fall it will continue with a major kickoff to the efforts to have a new comprehensive plan completed by the end of 2010.

The comprehensive planning effort has been allocated \$250,000 this year and next year from the City's Capital Budget, and will have work done both in-house and contracted out for more specific elements of the plan that need additional expertise.

Chief Planner Margaret Wuerstle says that the City has been going out to the community councils this summer to make them aware of the process and inform them about the four major meetings that will be held this fall:

- September 30th from 6pm to 8pm at the Coryville Rec Center
- October 5th from 6pm to 8pm at the Price Hill Rec Center
- October 15th from 6pm to 8pm at the College Hill Rec Center
- October 22nd from 6pm to 8pm at the Madisonville Rec Center

Wuerstle says that the City is hopeful it will have an appointed Steering Committee within the coming weeks that will include 31 people who will help lead the process including the plan's eleven primary elements: Housing & Neighborhood Development; Economic Development & Business Retention; Transportation & Transit; Health, Environment & Open Space; Land Use; Historic Preservation; Urban Design; Utilities & Infrastructure; Institutions; Intergovernmental Cooperation; and Fiscal.

Following the meetings this fall there will be the Neighborhood Summit meeting in February which will almost entirely be devoted to the comprehensive plan and how the various neighborhoods need to be involved.

The 10-year comprehensive plan will create a vision for where the City wants to go and how it intends to get there. "It's very important that people are involved. This is their plan, and is the way they can get involved to help fix the issues they may have in the city," says Wuerstle who also encourages residents, business owners and anyone who shares an interest in the future of the city to get involved.

If you are interested in getting involved you can email Margaret Wuerstle at Margaret.Wuerstle@cincinnati-oh.gov, call the Planning Department at (513) 352-4845, or become a fan of Plan Cincinnati on Facebook. Once you have shared your interest and contact information, the City will connect with you about future events and engagement opportunities.

Bicycle plan

The City is beginning the process of creating a new city-wide comprehensive Bicycle Plan. The Bicycle Plan will provide the long-term vision for the development of a citywide bicycle network designed to serve all types and ages of bicyclists for all types of trips (work, shopping, exercise, etc). The network will also be complemented by safety, encouragement, and enforcement programs that will foster a cultural awareness of bicycling as a viable means of transportation in Cincinnati.

The planning process is scheduled to begin soon, and will include the formation of a Stakeholder Committee, as well as several public workshops to solicit input on the Plan. Melissa McVay will be the Project Manager, and she is beginning to put together the Stakeholder Committee that will review draft documents/maps and provide feedback to the Consultant team that is drafting the Bicycle Plan. She anticipates that the Stakeholder Group will meet two to three times over the next 12 months, but most communication will be via e-mail.

As CUF is in close proximity to several major cycling corridors, the City thinks it would be helpful to have a CUF representative on the Stakeholder Committee. Please let me know if you or anyone you would recommend is interested in participating. The person need not be a cyclist. Please contact Rob or Melissa McVay at Melissa.McVay@cincinnati-oh.gov.

Homebuyer Credit

by MARILYN GEEWAX
www.npr.org

Spring is usually the peak season for home buying. But this year is different. Real estate agents say that when Congress decided in February to create an \$8,000 tax credit for first-time homebuyers — and set a Nov. 30 deadline — it turned August into the new real-estate rush hour. Because a sales contract can take months to complete, buyers are turning out in droves this month to ensure they make the deadline. “It’s having a big impact,” said Iverson Moore, a spokesman for the National Association of Realtors. The trade group is collecting data to measure just how big the impact is.

“We are hearing ... that a large share of

first-time buyers are being motivated by the tax credit,” Moore said.

To qualify, buyers must be purchasing a principle residence for the first time or at least for the first time after at least three years of renting. To keep the focus on first-time buyers, Congress set an income limit for the full credit. For a single person, it’s \$75,000 and for married couples, it’s double that.

Just like the “Cash for Clunkers” program that helped the auto industry, the home-buyer tax credit is helping turn around the housing market. Moore’s group said this past week that the number of contracts to buy previously owned homes rose in June for a fifth straight month.

Buyers will get the money when they claim the tax credit while filing their federal income taxes for 2009. So, for example, a person who normally would owe \$8,000 in federal income taxes would owe no taxes at all after taking the credit. Even those who owe little or no federal tax can get the credit. The government will send them a check for a portion or all of the credit.

The credit is equal to 10 percent of the home’s price, up to \$8,000. So, for example, if a buyer is paying \$50,000 for a house, the credit would be worth \$5,000. The tax credit never has to be repaid. Last year, Congress created a different tax credit, but that one was effectively an interest-free loan. This money involves no repayment or interest.

Some members of Congress want to extend the credit. Last month, the National Association of Realtors testified before the House, saying the program has been so successful, it needs to be extended through next year. A bill has been introduced to stretch the tax credit through 2010 and has attracted almost two dozen sponsors.

Meredith Salsbery, a spokeswoman for Rep. Tim Walz, a Democrat from Minnesota, said that in recent days, the lawmaker has met with Realtors, home builders and constituents in his district who are calling for an extension of the program. “We’re working on it,” she said. Walz is a co-sponsor of the First-Time Homebuyer Credit Extension Act of 2009, HR 1933.

Realtors’ spokeswoman Mary Trupo said chances for passage are unclear because of congressional concerns about the growing federal budget deficit.

“Some members of Congress are receptive, but there’s a lot of work to be done to extend the credit,” she said. “We don’t know what the end result will be.”



CLIFTON HEIGHTS
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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)