



**NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION**

# Newsletter

REPRESENTING CLIFTON HEIGHTS • UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS • FAIRVIEW

**June, 2020**

## **Next monthly meeting:**

June 16, 2020

Online Format, 7 p.m.

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## **There are angels in our neighborhood!**

Every afternoon and evening anywhere from 20-30 cars arrive and fill the parking lot and circle drive with couples or families looking for a place to eat some carry out food and get a bit of space in nature. Unfortunately too many of these visitors must have not been taught to use the 9 large trash cans to throw away their discarded food and bottles and beverage cans and every morning when I visit the park right early enough to have a peaceful solitary walk with my dog, I have been dismayed to find it littered with an unbelievable amount of trash.

Prior to the pandemic, there was always some refuse laying around and I didn't mind picking it up as I walked the loop - but I soon became aware that with COVID -19 - it was dangerous for me to be picking anything up that had been discarded by these visitors, so I stopped doing it. Day by day, it seemed to grow worse, and then suddenly when I arrived around 7:30 am I began to find anywhere from 10-15 huge industrial strength black plastic bags, filled with trash and piled up ready to be taken away by the Parks Department who visit each morning around 8:30 am, and the entire area of the parking lots and grassy areas were spotless - not a single bottle or plastic container or discarded food to be found. I thanked the Parks Dept. team leader whom I have come to know for the great job they were doing and he told me that each morning when they arrive they find this collection of bags filled with trash, tied up and ready to be carried away. They had no idea who had done this - sort of like the shoemaker and the elves, or angels....

Finally, speaking with Maureen France I described this phenomenon - and she told me that she had bumped into our CUF

neighbor from Flora Street, Tom Plummer, who told her that in his retirement he has found a job: cleaning up Bellevue Park at least once a day - sometimes twice on beautiful days when the trash requires two visits. He has been purchasing tons of heavy duty black plastic industrial size bags and going with his little dog and cleaning up everything so it is pristine for us early morning visitors, leaving a clean bag inside each of the 9 black metal barrels spread around the park.

I was stunned and so happy to know who this "Park Angel" is.... so folks, in this time of such distress on so many fronts, I wanted to make sure we all knew that we have "angels in our midst". Thank you so much, Tom Plummer, for the amazing contribution you have been making to this gem of Bellevue Park. I am sure it has contributed to the serenity of many of us who go there for refreshment and solace.

Bless you!

Julie M. Murray

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## **CUF Neighborhood Association General Membership Meeting**

Video Conference Platform (provided by INVEST)

19 May 2020 - The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:03 pm, by Nathan Hess.

### Guests:

- Greg Landsman – Cincinnati City Council
- Colleen Reynolds – DSD Advisors (Parking Solutions Study)
- Aaron Bartels and Mark Becher – Trinitas & Associates
- Tom Reece – Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC)

### Safety Updates:

•UCPD Representatives were not in attendance at tonight's Video Conference Meeting, however Officer Vestring did send a reply back to CUFNA President, Nathan Hess regarding the continuation of off-campus parties.

- CPD-5 Representatives were not in attendance at tonight's Video Conference Meeting, nor have any replies been received from them. CUFNA President, Nathan Hess advised that he may send an email directly to CPD-5 Captain Gregoire regarding the invitations to our General Meetings and the on-going noise complaints associated with off-campus partying.
- Linda Ziegler spoke of recent loud partying occurring at Fortune Street (near Coy Street) and that a CPD-5 Motorcycle Patrol Officer stopped at Sharon Buckner's house on Coy Street to actively listen to the noise. Jules Rosen spoke of recent loud partying occurring on Fairview Avenue last Saturday, 16 May 2020 between 3:00 pm and 3:00 am and that both CPD-5 and UCPD Police did actually respond in person to neighborhood noise complaints.

Guest Speakers:

- Councilmember Greg Landsman was in attendance tonight and spoke of the following items: (1) City Council is aware of the on-going issues with off-campus party noises and that he plans to communicate with CPD-5 Captain Gregoire. Meanwhile, he suggested that CUF community members please email him directly at [greg.landsman@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:greg.landsman@cincinnati-oh.gov) or call his cell phone 513-646-0186 with your concerns. (2) He has spoken recently with Public Services about CUF street sweeping (pilot program) and will be forwarding their status updates onto CUFNA President, Nathan Hess. (3) The Office of Aging & Accessibility has received an AARP Grant to be used for the sidewalks at Stratford & Jocelyn Streets. (4) U.S. Census Counts in CUF are not very high so far. (5) DSD Advisors, Colleen Reynolds will be presenting the CUF Parking Solutions Study Results to his Council Committee on Wednesday, 27 May 2020 at 1:00 pm and will be televised on City Cable. (6) Mayor John Cranley may be making an announcement on COVID-19 re-openings within the next 24-48 hours. (7) The City Budget is currently a mess and dependent upon the U.S. Congress for financial assistance, otherwise there will be city budget cuts this summer and going into next year. FY-21 is the real nightmare issue with a projected \$80Mil. Deficit to the General Fund (used to fund Police-Fire-City Staff). Council Member Landsman next referred to the proposed Heroes Act for Cities & States and urged all of us to contact our U. S. Senators Portman & Brown to vote Yes to this Act which would also provide Food & Rent Assistance and also a Nation COVID-19 Tracing Program. The financial relief from these programs will allow the City of Cincinnati to re-open the City without incurring future spikes & shutdowns. Related to

this is the Ohio Governor's earlier announcement today to relax both stay-at-home orders & bar openings which could further complicate the COVID slowdown. Lastly, Mr. Landsman asked if anyone present had any requests for him. Maureen France advised him that she is still waiting for status regarding a "variance" for the sidewalk located on W. McMicken Avenue at lower Fairview Park. The variance is part of an approved grant to install 2 new street lights at this location. Mr. Landsman replied that he would help shepherd this variance.

- Colleen Reynolds representing DSD Advisors provided a Recap of the CUF Parking Solutions Study & Processes to date beginning last Summer 2019. She then outlined the next steps in the overall process: (1) Final Survey Results (please note that the survey can only take respondents for another two weeks due to nearing the end of the subscription). Colleen also referred to Voter Approved Issues 22 (Fall 2019) & 7 (Spring 2020) as related to survey respondents who cited their desire for better Metro Bus Service. The final step in the overall process involves a June 2020 deadline for getting City Council to "formally" adopt all 5 goals of the Parking Solutions Study prior to their summer recess. Nathan Hess also advised that there are regular meetings between DSD Advisors, CUFNA, & CHCURC regarding the parking study.
- Trinitas & Associates provided a recap of last month's status regarding current student occupancy at The Deacon & other COVID-19 related managerial procedures. Plans for slowly reopening facility amenities are dependent upon forthcoming State of Ohio guidelines.

Reports, Discussions & Announcements:

- The Treasurer's Report was shared by Nathan Hess.
- Tom Reece representing CRC reported that 16 City Rec Centers are hoping to reopen in the next few weeks with a staff to children ratio of 1:9 with temperature taking requirements. They are also hoping to bring back furloughed and laid off employees soon. There are currently no plans for opening up basketball courts, senior day centers, or pottery class studios.
- Neighborhood Parks & CPAC: Cynthia Duval representing PBW (Preserve Burnet Woods) reported that not much is currently going on with Burnet Woods but that some light events with social distancing may start up in June and that other than Invasive Species Removal, PBW won't be starting any other projects without lead guidance from the Park Board (and no guidance currently receive for reinstalling the swing

set). Relative to Invasive Species Removal, she advised that she had just recently visited Fairview Park to inspect the steps. Nathan Hess also advised that Parks Foundation \$1K Grant (if approved) will be a “private” donation and not dependent upon the City Budget.

- CHCURC Block 1 & CUF Housing Initiative updates: Chip Kusmaul reported there have been no recent meetings (just email communications). Nathan Hess advised that Brenden Regen with CHCURC has been very helpful in replying back to the community regarding the housing initiative and specifically with 2465 W. McMicken which was originally one of the targeted properties but the current owner has been recently court approved to keep their property (after paying back-taxes, fines, & contracting with the City to make code violation improvements).

- CHBA updates: Jack Martin advised that there are no new updates to report and Nathan Hess urged the community to support our local Clifton Heights businesses.

- NOU updates: Linda Ziegler reported that Christ Hospital may contribute funding to Mt. Auburn’s trails, Corryville is hoping to get their \$2K approved soon, and CUF’s funding has already been approved (and met all NSP requirements).

- LSDMC/CPS updates: Hughes High School Rep Lyn Martin reported that they had a video conference meeting yesterday and she provided the upcoming 20 May 2020 Hughes H.S. Graduation Ceremonial Car Parade details. She also advised that CPS is considering 3 possible options for the school year beginning next fall 2020: (1) fully physical school day with social distancing, (2) partial split between physical school days and remote learning, & (3) fully remote learning. She also reported that CPS plans to provide “every” public school student with a lap top next year. CANS (Clifton Area Neighborhoods School) Rep Tracy Schwetschenau was absent from tonight’s meeting.

- UC Community Redevelopment updates: Megan Smith was absent from tonight’s meeting.

- 4/5g Infrastructure upgrades: Nathan Hess requested that any noticeable/major damages please be reported to the CUFNA Board who will then forward these complaints on to City Council.

Additional Announcements by CUFNA President Nathan Hess:

- (1) Hughes High School Graduation Ceremonial Car Parade is scheduled for tomorrow night, 20 May 2020, (2) Thank-you to Jules Rosen for his

years of service on the CUFNA Board (Jules is moving out of CUF & is selling his home on Fairview Avenue, (3) Thank-you to Linda Ziegler for all of her hard work on the Go-vibrant Project, (4) Thank-you to Maureen France for all of her cleanup efforts in Fairview Park – Maureen also proceeded to acknowledge Tom Plummer who lives on Flora Street and cleans up Bellevue Park on a daily basis, (5) Thank-you to all of the Landscape Beautification Volunteers for their efforts at the St. Monica triangle and also at W. McMillan & Ravine Streets, and lastly (6) a reminder of the upcoming July 2020 CUFNA Trustee Elections & the 4 candidates running for Election are Maureen France (reelection for 2nd 3 year term), Andrea Schwallie, John Stork, & Paul Gallagher. Their names (without Bios) will be published in the May 2020 Newsletter and their subsequent Bios will be published in the June 2020 Newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:23 pm

Next General Meeting: 16 June 2020, 7:00 pm, location TBD

Next Board Meeting: 2 June 2020, 7:00 pm, location TBD

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Young

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## CUF Neighborhood Association Financial Report, May 31, 2020

Apr 30, 2020 \$19,370.01

Income:

Membership \$190.00

Total income: + \$190.00

Expenses:

GCWW \$32.65

City of Cincinnati - Pots \$900.00

Ziegler - Stamp Reimb. \$89.00

Bambach - Mulch Reimb. \$330.01

Decal Impressions - Newsletter \$329.30

Total expenses: - \$1,680.96

Balance on: May 31, 2020 \$17,879.05

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## CUF annual meeting and election

July 21, 2020 is the date of our annual meeting and election of trustees. As you know, due to the Corona virus, we have been unable to meet in person at Hughes High School. This situation is likely to continue for some time. The April general meeting was successfully conducted on-line with the assistance of an Invest in Neighborhoods platform. The trustees are working to refine this process. Members will be notified of meetings through Mail Chimp.

This year's election will be conducted by mail. Those members eligible to vote will receive ballots and return envelopes in the mail. Current trustee Jack Martin is term-limited, and Jules Rosen has chosen not to run for a second term. Three candidates will be elected. Candidates for election are Maureen France, Paul Gallagher, Andrea Schwallie, and John Stork. Below are the candidate's statements received at this time:

My name is Andrea Schwallie, and I have been a resident of CUF since 2018. I have been regularly attending the general meetings since I moved to the neighborhood. As a permanent resident, I am interested in maintaining and preserving local parks, improving the walkability of the neighborhood, and generating greater interest in single-family home ownership.

Maureen France has lived and worked in the CUF community for 30 years. She is a past President of CUF and is running for re-election to the Board of Trustees. She is Garden Coordinator for the McMicken Community Garden and Captain of the CUF Team for the annual Neighborhood Games. Her primary areas of interest are protecting and improving green space, increasing the number of home owners and recruiting more residents to become members of CUF.

Paul Gallagher is a former trustee of both the CUF Board and the Tower Fund. He has lived in CUF for more than 50 years and was a Captain in the Cincinnati Fire Department. He is best known as the Tree Man, responsible for planting hundreds of trees in our community. He is a member of the Urban Forestry Board.

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## Hughes High School

Wednesday, May 20th was graduation day for the Hughes High School class of 2020. Due to Covid 19; however, this year's ceremony was a bit non-traditional. Graduates processed in cars single file up Clifton Avenue from MLK to the high school. To the sounds of "Pomp and Circumstance", school staff took photos of each graduate and handed out diplomas on a tray. Family and friends lined the street to cheer the graduates on. CUF provided some financial support for this event.

From Hughes Principal Kathy Wright, "Thank you to everyone that supported the Class of 2020! We appreciate you! Go Big Red!"

Photos:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/C4vp4aV6oC5KhRRQ8>

Video:

<https://youtu.be/xyXCAQC2pCo>

Graduation Booklet:

<http://online.fliphtml5.com/tyxkz/kqnd/>

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## Burnet Woods changes

Effective June 29, 2020 Cincinnati Parks is temporarily closing to vehicular traffic the section of Burnet Woods Drive winding through the center of the park (see attached map). The road will remain open for pedestrian and bike traffic. This change was planned as one component of the Park Board 2007 Master Plan and has been a topic of conversation supported by many in the surrounding communities.

The reason for the closure is to create additional green space within the center of the park by making this area safer for pedestrians and cyclists. At present, this steep section of the road allows vehicular traffic to cut through the park's trail system. This can cause conflicts between cars, cyclists, children, and adults since the trail system crosses the road at this location.

When the temporary vehicular closure is implemented on June 29, Cincinnati Parks will distribute an electronic survey to park users and stakeholders. Parks will also be collecting feedback from individual park stakeholder organizations and users within and outside of the immediate vicinity. During this closure,

Parks staff will assess the impact on park users and park operations. The closure will be re-evaluated in 90 days after adequate community feedback has been received.

Rocky Merz, Business Services Division Manager, Cincinnati Park Board

**BURNET WOODS DR.**  
Section closed off to vehicle traffic, open to pedestrian and bicycle traffic.  
  
The reason for the closure is to create additional greenspace within the center of the park by making this area of the park safer for pedestrians and cyclists.



## Census update

CUF has been participating in the Greater Cincinnati Counts effort, that includes 200 + city/county organizations whose goal is to ensure an accurate count. As of the end of April, about 70 million households have responded to the Census, which represents about 48% of the total in the US. The response rate for the city of Cincinnati is close behind at 41.2%. However, the response rate for CUF is much less, at only about 19%. Some of this may be due to the lack of response by UC students living off-campus. Officials at UC are working on that issue with Census staff.

As a reminder, after the 2010 Census, Ohio lost two Congressional seats; and we are projected to lose again this decade due to a decline in population. In addition to determining Congressional representation, funding for many federal programs is based on population counts. These programs provide approximately \$1,800 per person per year. Clearly, it is important that each household respond to the Census.

For more information about the Census calendar and employment opportunities see: <https://www.census.gov>.

CUF COUNTS!



## Go Vibrant million step challenge

We are still proceeding with the Million Step Challenge given it is so important for people to get out and walk (at a safe distance) since we have all been stuck inside, and walking is one of the few things we can do safely. Unfortunately, our 2 main sponsors for the Million Step Challenge are in a funding freeze. This means that we will be conducting the Challenge with minimal resources and have a NEW START DATE! The 2020 Million Step Challenge will officially begin on *Monday, June 15th*. We are working tirelessly with our developer to get the app up and running to keep everything smooth for all who participate.

We will be highlighting the 20+ neighborhoods with go Vibrant walking routes so individuals can get out and walk. At some point we are hoping to add a “kids category” this year to encourage children who are missing out on their PE classes or Spring Sports, but that component will likely be added a little later in the summer.

We are working with several neighborhoods (including CUF) who are in process to create walking routes in their communities. Although we will be delayed on all of those schedules due to so many business closures, these neighbors will still be with us in the Million Step Challenge.

We are putting up a Go Fund Me page and will be sharing that link with you (as well as participants from the Million Step Challenge), to help us move forward on our programs. We know that everyone is dealing with difficult times right now, but please help spread the word to keep our neighborhoods active.

For further updates, see the website: <http://www.govibrant.org/stepup/>

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## Yard waste collection

The City of Cincinnati's yard waste collection program resumed on May 4. Yard waste collection and bulk item collection is now in full service after delays related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

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## Plan Cincinnati

Plan Cincinnati, adopted in 2012, was Cincinnati's first comprehensive plan in over thirty years. It was adopted unanimously by the City Council after a three year long development process and unprecedented public participation through direct engagement of thousands of Cincinnati stakeholders.

Plan Cincinnati is the official document guiding future planning and development in the City of Cincinnati. It is designed to represent the voice of the people of Cincinnati and guide the future of our city. All future Neighborhood, Neighborhood Business District, Urban Renewal, Urban Design, Strategic, Area, or Special Plans must adhere to the goals and strategies set forth in this document.

To look at this and a number of other city plans see:

<https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/planning/plan-cincinnati/resources/approved-city-of-cincinnati-plans/>

To see neighborhood plans:

<https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/planning/plan-cincinnati/resources/approved-city-of-cincinnati-plans/community-plans/>



A poplar blossom seen in CUF

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**CLIFTON HEIGHTS  
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS  
FAIRVIEW  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

2364 West McMicken Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

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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 \$10.00.

- CUF general meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, except August and December, 7:00 p.m., Hughes High School, 2nd floor, 2515 Clifton Ave.
- CUF Trustee meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m, Hughes High School, 2nd floor
- CUF annual meeting and election: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in July, 7:00 pm, Hughes High School, 2nd floor, 2515 Clifton Avenue

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: \$10.00 per year.  
Make checks payable to CUFNA.

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