



**NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION**

# Newsletter

REPRESENTING CLIFTON HEIGHTS • UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS • FAIRVIEW

**April, 2023**

**Next monthly meeting: April 18, 2023, hybrid format, 7 p.m.**  
Google Meet and In-Person at Hughes High School, 1st floor

Dear Neighbors:

A year ago, CUF applied for and received two grants from Keep Cincinnati Beautiful. One for solar stop signs and one for a new community garden. Here are updates on the projects:

Four flashing solar stop signs have been installed at the intersection of Straight Street and McMicken Avenue. McMicken Avenue and, in particular, this intersection have long been the sites of bad driving behavior. Since installation of the stop signs; however, neighbors report increased compliance with traffic laws.

The plot of CUF's original community garden on McMicken Avenue was sold a few years ago, leaving our gardeners in limbo. Over time the house on the lot next to the original garden became blighted to the point that the city tore it down. The owner then defaulted on a loan, and the bank repossessed the property. Members of the CUF Neighborhood Association heard of a grant to remediate blighted property and partnered with the Civic Garden Center to apply for the grant. After this grant was awarded to buy the property, CUFNA applied for another grant to turn the property into a community garden. This project is a collaboration among the CUF Neighborhood Association, the city's Office of Environment and Sustainability, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Civic Garden Center.

To date, the work has involved discing, grading, and removing debris (bricks/stones from the old house foundation), bringing in topsoil, building garden beds, mulching the area, and erecting a fence around the garden. The work is far from finished, much is still in process and help is welcomed! To help with the garden (mulching, planting, design) contact [mary.h.singler@gmail.com](mailto:mary.h.singler@gmail.com).

Ten raised beds are currently available. If you would like to garden this year, send a request to [francem@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:francem@ucmail.uc.edu) (Maureen France). Make sure the subject line says "McMicken

Community Garden." The garden plot is \$20 per year, and you must sign an agreement to contribute to the upkeep of the garden. First come, first served. The plots go quickly.

Volunteers have spent a lot of time and energy on these projects for the benefit of all. Stop by to see their work!



## **CUF Neighborhood Association General Meeting**

Hybrid In-Person / Virtual meeting at Hughes High School and on Google Meet

Meeting Commenced on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 7:16pm

Safety Updates:

CFD Engine Co. 19:

Brett Dew reported that

- The transition to Daylight Savings Time serves as a reminder to change the batteries in all smoke detectors.

- Unattended kitchen cooking is a major cause of fires in the city, so please be vigilant when preparing meals.
- Beginning in April, they will be servicing the fire hydrants and will be flowing them.

UC Police:

Officer Carra Sparks reported that:

He attended the Vision Zero Uptown Walk Around on 03/20/2023 and everything went smoothly.

The following upcoming events will be taking place on UC's main campus:

- 04/01/2023: Track Meet
- 04/12/2023: PAC concert from 5:00pm to 10:30pm. The artist is still TBA
- 04/15/2023: Spring football game, followed by the Sigma Sigma Carnival
- 04/27/2023—04/30/2023: Spring Commencements
- 05/10/2023–05/25/2023: CPS will be holding their High School graduations at UC.

CPD District 5:

Jack Martin reported that a representative from District 5 is unable to attend this month's meeting. If interested in the crime stats, they are available at: <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/police/crime-analysis/>.

Guests:

Update on the District at Clifton Heights:

Mark Becher reported that:

- They are continuing to work on the overall streetscape; the utility work is mostly complete
- On Hotel Celare they are working on the elevator tower and stair shafts, and are working on the foundation
- On Block A1, they are currently working on the fifth floor, and will start installing windows on the north side soon
- The estimated completion date for Block A1 and Hotel Celare is the Summer of 2024
- They are still working on strategies and / or financing for the south side of Straight Street. There is no estimated completion date on that portion at this time.
- They have not yet started the scope of the work on the landscaping. It will be final once the buildings are complete.
- There will be a traffic signal installed at the intersection of Stratford Avenue and Straight Street once construction is complete.
- They will be improving the area in front of The Deacon this summer.

Homeless Coalition: Not Present

Old Business/Reports/Announcements:

- CUFNA General Meeting Location: Mary Singler reported that, due to access issues with the Hughes High School building and / or

technical difficulties with the virtual component of the meetings, the CUFNA board has voted to change the location for the General meetings to the Hebrew Union College starting in May.

- Bylaw Changes: Tracy Schwetschenau reported that the CUFNA board is in the process of reviewing the bylaws and will be making updates. Any changes will be printed in the newsletter, and voted on by the Board at a general meeting.
- CUFNA Board: Jack Martin reported that Carolyn Young has resigned. The trustees will be looking for a replacement.
- February Treasurer's Report: Attached to meeting agenda
- Trash and Litter Cleanup Committee: Jack Martin reported that CUF is interested in creating a litter / cleanup committee and are looking for people who want to be permanently involved. Please reach out if interested.
- Street Sweeping: Jack Martin reported that street sweepers cleaned the streets on the third Thursday (03/16/2023) on at least Ohio Ave. and Fairview Ave. this month, and parking enforcement issued citations.
- Pedestrian Safety Meeting Between UC, UCPD, City, and Neighborhoods: Jack Martin reported that the next meeting is pending.
- Uptown Walk Around: Jack Martin reported that on 03/20/2023, there was an event called the Uptown Walk Around, where a group of people met to encourage pedestrian awareness. Overall, the event was positive, and speakers included the Mayor, Councilmember Mark Jeffreys, and UC student government president Isaac Smitherman.
- UC Neighborhood Coordination Effort: Jack Martin reported that UC wants to put a plan in place and work with CUF to improve pedestrian safety in the area.
- CRC – Clifton, Corryville, OTR Recreation Centers: Jack Martin reported that he hasn't yet been able to get a representative to attend the general meetings.
- LSDMC/CPS Clifton Area Neighborhood School (CANS): Tracy Schwetschenau reported that CPS is facing budget cuts and they are not sure how it's going to impact CANS.
- Hughes: Lyn Martin reported that all CPS schools will be out next week for Spring Break. Lyn also thanked CUFNA for their donation to the school.
- CHCURC (Clifton Heights Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation):
  - Block 1: Chip Kussmaul reported that Block 1 is active. Jack Martin reported that they are working with architect William Rawn & Ratio. A community engagement session is pending.
  - CHCURC/CUFNA Housing Initiative: Chip Kussmaul reported that 2455—2457 McMicken Ave. has an offer and they are negotiating the

price. Also, 2136 Ravine St. has sold.

- o Sandheger-Riddle Int. Grad Student Housing: Jack Martin reported that the grant application for graduate student housing is pending
- o Vine Street: Chip Kussmaul reported that the affordable workforce housing across from Inwood Park is moving forward
- CHBA (Clifton Heights Business Association): Jack Martin reported that there have been issues lately with high school age students loitering around U-Square.
- NOU (Neighborhoods of Uptown): Linda Ziegler reported that a GoVibrant Sign has been stolen from Classen; She had reached out to Mark Jeffries, and he said he'd look into it.
- Invest in Neighborhoods (IIN): Jack Martin reported that the Presidents' meeting was cancelled for the neighborhood summit. This year's summit was the last one held at the Cintas Center at Xavier. Mary Singler attended.
- UC Community Development: Megan Smith and Jamie Accurso

Jamie reported that:

- o The new building is primarily for Arts and Sciences. It took full advantage of the grade change and has street access from three levels
- o There is construction on the Old Chem Building. They are working on removing the back portion and replacing it with a new research wing.

Megan reported that:

- o UC has leased 496 beds in the Deacon, and the leases have been renewed.
  - o The old Law School building has been decommissioned
  - o The former YMCA building has been stabilized, but there are no plans for the space yet.
  - Hallmar / Fountain Development (Central Parkway and Marshall): Maureen France thanked everyone who worked to try and save the sycamore tree. However, the tree has been cut down to make way for a 26' retaining wall.
  - IT Website Development: No updates at this time
  - CBRs - Community Budget Requests (FY 2024-25): Jack Martin reported that the budget process is different this year. Instead of publishing an itemized list, projects are divided into buckets. A public input forum is coming up on 03/29/2023 at 5:30 pm at the McKie Rec Center, 1655 Chase Avenue, Northside, 45223. For more information, visit <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/budget/budget-engagement/>.
  - CBRs - Approved Community Budget Requests (FY 2022-23):
- One-Way Streets - Jack Martin reported that they are working on it, but no specific updates at this time.

McMillan Sidewalk - Scheduled for Spring 2023. No updates at this time

- CUFAC (Parks Advisory Council)
- o Bellevue Hill Park: Jack Martin reported that the bollards in the traffic circle will be installed before Earth Day:
- o Fairview Park: Jack Martin reported that Dave Gamstetter is teaching a UC class with a hypothetical dog park in Fairview Park as part of an academic exercise. The next meeting for feedback from the public is 03/23/2023 at 7:00pm, in DAAP room 6204
- Volunteer Opportunities:

Jack Martin reported that the following volunteer opportunities are upcoming :

- 04/08/2023: Cleanup and honeysuckle removal around McMicken playground. 10am-1pm.
- 04/22/2023: Earth Day at Bellevue Hill Park: mulch and remove honeysuckle 10am-1 pm
- There are no official plans for Arbor Day (04/28/2023).
- The Mayor's Corporate Challenge is to take place on 05/12/2023, but it's likely that CUF missed the deadline to request a project

KCB - Safety and beautification:

Maureen France reported that:

- In the new community garden, they will start constructing the fence on 03/22/2023, there will be training on how to use the bioreactor composter, and they will be building the raised garden beds on 04/01/2023
- The new solar powered lighted stop signs were installed at McMicken and Marshall today. The installers noted that the old signs were too low. What would you like to see CUFNA do, or begin to do, in 2023?

Suggestions included:

- Improving the sidewalks on Riddle Rd.
- Litter control
- Getting a council member to tour CUF so that they can better understand the needs of the neighborhood

Meeting adjourned at: 8:56 pm

Minutes taken by: Andrea Schwallie



## CUFNA by-laws update

For the past several months, CUFNA trustees have worked to update the Association's by-laws. This is a brief summary of the proposed changes:

1. The official name of the organization as stated in the original Articles of Incorporation is "CUF Neighborhood Association". In 2018 trustees applied for and received a trade name of "Clifton Heights University Heights Fairview Neighborhood Association", because both names have been used interchangeably. Throughout the updated by-laws, all references have been changed to "CUF Neighborhood Association" or "Association" for consistency.
2. In Article II, the following have been added to the purposes of the Association: "building code enforcement", "transportation safety", "retail and service amenities", "education".
3. In Article IV, the boundaries have been updated to include Burnet Woods (as voted on in 2021), to substitute "Gallagher Park" for "Classen Park", and to change some boundary descriptors for clarification.
4. Article VIII, Executive Committee has been deleted. As originally described when there were fifteen trustees, this committee included all six officers plus one additional trustee. The purpose of this committee was to allow for streamlined decision-making if needed. Beginning in 2016, the number of trustees was gradually reduced to nine, therefore, making this committee unnecessary. The remaining articles have then been renumbered.
5. The existing Article XVII, Neighborhood Support Program has been renamed Miscellaneous to organize miscellaneous clauses and add additional model by-laws from Invest In Neighborhoods.

Current by-laws can be reviewed on our website at: <https://cufna.wildapricot.org> under On-Site Resources. We will discuss the proposed changes at the April general meeting. Members can also send comments/questions to [thecufna@gmail.com](mailto:thecufna@gmail.com).

## CUF Neighborhood Association Financial Report: March 2023

Balance on: 2-28-20223 \$32,517.58

Income:  
KCB reimbursement - garden 2,500.00  
CUF Community Fund reimburse 50.00  
S. Wilson dues 10.00  
NSP 2023 allocation 9,872.00  
M. Turley dues 10.00

Total Income: + 12,442.00

Expenses:  
Wild Apricot fees 1.77  
CUF Community Fund – garden 2,500.00  
Neyer Plumbing – garden 4,900.00  
USPS bulk mail permit 290.00  
Decal Impressions, newsletter 492.50  
GCWW 7.61  
ABC program Hughes HS 500.00  
M. Singler, copies 8.77  
Lowes, garden walls 108.16  
Lowes, U posts, garden 29.22

Total Expenses: - 8,838.03

Balance: \$36,121.55

Balance of Community Fund loans to be repaid:  
- \$23,968.23

Balance on 3-31-20223 after loan repayment:  
\$12,153.32

CUF Community Fund loaned CUFNA \$39,000 to cover costs from the two Keep Cincinnati Beautiful grants for a community garden and solar stop sign. CUFNA will repay loans to CUF Community Fund as city reimburses CUFNA for expenses submitted.

CUF Community Fund loan activity:  
Solar stop sign: \$12,500  
KCB grant; no expenditures/reimbursements to date.

Community garden:  
\$26,500 KCB grant;  
\$16,505.61 expenditures;  
\$11,468.23 has been reimbursed to Community Fund.

## Community Garden plots available

The blighted property next door to the community garden at 2450 W. McMicken is being transformed into greenspace. Ten raised beds are currently available. If you would like to garden this year, send a request to francem@ucmail.uc.edu (Maureen France). Make sure the subject line says "McMicken Community Garden." The garden plot is \$20 and you must sign an agreement to contribute to the upkeep of the garden. First come, first served. The plots go quickly.

Gardeners observed the lack of maintenance and eventual blight of the property next to the garden. After many years the city tore the building down. The former property owner defaulted on a loan and the bank repossessed the property. Members of CUF Neighborhood Association heard of a grant to remediate blighted property and partnered with the Civic Garden Center to apply for the grant. After the grant was awarded to buy the property, CUFNA applied for another grant to turn the property into a community garden.

The work has involved discing, grading, and removing debris (bricks/stones from foundation), bringing in topsoil, building garden beds, mulching the area, and erecting a fence around the garden. The work is far from finished, much is still in process; help is welcomed!

This project is a collaboration between the CUF Neighborhood Association, the city Office of Environment and Sustainability, keep Cincinnati Beautiful, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Civic Garden Center.

To help with the garden (mulching, planting, design) contact: mary.h.singler@gmail.com.



## Volunteer opportunity for our park!

Saturday April 22 EARTH DAY,  
10:00 am - 1 pm, **Bellevue Park**

Join Community volunteers in an Earth Day event to distribute mulch and woodchips throughout the park, and remove honeysuckle to improve sightlines and safety in the park. Mulching and honeysuckle removal. A large amount of shredded hardwood mulch will be dumped in the parking lot by the Parks. Wheelbarrows and other tools will be provided by Parks via the Cincinnati ToolBank.

Wear work clothes. Bring work gloves if you have them. We should have a few gloves available too. For those not wanting to cut honeysuckle (saws and big pruners), there are plenty of lighter-duty things as well.....dragging honeysuckle, litter pickup.

## Spring Fest in the Woods

An Earth Day Celebration,



Burnet Woods, Saturday, April 22.

- 10:00 am - 11 am: Yoga with World Peace Yoga
- 11 am -12:15 pm: Music by Comet Bluegrass All-Stars
- 12 - 2 pm: UC Environmental Studies Picnic
- 1- 2 pm: Nature Walk with Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society
- Art installations and activities will be taking place all day.

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- Burnet Woods Dog Park opposition letter [link](#)

## Lower Fairview Park landscape event

On Saturday, April 8, Green Up Day, volunteers met at Lower Fairview Park, along McMicken Ave. to remove brush and honeysuckle, improving sightlines and increasing safety in the park. Volunteers signed up through Clean Cincy and were supported by Cincinnati Parks workers and equipment. Tools were obtained from the ToolBank.

Thanks to Mark Bambach and Jack Martin for organizing with Angela Carloss, District Crew Leader for the Cincinnati Parks and all of the volunteers who participated!





**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

*Funded by the City of Cincinnati*



### **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, 1st floor, 2515 Clifton Ave.
- CUF Trustee meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m, CHCURC office meeting room.
- CUF annual meeting and election: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in July, 7:00 pm, Hughes High School, 1st floor, 2515 Clifton Avenue.

### **CUF Neighborhood Association**

2364 West McMicken Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type:

CUF resident \_\_\_\_\_

Non-voting Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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