



NANA NEWS

SUMMER 2000

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Neighborhood Association
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President: John Delaney
Coordinator: Charlene Morse
Editor: Charlene Morse

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



On behalf of all of us on the incoming board and the residents of North Avondale I would like to thank John Angelo for doing an outstanding job as NANA's president for the past two years. Truly a job well done. We on the board wish you success and look forward to your continued involvement with NANA.

My name is John Delaney. I have lived in Cincinnati for six years and in North Avondale, at 3930 Winding Way, for five years. I love this neighborhood. There are so many wonderful things about it: my neighbors, the beautiful homes, parks, gardens and it's close proximity to downtown. What I like the most about North Avondale is that it is a diverse community. People from all walks of life can feel comfortable living in North Avondale and that makes North Avondale Cincinnati's best address.

North Avondale is also fortunate to have NANA. I have never lived anywhere that had a neighborhood association with so many dedicated members who, by working together, get so much accomplished. I am looking forward to serving as President and I hope to get more North Avondale residents actively involved in NANA.

North Avondale as a neighborhood has a multitude of issues to address in the coming year. Certain areas of the neighborhood are affected more severely by some of those issues than others. I live on the eastside of the neighborhood, and across the street from Xavier's campus. Because of that I am very familiar with the good and bad Xavier's presence brings to our neighborhood. Of particular concern to residents on the eastside is the opening of Xavier's Cintas Center. If NANA does not get the City and traffic engineering involved, the opening of the Cintas Center could result in thousands of cars driving through our neighborhood on a regular basis to attend Cintas Center functions. This much traffic would destroy the quality of life on the East Side of our neighborhood. What's bad for the East Side is bad for all of North Avondale.

On the West Side of the Neighborhood on Lowry Avenue, we have a homeowner attempting to convert her home into a commercial business. NANA and the neighboring residents on Lowry Avenue oppose the operation of a commercial business in this zoned residential area. Anytime a commercial business is allowed to intrude in to a residential area the quality of life in that area is degraded by the traffic, noise, litter and strangers the business brings into the area. What's bad for the West Side of our neighborhood is bad for all of

North Avondale.

All of us living in North Avondale must collectively work to insure that the quality of life here is not eroded by issues of safety, crime, drugs, loitering, late night ice cream trucks, neglectful property owners, bad landlords, traffic and loss of residential zoning. It is easy to be concerned only about the issues in North Avondale that directly affect you. However, just as improvements in one area of the neighborhood are good for all of North Avondale, problems in one area are bad for us all (those late night ice cream trucks are now on Rose Hill).

I encourage each of you to become involved in our neighborhood. Join NANA and attend the monthly meetings. Tell us how we can make the meetings more interesting and how we can get you involved. There is power in numbers and together we can insure that North Avondale remains Cincinnati's best address.

John

NANA WINS \$1,000 MERIT GRANT

On June 15 NANA received a \$1,000 Neighborhood Network Grant from Invest In Neighborhoods, Inc. The money will be used to help pay for the installation of a sprinkling system for the eight (8) flower beds on city park land at Victory Parkway/Dana Avenue Triangle Park. The sprinklers will automatically water the flower beds at specified times and reduce the maintenance work of volunteers. The beds are located at a prominent entry point to the neighborhood. With timely watering the beauty of these floral displays will be maximized and will continue to bring pleasure to passersby - whether they be driving, biking, jogging or walking - without "volunteer burnout" for those devoted persons who have maintained these beds for some 20 years.

The total cost for this sprinkler system is \$3,816.00. A \$1,000 donation from the Maurice & Hester Lowenthal Philanthropic Fund (Dakota Avenue) will also be used to pay for these sprinklers. The remaining cost will come from money set aside from the NANA general fund for special neighborhood beautification

by Gerry Kraus

NO AUGUST NANA GENERAL MEETING

(1)

CITY HALL ACTIONS

By Gerry Kraus

A Bed & Breakfast on Lowry Avenue. On April 26, 2000 City Building and Inspections Director William Langevin granted a variance to Deborah Boone, 3961 Lowry Avenue, to permit her to operate three (3) Bed & Breakfast rooms at her residence. This decision was subject to the following conditions:

1. all parking for the B & B will be off-street
2. the off-street parking area will be screened with a six (6) foot high privacy fence
3. the B & B will be constructed in accordance with the plans submitted by Ms. Boone.

In support of the several adjacent or nearby residents opposed to this proposed B & B, NANA and Herberdenia Phillips, 3964 Lowry, appealed the Director's decision to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) which reviewed Langevin's decision on June 19, 2000. Several residents* spoke in opposition to this B & B, citing parking problems on a narrow street, increased number of strangers who would disrupt this quiet residential street and the operation of a business in a single family R-2 zoned district. In a 3 to 1 decision the ZBA (For: David Beard, Teresa Ervin-Conover, Rick Williams; Against: Caleb Faux) voted to uphold Langevin's decision to permit this B & B. The ZBA members felt that residents fears against change were unfounded and that the market place would take care of most of the objections. At this writing the residents are considering whether or not to appeal this decision to court.

**Harry Frisby, Mr. Chandler from the Peace Baptist Church, Junior Hon, Herberdenia Phillips, Ophelia Pugh, Amy Yosmali, and John Delaney, Gerry & Marvin Kraus representing NANA.*

A New Sign for Reading Road Church. On June 22, 2000 Building & Inspections Director William Langevin approved a sign variance for the First Pentecostal Church, 3771 Reading Road (at N. Shuttlesworth Circle). While the approved sign is larger than that permitted by the zoning code, the originally proposed sign presented by Church Administrator Bryan Phillips was revised to be more compatible with the church architecture and the residential ambiance of the neighborhood. Although NANA had "some reservations about supporting a zoning variance that allows the erection of a sign in North Avondale that exceeds the City's code for sign size" (the approved sign will be 5 feet by 8 feet plus stonework encapsulating it, rather than the 12 square feet permitted size), it recognized that the code on sign size is currently under review by the Cincinnati Planning Department and will likely be changed. NANA was also appreciative of the church's efforts to make a revised sign much more compatible with the surrounding neighborhood than the original design. Also three signs presently in front of the church will be removed. A win-win for the Church and NANA!

3955 Dickson Avenue Still Out of Compliance. Owner Vernon Menifee continues to operate a business in a residential zoned district despite city orders to desist and fines (2)

levied for failure to comply with city orders. Other violations issued against Mr. Menifee include illegally storing equipment on site, parking of construction vehicles on an unimproved surface and installation of two new A.C. electrical units "probably for converting to two or three family" use of property. The city building department is in the process of preparing to take Mr. Menifee to court to get him to comply.

Paddock Road Resurfaced. As City Traffic Engineer Steve Bailey had promised, Paddock Road is in the process of being resurfaced and properly banked so vehicles will not jump the road and end up on the front lawn of the Paddock Apartments. The Paddock Apartments Residents' Council and their Chair Bernice Marshall are to be commended for their persistence in encouraging the city to eliminate this dangerous traffic condition.

Xavier's Cintas Center Future Traffic Planning: On Friday June 23, President John Delaney, Vice President Mary Piper & Coordinator Charlene Morse met with City Traffic Engineer Steve Bailey to discuss traffic flow plans for the opening of XU's Cintas Center. NANA was encouraged by the planning that has already taken place for large events (over 3000 attendees). At this time it is proposed that barricades be placed before the event only at Ledgewood & Victory Parkway and Ledgewood and Asmann and also Winding Way at Dana. The barricade will remain at Ledgewood at Victory Parkway until after the event. In our neighborhood, Police will be stationed to direct traffic along Victory Parkway at Asmann, Ledgewood & Dana. Exits from the Cintas Center are the new access road on Webster that leads to Hopkins (Asmann on our side) and then to Victory Parkway, Ledgewood from XU Campus to Victory Parkway, Ledgewood to Dana in Evanston, the yet to be built Cincinnati Bell access road from XU between Herald and Dana, and hopefully Herald to Montgomery Rd. Xavier is responsible for paying the police on special traffic duty and renting, placing & removing the road barriers.

**July NANA General Meeting
July 11, 2000 at 7:30 p.m.
North Avondale Community Center
617 Clinton Springs Avenue
Agenda
Hamilton County Park District**



NANA's next two Mixed Paper Recycling Drives are August 5 & November 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. behind the North Avondale School at 615 Clinton Springs Ave.

Beyond the Recycling Bin also takes place during other months at two other sites. They are: Western Hills Plaza, behind the Kroger store at 6150 Glenway Ave. and College Hill at Krogers at 1606 W. North Bend Rd. from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on; July 8, September 9, October 7, & December 2. You may also drop off paper 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at Cincinnati Paperboard, 3500 Wooster Rd.

Mixed paper includes: newspapers, junk mail, magazines, cereal-type boxes, office paper & corrugated boxes.

NEIGHBORHOOD VANDALISM

Sometimes we can ignore the little crimes that occur...a hanging plant, a yard ornament, a garden tool stolen. We don't call the police and we don't call NANA. But if we respond that way, the little crimes may easily continue all over the neighborhood.

A few years ago in another neighborhood plants were being taken off porches yet no one was reporting it to the police. Finally, someone did, others came forward, a pattern was discovered, a sting set in place and the criminals caught. The criminals were selling the plants at the flea market!

This year this may be happening in our neighborhood. We know of one case where plants on the front porch of a home on a main street, in daylight, with the family home, were stolen.

If this has happened to you in the last few months please call the NANA office at 221-6166 and tell the answering machine: the date, time, street or address, what was stolen, & your name & phone number (if you want me to call you back). It is always good to report crimes to the police but if you don't want to, at least call the NANA office and report it.



The Ice Cream trucks are back and NANA is receiving complaints. They are annoying to say the least but in some cases may be breaking the law. There are two city ordinances in place to deal with this problem:

- CMC, 839-11; No street sales are permitted on public property between the hours of 12 midnight and 6:00 a.m.
- CMC, 910-10; vehicles emitting excessive sound in a loud fashion would be eligible for citation

Call the police if this is happening. Captain Cotton has been alerted of this problem and informed his staff. Unfortunately there is a rating system for calls to the police which puts this type of call at the bottom of the list, but an ice cream truck only needs a few tickets to realize we are serious.

Meanwhile, NANA is meeting with the owner of the ice cream trucks on Tuesday June 27 in hopes that a mutually agreeable arrangement can be made. He has claimed that his trucks are sometimes taken out at night without his knowledge. If you can get the license number and the name on the truck as well as the time, date & location and leave a message on Neighborhood Officer Cruse's answering machine at 475-6605, and the NANA answering machine at 221-6166, we can prove to him that his trucks are out.

Ice Cream trucks should not be heard from other streets, be out after dark which increases the danger to children when they run into the streets, should not sell cigars, "blunts" or cigarettes and should be considerate of the neighborhoods they drive through.



CINCINNATI MAGAZINE ARTICLE "THE BEST PLACES TO LIVE" UPDATE

NANA received some calls and letters regarding the May *Cincinnati Magazine* article "The Best Places to Live." North Avondale was rated number 63 out of 92 neighborhoods. NANA Coordinator Charlene Morse met with *Cincinnati Magazine* Senior Editor Linda Vaccariello to understand the process behind writing the article and found that we were not the only neighborhood that was upset.

The neighborhoods were rated by categories determined from a survey of the question "When you're deciding where to live, how important is..." They assigned points based on the importance of each of the top five answers to the survey. The categories & maximum possible points were: Safety - 300, Environment - 175, Public Schools - 135, House Appreciation - 150, Parks - 100, & Traffic - 90.

North Avondale received a 522 overall score with Safety - 219, Environment - 100, Public Schools - 83, House Appreciation - 0, Parks - 50, & Traffic - 70. **Wyoming** was number 1 receiving 766 overall with Safety - 294, Environment - 150, Public Schools - 135, House Appreciation - 77, Parks - 60, & Traffic - 50. **Hyde Park** was number 7 receiving 701 overall with Safety - 281, Environment - 175, Public Schools - 135, House Appreciation - 26, Parks - 70, & Traffic - 50. **Clifton** received a 578 overall with Safety - 235, Environment - 125, Public Schools - 75, House Appreciation - 8, Parks - 75, & Traffic - 60.

Why did North Avondale fair so poorly? First of all we were grouped with Avondale & Paddock Hills because the Multiple Listing Service groups Avondale & North Avondale together and the crime stats group us with Paddock Hills. All three communities were grouped together which directly effected the safety & house appreciation category This really hurt us in the House Appreciation category because it made it impossible to measure us separately. This category was also adversely affected because many of us have lived here a long time, got great deals on our homes, fight to keep our property taxes down and the appreciation won't be realized until we sell our homes.

We actually scored better than some neighborhoods in the Cincinnati Public School district but were hurt by the fact that North Avondale Montessori (one of the top rating elementary schools) is a Magnet school and not our neighborhood school.

In the Environment category our pro-active activities & reputation to rid North Avondale of odors and pollutants (Clean Air Workshop, NANA Clean Air Committee, numerous articles in the NANA News on environmental issues, and constant urging to report odors to the EPA) really hurt us since one of the measurements was the number of calls to Environmental agencies.

What can NANA do? The best thing would be to separate North Avondale, Avondale & Paddock Hills. NANA is already working to remedy the Multiple Listing problem and is determined to succeed. Any help or suggestions would be appreciated. Otherwise, continue to volunteer in the neighborhood, keep up your great property, visit with our uniquely wonderful neighbors, go to the pool and sit back & smile because you know that we still have the best kept secret - *North Avondale Cincinnati's Best Address!*



July: 4th, Center Closed. Have a safe holiday.

Summer Hours Schedule:

Sun. 1 to 4, M & W 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., T & Th. 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fri. 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sat. 11 to 3 p.m.

19th, **Back On The Block Talent Show** 6 –8:30 p.m., Tryouts Welcome, (Free)

24th, Seniors Trip To the Art Museum, 1 to 3:30 p.m.

**North Avondale
Community
Center
961-1584**

August: **Week of the 14th, After School Day Camp Registration** 8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., \$85 per month

21st, Seniors Trip to Maple Knoll, 12 to 3 p.m.

21st - 25th, **Center Closed, No Programs**

28th, **Regular Programming Begins**

THANK YOU “GREEN-UP DAY” HELPERS



On Saturday, May 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (a few volunteers even stayed until 2:00) NANA participated in the city-wide “**GREEN-UP DAY**” to spruce up our city parks. We mulched, weeded, weed-whacked, picked up liter, trimmed, and planted flowers at Seasongood Park. Volunteers planted flowers at the Dana Triangle and at the beds at Washington & Clinton Springs. Bushes were planted along Burton Ave. in Martin Luther King Park.

Everything looks prettier thanks to our many volunteers: John Angelo, Kenneth Bibb, George Brockman, Denise Brooks, Jim Corwin, Pauline Daly, John Davis, John Delaney, Roger Getter, Ursula Hassel, Linda Hill, Dr. Hilda Jeffriers, Ramon Joy, Spencer Konicov, Gerry & Marvin Kraus, Carol Kroth, Ferrial Lanton, Marian Miller, Frank Neumann, Pat Paul, Ernestine & Trevor Sanderson, David Turner and Julie Zimmerman. Thank you NANA Volunteers.

NANA CALENDAR

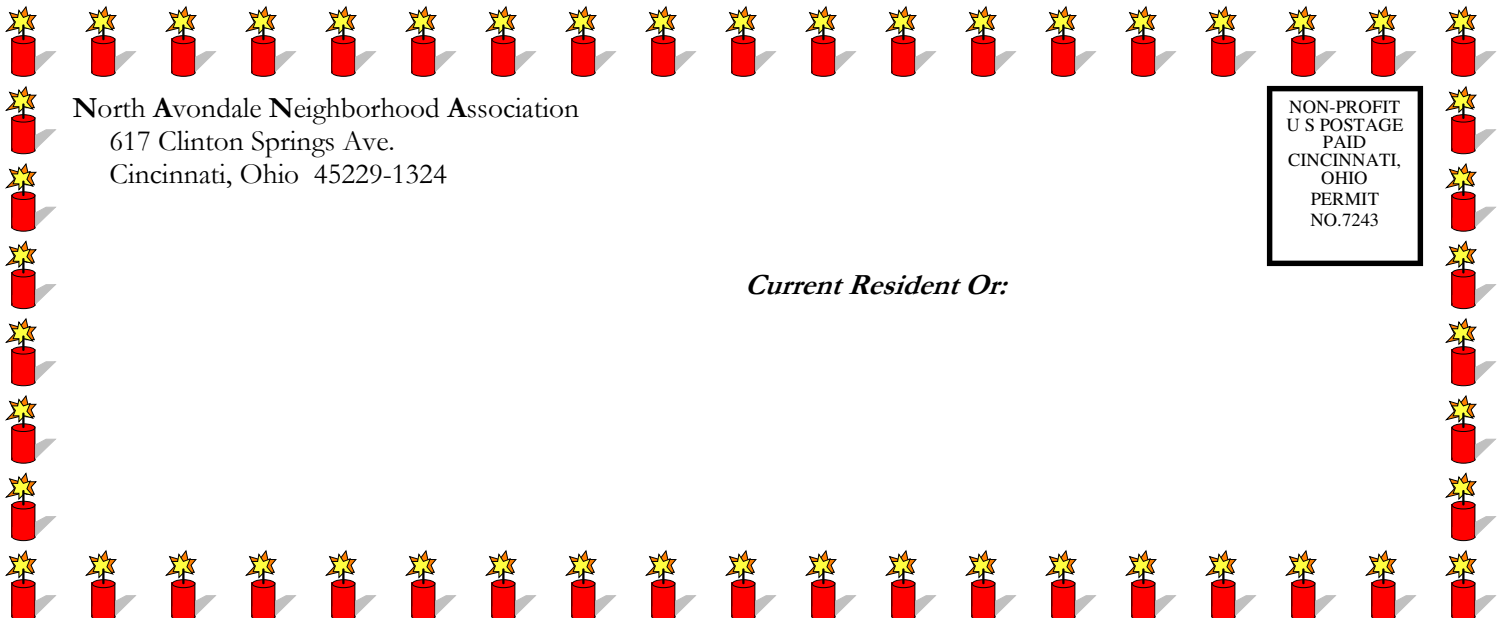
- First Thursday of Every Month, 6:30 p.m., S. & N. Fred Shuttlesworth Circle, Greenwood & Burton **Block Club Meeting** at Bethlehem Baptist, 760 Nth Fred Shuttlesworth Circle Questions - call Pauline Daly at 751- 8334
 - Tuesday, July 11, 7:30 p .m, , **JULY NANA GENERAL MEETING**, 617 Clinton Springs
 - Saturday, August 5, 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m., **MIXED PAPER & CARDBOARD RECYCLING**, 615 Clinton Springs
- **NO AUGUST NANA GENERAL MEETING**



NANA EXECUTIVE BOARD & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President: John Delaney _____ 221-1044
 1st VP: Jean Wilson _____ 221-7437
 2nd VP: Marianne Knue _____ 281-5860
 3rd VP: Mary Piper _____ 961-1080
 Corresponding Sec.: Linda Grayman _____ 281-6138
 Recording Secretary: Toni Ward _____ 559-1221
 Treasurer: John Jones _____ 281-2596
 Beautification: Ursula Hassel _____ 751-4546

City Liaison: Gerry Kraus _____ 861-3939
 Landlord/Tenant Relations: Pauline Daly _____ 751-8334
 Legal Chairperson: Marvin Kraus _____ 861-3939
 727 Renovation: John Angelo _____ 281-6644
 Welcome: Judith Titchener _____ 281-1107
 NANA Coordinator & NANA News Editor: Charlene Morse _____ 221-6166



North Avondale Neighborhood Association
617 Clinton Springs Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45229-1324

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