NANA NEWS
MAY 2003

Published by :
The North Avondale
Neighborhood Association
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Volume XXXXII, No. 8
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GREEN-UP DAY MAY 10

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was recently reminded how much my neighbors care about North Avondale. Not that I ever doubt the level of commitment to community we enjoy in our neighborhood, but I guess I don't always realize it. The city of Cincinnati recently released a draft of the proposed new zoning code, and it brought about lots of phone calls and emails from North Avondale residents.

You might not be aware of this, however, the city has spent the last several years developing a new zoning code that will guide development in Cincinnati for the next 30 years, and the proposed regulations were recently released. According to the city's website, "The Land Use Management group is responsible for the administration of the Zoning Code and other land use processes in the City Planning Department. This group's major work item for the year 2000 is the update of the Cincinnati Zoning Code. We are working to streamline the development process and ensure that the Zoning Code is supportive of the development and redevelopment activity in the city. The group is often responsible for balancing the needs of the development community with the residents in neighborhoods to ensure appropriate development."

This sounds like a worthy effort, however, the proposed zoning code has many of our neighbors upset and wondering why the city neglected an important part of the process – getting neighborhood input.

I'll be honest – I haven't read the entire proposed regulations yet, however, I am concerned for our neighborhood based on the proposed zoning changes on my street and others around me. The proposed zoning regulations would allow existing homes on my street and others to be torn down and replaced by 2 smaller lots with new homes. Why? There are large portions of our neighborhood that aren't in need of new homes; the existing historic homes are well maintained and there aren't vacant lots in need of development. How would this change benefit us as homeowners or North Avondale? The proposed zoning changes would also allow B&Bs on our street and others; that would lead to increased traffic, something none of us in North Avondale want on the street where we live.

Yes, I'm concentrating on the changes that directly impact me, however, any negative changes to one part of our neighborhood impacts all of us. Contact city hall and ask for the proposed zoning regulations – City Hall room 308, phone 352-3246. You can also find the proposed regulations at the city's website, www.cincinnati-oh.gov/pages/-1444-/. Find out how your home is impacted. Attend a Planning Commission meeting (1st and 3rd Friday of each month, 9:00 am at Centennial Plaza Two, 805 Central Avenue, J. Martin Griesel Conference Room) and speak your mind. Call the NANA office and let us know your thoughts.

North Avondale is a thriving community, and while we certainly do have areas that could benefit from development and eased zoning requirements, the current proposed regulations go too far and will cause more harm than good. I can't help but think the city decided it knows what we want better than we do, and we can't let that slip by without speaking our mind. The good thing is, I don't worry about that – North Avondale has a well-deserved reputation for being a very vocal community, so do everything you can to get informed and let the city know your thoughts.

Jim

GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN-UP A SUCCESS

Thank you to all NANA's volunteers for making the neighborhood a cleaner & pretty place. Our litter picker-uppers were:

Albert Andrews, C. Stuart Baxter, Matthew Bennett, Jill Bley, Tim Brockman, Mariah Brooke, Alyson Davis, Taylor Edwards, Michelle Edwards, Ellen Epstein, Marybeth Flaspohler, Carli Flaspohler, Jordan Flay, Sam Flick, Jim Gerwe, Carolyn Godby, Ursula Hassel, Barbara Henshaw, Amy Hines, Ben Hines, Nick Hines, Emily Hines, Dirk Hines, Dr. Hilda Jeffries, Gerry Kraus, Marvin Kraus, George Krinke, Jessica McConnell, Mary Piper, William Rambo, Christopher Smitherman, Sue Ann Spears, Doris Stokes, Michael Walton, Rick Wayne, Vanessa Wayne, Justin Wolfenberg

Food was provided by:

Herb Smitherman (his famous bean soup), Jenny Robinson (cookies) and Spencer Konicov, chief extraordinaire, grilled and prepared the delicious food.

Also, thanks to so many of you, like Carol Miller, who pick up trash whenever you go walking.

NANA Nominating Committee comprised of Ellen Epstein (Lowry), Leslie Good (Eaton Ln), Jim Obergefell (Betula), Marilyn Smith (Rose Hill) and Sue Ann Spears (Lenox Pl), is pleased to announce the proposed slate of officers.

2003/2004 NANA Board of Trustees.

President:	**John Jones**
1st Vice President:	**Barbara Henshaw**
2nd Vice President:	**Michael Walton**
3rd Vice President:	**Ellen Epstein**
Recording Secretary:	**Marilyn Smith**
Corresponding Secretary:	**John Arthur**
Treasurer:	**Heather Herr**

NANA ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY
MAY 18, 2003
3:00 TO 5:00 P.M.
THE NEW SCHOOL
3 BURTON WOODS LANE

PROPOSED ZONE CHANGE BAFFLE NEIGHBORHOOD
By Gerry Kraus

Over 50 residents turned out at the April 8 NANA meeting to register their concerns about zone changes in North Avondale proposed by the City without any input from the neighborhood. Although a new citywide zoning code has been in the works for over two years, it was only in March 2003 that NANA received a map delineating proposed zone changes for North Avondale. Actually, NANA had been told that the goal of a new citywide zoning code was to make it easier to read and to understand, that the changes would be in wording of text and in nomenclature (e.g., an R-1A zone would become SF-20). At no time were NANA representatives who attended various public meetings during the past two years told that there would be zone changes that would affect land use in our neighborhood. Among the concerns expressed at the meeting were that several properties where the current zoning requires at minimum 20,000 sq. ft lot sizes for single family homes have been reduced to at a minimum 10,000 sq. ft. lot sizes and in some cases to 6,000 (minimum) sq. ft. lot sizes. This reduction in lot size designation would allow in-fill housing to be built on the larger lots. The new code would also permit business uses such as Bed & Breakfast Homes and Child Day Care homes in residentially zoned districts. Many residents believe that the success of North Avondale as a multi-ethnic, multi-racial, economically diverse neighborhood is the charm of its period homes situated on large lots. They cannot understand the rationale of tampering with neighborhood zoning when it is specifically strict enforcement of the present zoning that has made North Avondale the quality neighborhood it is. The present zoning is based upon the North Avondale Master Plan approved by the Cincinnati Planning Commission in 1974 and which is still very much a viable tool to maintain the integrity of our neighborhood.

Also of concern was the elimination of the Transitional (T) Zoning category. "T" zones had been established to reduce the negative impact of business uses adjacent to residential property or where low-density single-family housing abutted high-density multi-family housing. In all cases the proposed new zoning to replace the current T zoned areas in North Avondale permits less restrictive uses. The proposed new Commercial-Neighborhood-Mixed (CNM) for the business district in the vicinity of Reading Road, Avondale Ave. and Paddock Road (including the Gershuny property) would permit gas stations, bars with live music and other undesirable uses which are not permitted under the present zoning.

Two motions were passed at the NANA meeting: a motion to oppose all changes in the proposed new code for North Avondale that will make land use less restrictive than the present zoning; and a motion to create a zoning committee of interested people to meet with Peg Moertl, Director of the city's Community Development and Planning Department to relay to her the neighborhood's concerns about the proposed new zoning. The latter motion was made at the encouragement of Council Member David Pepper who had attended the NANA meeting and had listened to the concerns of residents.

ZONING COMMITTEE MEETS WITH CITY PLANNERS

On Sunday, April 13, about 25 people met at Barbara Henshaw's (2) home (Rose Hill) to plan for a meeting with Peg Moertl. After input from the group Naomi Dallob (Barry Lane) was selected to be the spokesperson for NANA and to prepare a presentation. She was assisted by Rick Wayne (Beechwood Ave.), NANA Coordinator Charlene Morse (Burton Woods Lane) and Marvin & Gerry Kraus (Stratford Place). On April 21 the Committee met with Peg Moertl and City Planner David Efland at the home of Lois & Mel Nizny (Rose Hill). Naomi Dallob gave a short presentation highlighting concerns about 1) reduction of lot sizes that would permit in-fill housing and that would destroy the character of the neighborhood; 2) erroneous classification of properties; 3) the consequences of eliminating Transitional (T) Zoning; 4) business uses being permitted in residentially zoned areas; 5) the proposed zoning of the Avon Fields Golf Course on the east side of Paddock Road to SF-6 (6,000 minimum sq. ft. lot size). This would be totally incompatible with existing adjacent housing.

After the presentation Peg Moertl and David Efland were taken on a tour of the neighborhood where they could visually experience just how the proposed new zoning would adversely affect the character and ultimately the stability of our neighborhood. After the driving tour Ms. Moertl said she would review the concerns of the neighborhood and get back to the NANA Zoning Committee in 7-10 days. She did say that after hearing similar complaints from other neighborhoods the city planners decided to make all golf courses and parks SF-20 (single family housing on at a minimum 20,000 sq. ft. lots).

PROPOSED ZONE CHANGES <u>OPPOSED</u> BY NANA

Proposed changes in current zoning from SF-20 to SF-10:
- Rose Hill/Beechwood from Belvedere to Rose Hill Lane
- Rose Hill/Beechwood/Betula/Red Bud area
- Stratford Place/Paddock Road
- SW corner Marion/Dakota & Dakota to Dana

Proposed changes in current zoning from SF-10 to SF-6:
- Avondale Ave./Barry Lane to Glen Lyon (from 20,000 sq. ft.)
- Lenox Place/Lenox Lane
- Edge Hill Place - at end of street

Changes in Transitional (T) Zones
- Avondale Ave. - rear of Gershuny property from R-1T single family to business (CN-M)
- Paddock Rd. - rear of Antonio's Pizza from R-1T single family to business (CN-M)
- S. Fred Shuttlesworth - middle from R-3T two family to four family (RMX)
- Marion Ave. - dead end south side R-1T SF-10 to SF-6
- Reading Rd/Clinton Springs - SW corner R-5T multi-family to multi-family with 1,200 sq. ft. lot size/unit
- Kessler Ave. at W. Mitchell- R-3T two family to four family (RMX)

Business Zone (Gershuny lot) Restricted business use (B-1, B-3, R1-T) to less restricted business uses (CN-M)

UPGRADING OF ZONING THAT NANA IS REQUESTING
- Wess Park Drive/Mary Lane/west side of Glencross - from SF- 6 to SF-10
- Norway (end) Barker Place - from SF-10 to SF-20
- Washington/Greenwood area - from SF-6 to SF-20
- N. & S. Fred Shuttlesworth Circle - from 2 & 4 family to SF-10
- Avon Fields Golf Course - from SF-6 & SF-10 to SF- 20

AVON WOODS NATURE CENTER SUMMER DAY CAMP OPPORTUNITIES:
By Teresa Harten

Avon Woods Nature Center, Paddock Rd, is offering some great summer day camp opportunities.

There are openings for :

▪**Young Naturalist Camp** 10am-1pm; (children 4-6 years old)
Session 1 – June 23-26 and Session 2 - July 21-24

Young Children explore nature through stories, songs, crafts, plays, hikes and many more hands-on activities. Children can be registered for both camps; activities & topics will not be repeated.
Fee: $40 per session Cincinnati residents; $50 non-residents

▪**Nature Adventure Camp** 10am-2pm (children 7-9 years old)
Session 1 – June 16-19 and Session 2 - July 14-17

Through the use of experiments , hikes games, crafts, and other hands on activities, campers will discover the natural wonders of the world around them. Children can be registered for both camps; topics/activities will not be repeated.
Fee: $45 per session Cincinnati residents; $55 non-residents

Other opportunities also available for children ages 10-13.

For more information or a registration form, call 321-6070 or the Avon Woods Center at 861-3435.

NANA NOTATIONS

▪For anyone concerned about education - get and read **"Who's Teaching Your Children"** by Vivian Troen and Katherine C. Boles. Copyright 2003. ***Pauline Daly***

▪**CPOP (COMMUNITY PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING) TRAINING** for interested citizens in District 4 Police communities (including North Avondale) is set for a three-hour session on the evening of May 22 (time & place to be announced). If you are interested you must call the NANA office (221-6166) or send an email to clmorse@fuse.net to pre-register (space is limited).

▪**DISTRICT FOUR REPORT** During the past two weeks, District Four conducted a week long investigation. The purpose of the operation was to remove as many criminals and junk autos from the streets as possible. While North Avondale was one of the Hot Spots, four other neighborhoods were targeted. In total there were:

40 arrests, (15 Fel. / 25 Misd.)	113 parking citations
26 Vice arrests	20 +miles of streets cleaned
2 Guns	50 grams of Marijuana
66 Junk autos impounded	25 grams of crack

In the North Avondale area, there were numerous arrests in Martin Luther King Park at Burton and Reading.
Burton Avenue was cleaned and all junk autos removed.
The operation was Commanded by Captain Richard Schmalz, District Four Commander, and lead by the efforts of District Four Neighborhood officers, Relief Personnel, Vice Unit, Street Corner Unit, and the Impound Unit. ***Lt. Michael Neville***

Tip: Don't leave valuables in your car . It attracts crime.

IN MEMORIAM

O. LaVelle Bond 59, (Washington) died April 13. He was the first vice president of diversity at Proctor & Gamble before he retired. Our condolences to his wife Barbara, daughter Kelly & mother Evelyn.

Bishop Jasper Phillips 87, died April 6. He was pastor of First Pentecostal Church (Reading Rd.) and founder of the Zion Temple Christian Academy.

Oscar Armstrong III 25**,** firefighter from Engine Co. 9 on Reading Rd. was killed in a flash-over on March 21. NANA donated $100 to a fund set up for his family.

Shiloh Preparatory School Expansion Means Greater Education Choice

Shiloh Preparatory School (SPS), located at 3660 Washington Avenue, is expanding, investing $1.1 million in a new facility to continue to provide a strong academic program for students. Once completed, the new educational facility will include eight classrooms to accommodate 150-200 students, computer labs, and library. In addition, the site will house a full-size, high school regulation gymnasium.

For many years SPS, a Christian school run by the Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist Church, has focused on the harmonious development of students: intellectual/academic, social, physical and spiritual. SPS provides students with a strong academic foundation, emphasizing reading, math, science, and computer skills. In fact, SPS students outperform the public school system on all the standardized proficiency tests. A low student-teacher ratio means lots of opportunity for individualized attention. While many schools are cutting their physical education programs, SPS isn't. The new gym, as well as a structured program swimming, basketball and other sports, ensures students care for their physical health. Finally, SPS students learn character, civic skill and social skill development within a loving, Christ-centered environment.

The new facility will be completed August 2003. Open enrollment for next school year has begun. For more information and to register your child, call (513) 981-0663.

ITS FUN TO LIVE IN CINCINNATI
By Gerry Kraus

The City of Cincinnati offers many opportunities for exciting activities like the Cincinnati Reds (if they ever start winning) at the new Great American Ball Park, the May Festival and the Cincinnati Zoo. In addition to these traditional events, there are two new happenings that citizens can participate in:

▪**THE THEODORE M. BERRY INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP PARK** on the riverfront just east of the Montgomery Inn Boathouse Restaurant parking lot. On **May 17** this park will open with a dedication ceremony. Among the features at this park are special gardens from Cincinnati's 6 Sister Cities.

▪**THE ROSENTHAL CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART,** downtown center across from the Aronoff, will open to the public on **June 7.** The Center will feature a variety of programs called the "The Festival of the New". New exhibitions, performances and programs, including "The Unmuseum" (a kid-friendly space for children) will be showcased from early June through mid-October. A grand opening preview party for members will take place on **May 31.** For more information call the CAC Information Hotline at 721-0390.

For more than a humdrum spring and summer check out these two new assets to the City of Cincinnati.

North Avondale Community Center 961-1584

Program Highlights For May:

May 6th is a voting day at the center.

15th is tentatively set for a family event for the cast of "How the Krinch Stole Easter." Parents and siblings will be going roller skating at a local establishment.

16th is a Senior trip day to Playhouse in the Park to see "Saringa Tree." Meet at the center by 9:00 to take the van for the show.

16th After School Day Camp (ASDC) Prom in the Activity Room from 5:00-7:00 pm on Friday - $5 per person 5 years and older . This event will be catered with a live DJ, dancing, games and fun for everyone attending. Call Karen for details.

26th is Memorial Day with the center being closed for the holiday.

30th is a Senior trip to Hamilton to the Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park and Museum. Meet at the center by 9:00 to take the van to this event.

30th is also the last day of the ASDC. If anyone is interested in signing up for the Summer Day Camp, please call Ms Harris at the center.

North Avondale Montessori School 872-7290

May 2 Spaghetti Dinner & Ice Cream Social 5:00 - 8:00
7 thru **9** FLOWER SALE 8-2
19 thru **23** - Scholastic Book Fair 7:30-2:00 p.m.
21 Spring Concert 8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
28 Preschool Picnic 11:00 to 1
30 NAM Volunteer Breakfast 8:00 a.m. - 9:30

NANA CALENDAR

- Saturday, May 3, 9:00 a.m. to Noon Surrey Square, Montgomery Road, Norwood, Recycling Mixed Paper
- Saturday, May 10, 9:00 to 1:00 **GREEN-UP DAY** meet at Seasongood Park (Reading & Clinton Springs)
- **Sunday, May 18, 3:00 p.m**. **NANA GENERAL MEETING,** The New School, 3 Burton Woods Lane
- Saturday, June 14, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **NORTH AVONDALE RECYCLING: MIXED PAPER** 615 Clinton Springs
- Tuesday, August 26, 7:30 p.m. **Rose Hill Area Block Watch Meeting** Location TBA

NANA EXECUTIVE BOARD & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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2nd VP: Eva Robeson 751-2446
3rd VP: Michael Walton 961-8850
Corresponding Sec.: Barbara Henshaw 961-5275
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XU Liaison: John Delaney 248-4688
NANA Coordinator & NANA News Editor: Charlene Morse 221-6166

GREEN-UP DAY MAY 10, NANA ANNUAL MEETING MAY 18

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