



# NANA NEWS

## APRIL 2001

Published by :  
The North Avondale  
Neighborhood Association  
617 Clinton Springs Ave. (29)  
(513) 221-6166  
Volume XXXX, No. 7

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

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month I'd like to talk about two things going on in the neighborhood, one good, and one bad. First the good. As many of you will recall last year Xavier leased some of the parkland on Victory Parkway from the Park Board. Xavier took the wooded land and pretty much cleared it and put in playfields and tennis courts. Xavier's lease on the land does not give them full-time exclusive use of the park. Xavier must allow the park property to be open for use by the general public on a limited basis. I was recently contacted by Xavier and asked by them to encourage the residents of North Avondale to use the park. I know many people in the neighborhood were not happy about the Park Board leasing Xavier the park property, but what's done is done so lets make the best of it and use the park and its facilities.

According to the terms of Xavier's lease the park property must be open and available to the general public to engage in recreational pursuits without the payment of any fee. Xavier may reserve the tennis courts and playfields for its exclusive use for a maximum of four hours per day. Occasionally, but no more than 10 times per year Xavier may reserve the playfields and tennis courts for longer periods of time to accommodate tournaments or special events. Xavier must given written notice to the Park Board and NANA of the proposed schedule of reserved times. There are additional limitations on the times when Xavier can exclusive reserve the park. The neighborhood also has the right to reserve the tennis courts and playfields for organized group recreation. **At all other times the playfields and the tennis courts will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.**

The park, the playfields and tennis courts are not Xavier's exclusive property; they have to be shared with the local community. Xavier did an excellent job on the tennis courts and playfields and I hope the residents of North Avondale will take full advantage of this new asset in our neighborhood. If anyone is interested in reserving the park for an exclusive group recreational event please contact me and I will attempt to arrange it.

Now the bad news. The house at 3859 Reading Road last year was well on its way to being beautifully restored. Recently however the house has been unoccupied and someone is removing all the beautiful original leaded windows and doors from the house and just leaving it wide open to damage from vandals and the elements. Only at the building inspector's insistence did they board up the removed

windows and doors. I have been told the mortgage is in default. NANA has contacted the out of state mortgage holder and they have not acted to protect the house.

The house has become a neighborhood eyesore. The removal of the windows and doors is making the house unmarketable and restoration of it extremely unlikely. To the people destroying this once lovely house please try to remember that your needs are not the only thing that matter. Could you give a little thought to the impact your actions are having on the rest of us who live in North Avondale.

*John*

**NORTH AVONDALE PART OF  
"GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN-UP"  
SATURDAY - APRIL 21 - 10 A.M. TO NOON\*  
By Gerry Kraus**

A clean, litter-free neighborhood means residents care. It not only discourages crime, but it makes for a healthier place where everyone can enjoy living and working. That's why NANA is participating in this event: to clean up the litter that has accumulated in our neighborhood over the winter, especially along major thoroughfares, public parks and hidden ravines.

### WE NEED 54 VOLUNTEERS, PLUS

The plan is to meet at 10 A.M. at Seasongood Square Park, southwest corner of Clinton Springs & Reading Road, where 9 teams of 6 people will be formed. The teams will travel down Reading Road to Glenwood, up Reading Road to Asmann, Dana Avenue to Victory Parkway, two teams each for Clinton

*(Continued on page 2)*

### AGENDA

**APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>, 7:30 P.M.**

**NANA GENERAL MEETING**

**NORTH AVONDALE COMMUNITY CENTER**



- 2001 NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK GRANT (SEE PAGE 3)
- NO SOLICITING ORDINANCE
- ICE CREAM TRUCKS
- 3859 READING ROAD (SEE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE)
- NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY INJUSTICE (PG. .3)

**727 UPDATE**  
**By John Angelo**

As we wrap up a full year of tackling 727 S. Fred Shuttlesworth Circle, many have asked about the return-on-investment of such a time-consuming and apparently costly project. Many ask, what will the house sell for? The answer, not much as will have been put into it... over a thousand community hours and \$200,000 in cash & in-kind investments.

But when one changes the focus from the house to the community, the return on investment greatly increases. The entire street is poised to change for the better. In anticipation of the May 11 rededication and ribbon cutting ceremony, two homeowners are bushwhacking honeysuckle from their yards. One home is being completely repainted. Several neighbors have stepped forward to assist in reducing teen loitering and late night disturbances. Two houses may come up on the market. In all, seven neighboring households are now actively involved in improving their properties' appearance and position in the community.

Citywide, North Avondale is becoming better know as a dedicated, take-charge community with amenities worth fighting for. The March issue of Cincinnati Magazine features a three-page article profiling the project... the article's title: "Reclaiming Bleak House: A Community Known for Its Activism Flexes It Muscle." In short, North Avondale is not going to tolerate decay of its streets.

What's next? On Friday, May 11, Mayor Charlie Luken and City Manager John Shirey will headline a distinguished panel of guests and presenters at a special ribbon cutting and rededication of the house to the community. The event is sure to be a media attraction. If you would like an invitation, please call the NANA office at 221-6166 and leave your name and address on the answering machine. On Saturday, May 12, the house will be open all day for tours (featuring an eye-opening gallery of "before" photos).

Saturday, April 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., we will conduct a final cleanup of the house. If you would like to help, please give me a call at 281.6644.

Two big kudos this month to a couple of enthusiastic partners:

**Tom Wallen** (Tom's Quality Paint)...Our renovation committee has been truly lucky. Through exhaustive research and numerous references, we have ferreted out some of the most talented and conscientious contractors in the city. Tom Wallen is a shining example. Tom is painting 727 inside and out from top to bottom. He and his trusty sidekick, Priscilla, have painstakingly transformed 727 from a nuclear disaster to shining jewel. Tom claims his secret is in the meticulous prep-work.

**John LaRowe** (Home Depot, Ridge Road)... When it comes to corporate partners, Home Depot has been at the top of the list. John and his team have taken 727 under their wings and carried it to new heights. Home Depot is design team created the kitchen layout, virtually donated all the cabinetry, and is managing the installation with a crackerjack team of volunteers.

A heartfelt thank you to Kitty Morgan (editor), Ryan Kurtz (photographer) and Dennis O'Connor (writer) at Cincinnati Magazine for their insightful profile.

**Invest In Neighborhoods, Inc.**  
**2001 Neighborhood Network Grant**  
**Proposals for \$1,000 or Less**

Last year NANA won the \$1,000 Grant to be used toward the Dana Triangle sprinkler system in 2000. This year NANA would again like to pursue this grant and is looking for your ideas. If you have any suggestions, call the NANA office at 221-6166 and leave your suggestion on the answering machine.

*(Continued from page 1)*

Springs and Mitchell Avenues and a team each for Martin Luther King Jr. and Seasongood Square parks. Each volunteer will receive gloves and litter bags as well as clean-up tools provided by Keep Cincinnati Beautiful (KCB) who is coordinating this national event for Cincinnati. There will also be other special prizes.

**GREAT AMERICAN GRILL OUT AT NOON**

At noon volunteers will return to Seasongood Square Park for a grill-out once again coordinated by our great chef Spencer Konicov, who will prepare metts, franks and hamburger sandwiches. Pepsi, Coca Cola and, for the health-conscious, bottled water will be provided through KCB. We need volunteers to donate a batch of cookies, brownies, etc. or a healthy salad or a pot of baked beans to complete the meal. We also need volunteers to help Spencer cook and distribute the food. **Call the NANA Office at 221-6166 to leave your name and telephone number if you can help with lunch.** The North Avondale/Paddock Hills Business Association (NAPHBA) has agreed to clean up their business properties, mostly along Reading Road.

**EVERYONE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY**

Every resident is asked to clean up trash around his/her home and especially the throw-aways in ravines that may abut their property. It is especially important that we get rid of old tires as they are a breeding ground of mosquitoes that may be carrying the deadly Nile River virus. Trash bags will be collected on Saturday by City Sanitation at the following locations:

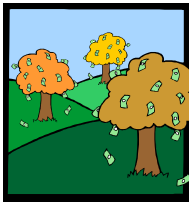
- Seasongood Square Park, Reading Road at Clinton Springs
- Second Community Baptist Church, 3662 Reading Road (lot next to church)
- Mitchell & Vine, southeast corner on Mitchell side
- Sickel Cell Group, 3770 Reading Rd. (for old tires)

NANA Board member Gerry Kraus has agreed to coordinate North Avondale's Great American Clean-Up. She is counting on all public-spirited neighbors to help make North Avondale clean, safe and the special place it is reputed to be.

**\*Rain date will be Sunday, April 22.**

### Spring ReLeaf !!!

Just when you thought Spring would never get here...It's planting time! North Avondale residents will receive 57 new trees free through the Cincinnati Parks Urban Forestry Spring ReLeaf Program. Residents signed up for these trees over the winter and will pick them up on April 7 at the Parks Office at 3215 Reading Rd. If you requested trees, you should have received a confirmation letter by this time and will need to bring it with you to pick up trees. In total, residents ordered 21 Kousa dogwoods, 5 American lindens, 7 tulip poplars, 12 bur oaks and 12 Virginia pines. These trees should add value to our properties, beauty to our lives and enhance the environment and our health (They reduce air, water, and noise pollution, and reduce the potential for global warming through energy conservation). Thanks to all who are participating this year. If you did not get in on the fun this time, please let us know and we will be sure you get the word next Fall when even more trees are offered by the Parks Department.



By Teresa Harten

### IN MEMORIUM

**James Paradise** distinguished Cincinnati labor lawyer and civil libertarian died Saturday, March 10 at his home in Massachusetts from heart failure. He was 95. Jim and his wife Charlotte lived in North Avondale for more than 50 years before moving to Massachusetts to be near their children.

He was the organizer and first president of the city's chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Jim helped in desegregating Sunlite Pool at Coney Island. He and his wife marched in Washington with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.. He started playing tennis at the Clinton Hill Swim Club when he was in his 70's. While he lived in North Avondale, he could often be seen walking to the Library; attending a meeting at the North Avondale Neighborhood Association and attending classes at the Institute for Learning in Retirement on the campus at the University of Cincinnati.

**NANA reports many problems to CNAS (Cincinnati Neighborhood Action Strategies) at our biweekly CNAS meetings. The complaints are then investigated by the city worker where a process must be followed with a written notice and 15 to 30 days (often extended) to fix the problems. Then fines are assessed, often doubled while we wait for the city to collect or the owner to comply. In other words, it takes time.**

**In the last few weeks NANA has received quite a few inquires concerning the following properties: 3859 Reading Road, 945 Dana and the Gershuny lot between Avondale & Barry. We have reported them to the appropriate people. Orders have been written and in some cases fines assessed. We will keep working.**

## REVERSE THE BLIGHT

By Pauline Daly

Blight has many forms in Cincinnati and in North Avondale. A blight is being discussed in City Council and on Talk Radio. Racial Profiling is the tip of the iceberg that surfaces when thinking is based on prejudice. Fed by fear and ignorance, soon the thinking is "us against them."

If any of our citizens feel devalued because of race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation or socio-economic status, it devalues all of us. Most obvious is the harm done to the person/s the prejudice is directed against. But consider the poison that grows in the person/s who acts toward others in a prejudicial manner. This poison is then passed on to younger generations.

NANA began 40 years ago because of a need to fight the destruction caused by prejudice. It would be appropriate that NANA support and encourage community discussion to decrease the effects of prejudice.

The National Council for Community Injustice (formerly the National Council for Christians and Jews) has put together a plan for community dialogue. A representative will explain it at the next General Meeting on April 10th.

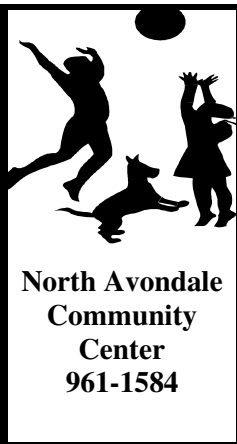
CommUnity plans for 3 sessions to meet in a living room setting. A facilitator will come from NCCI. Usually 12-15 people take part in the group. The purpose is for people to get to know each other in a non-threatening situation. In the first session each person fills out a worksheet with personal information he/she wishes to share with the group. The sessions are planned to make it easier to share but the process is guided by the needs of the group.

RESPECT is key. Each person must be allowed to express his/her opinion, however much we disagree. And in expressing disagreement, we need to be careful to respect the person while saying why we believe otherwise. We show respect or lack of it in words, tone, volume, facial expression, body language.

If you are interested in participating in CommUnity, call the NANA office or sign up at the General Meeting. NANA will respond according to the interest that is expressed.



**N**ANA Nominating Committee comprised of Ursula Hassel, Barbara Henshaw, Marianne Knue, Tommie Lewis, Eva Roberson & Ruth Watts will announce the proposed slate of officers for the North Avondale Neighborhood Association 2001/2002 Board of Trustees at the April General Meeting.



**North Avondale  
Community  
Center  
961-1584**

**Spring Break All Day Camp** April 9 thru 13, 7:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. \$50 for current After School Day Campers, \$65 for non-current After School Day Campers.

**The Gym will be closed April 9 thru 14** for resurfacing.

**Teen Lounge Opening - May 1**

**Registration for Summer Day Camp** begins Monday, April 2. Call the center (961-1584) for registration appointment.  
**North Avondale Recreation Center Choir** will perform Friday, May 1 at 6:30 - Free

**Classic Seniors Schedule** every Friday: 10:00-2:00

**April 6**, Business Meeting, 10:00 a.m.

**April 13**, No Meeting (Good Friday)

**April 20**, Podiatrist

**April 27**, Art & Humanities

**May 4**, Business Meeting



**North  
Avondale  
Montessori  
872-7290**

**School Calendar**

**Monday, April 2**  
Drawing for "lunch with Mitza" winners (Tickets \$1 each or 6 for \$5, available during lunch)

**Tuesday, April 3, 7 p.m.**  
PIE (Parent Information Evening) & Coffee

**Thursday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.**  
Suzuki recital

**Monday-Friday, April 9-13**  
**SPRING BREAK!**

**Friday, April 20**  
**NO SCHOOL**

**Friday, April 27, 6 p.m.**  
Volleyball game & Kids' Night In

**Saturday, April 28 (day)**  
Spring Plant, Paint & Polish Party

**Wednesday, May 2, 6 p.m.**  
PTA meeting

**Friday, May 4, 5:30 p.m.**  
Spaghetti Dinner & Ice Cream Social

**Wednesday, May 7, 7:30 p.m.**  
LSDMC meeting

**NANA CALENDAR**

- Sunday, April 7, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., **MIXED PAPER & SPORTING EQUIPMENT RECYCLING, SURRY SQUARE**
- Tuesday, April 10, 7:30 p.m., **APRIL NANA GENERAL MEETING**, 617 Clinton Springs
- Saturday, May 5, 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m., **MIXED PAPER, CARDBOARD & GENTLY USED SUITS RECYCLING**, 615 Clinton Springs



**NANA EXECUTIVE BOARD & COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

President: John Delaney	221-1044
1 <sup>st</sup> VP: Jean Wilson	221-7437
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP: Marianne Knue	281-5860
3 <sup>rd</sup> 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
<b>NANA Coordinator &amp; NANA News Editor: Charlene Morse</b>	<b>221-6166</b>

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



NON-PROFIT  
U S POSTAGE  
PAID  
CINCINNATI,  
OHIO  
PERMIT  
NO.7243

*Current Resident Or:*

