



NANA NEWS

APRIL 2002

Published by :
 The North Avondale
 Neighborhood Association
 617 Clinton Springs Ave. (29)
 (513) 221-6166
 Email: clmorse@fuse.net
 Volume XXXXI, No. 7
 President: John Delaney
 Coordinator: Charlene Morse
 Editor: Charlene Morse

JOHN ANGELO BEAUTIFICATION FUND

The John Angelo Beautification Fund was set up to honor John for all of his work rehabilitating 727 S. Crescent/F. Shuttlesworth. The purpose of the fund is to beautify our neighborhood by awarding up to \$500.00 to an individual, family or group to:

- beautify the exterior of a home or a public space
- improvements should be visible to others from the street

Submit a proposal to NANA by mail at 617 Clinton Springs Ave., 45229 or email at clmorse@fuse.net by May 6, 2002. Include design plans and estimated costs.

POSTING SIGNS ON UTILITY POLES IS ILLEGAL

Cincinnati City Ordinance 714-33 (b) which reads in part....."no person shall post or affix, or solicit or procure another person to post or affix, **ANY NOTICE**, poster other paper device, calculated to attract the attention of the public, to any lamp post, **public utility pole** or shade tree in the city right-of-way, or upon any public structure or building, except as may authorized or required by uniform law...."

On February 26th at the First Annual Conference of Community Councils, founded by Carl Evert, Past President Pleasant Ridge Community Council and attended by NANA's 1st Vice President Mary Piper, a discussion was held to find common problems or goals that all the councils could work on together. After the March 5th NANA Executive Meeting in which NANA's frustration with litter & utility pole signs was discussed, Mary emailed Carl suggesting this be a problem for the councils to work on together. Carl took off with the idea and... Keep Cincinnati Beautiful (KCB) has joined our grassroots effort by including removal of such signs in cleanup projects and in their Adopt-A-Block program. Cinergy has agreed to place notices in their utility bills warning that attaching signs to utility poles creates a safety hazard to the

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NANA GENERAL MEETING

APRIL 9TH, 7:30 p.m.

NORTH AVONDALE COMMUNITY CENTER

617 Clinton Springs Ave.



(1)

NORTH AVONDALE PART OF "GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN-UP" SATURDAY – APRIL 27 –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 Springs and Mitchell Avenues and one 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 the Greater Cincinnati area. There will also be other special prizes.

GREAT AMERICAN GRILL OUT AT NOON

At noon volunteers will return to Seasongood Square Park for NANA's traditional all American 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. A special added culinary attraction this year will be Herb Smitherman's famous bean soup. We need volunteers to donate a batch of cookies, brownies, etc. or a healthy salad. We also need volunteers to help with the cooking and to 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 donate \$50.00 toward expenses.

EVERYONE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY

Residents are asked to clean up trash around their homes especially if you live on a major thoroughfare as well as the throwaways in ravines that may abut your property. It is especially important that we get rid of old tires, as they are a breeding ground for mosquitoes that may be carrying the deadly Nile River virus. Trash bags and tires will be collected by the City Sanitation Department, which is part of the Great American Clean-Up team, at the following locations:

- Seasongood Square Park, Reading Road at Clinton Springs
- Mitchell & Vine, southeast corner on Mitchell side

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**THE BURTON WILDERNESS -
A SCIENCE LAB OPPORTUNITY**
By Pauline Daly

This is my name for the ravine-like area behind Burton School - if anyone has a more applicable name, feel free to rename it. Near neighbors say the area has had no maintenance for over 20 years.

Honeysuckle bushes grew and grew with vines that are sometimes 1 inch in diameter. Trash blew in and people dumped things there. We will need to get a dumpster for the large pieces and pick up the enormous amount of trash that has blown in. At the bottom of the ravine is a large asphalted area that was used on its perimeter as a 50 yard track. Weeds and small trees have grown up through the cracks but it is mostly solid.

During December and January, Larry Blackwell, a Burton parent, and a few people worked on Saturdays using a chain saw to clear the area that is now open. The plan is to accumulate the brush on the asphalted area and later have it chipped up and used as mulch on the property.

While working there we noticed how it had remained a nature area. A hawk flew down and captured a mouse. There are sewer lines and a culvert under the drive but apparently due to water runoff and the terrain, water accumulates near the asphalted area to the extent that trees grow there that can only grow in wet areas.

Erin Morris, naturalist from Avon Woods, and Jim Godby, Cincinnati Parks land management specialist, looked at the area and believe it could be used for wetlands teaching purposes. They are beginning to plan a proposal so a grant can be requested. They will again look at the site on April 2nd.

This CPS property has been a problem in the past. It has the potential to be a source of teaching science to children who live in the city. It should be used for all four public schools in this community as well as for others who are interested.

This is a big project and will need to be done in phases. Input is welcome from anyone who is interested. Herbert Smitherman is helping as a science and educational consultant. It might be an opportunity for some businesses to demonstrate what their products and/or service can do while also educating children.

Anyone is welcome to join us on April 2nd at 1 pm at Burton School or you can call me at 751-8334 to have questions answered or get a tour.

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utility workers and that it is also illegal. Downtown Cincinnati, Inc. has agreed to use their cleanup Ambassadors to remove such signs. So NANA neighbors remove signs when you see them and pick up litter around your home and join in on Great American Clean-up day to ensure that North Avondale remain Cincinnati's Best Address.

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- Sickle Cell Group, 3770 Reading Road (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 28.**

FAIR SHARE FOR CINCINNATI PARKS
By Gerry Kraus



In the upcoming Primary Election on May 7, 2002 the Hamilton County Park District has proposed a 15 year replacement* tax levy of one mill (\$1.00 for each one thousand dollar [\$1,000] of property valuation) to replace the 15 year one (1) mill tax levy approved by the voters of Hamilton County in 1988. There are two park districts: Hamilton County parks and City of Cincinnati parks. The proceeds from this levy are for the purpose of "acquisition and conservation" of parkland under the jurisdiction of the Hamilton County Park District. Presently, there is no Hamilton County Park District parkland located within the City of Cincinnati. All parkland within the City of Cincinnati – and a few parks located outside the city boundaries like French Park in Amberley – is operated by the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners with money allocated from the general fund of the City of Cincinnati.

CITIZENS UNITE TO PROMOTE FAIR SHARE

Several citizens believe the present distribution of Hamilton County Park Levy dollars is unfair to the residents of Cincinnati. Under the leadership of Donald Spencer a "Fair Share for Cincinnati Parks Committee" has been formed. The purpose of this Committee is 1) to inform the voters on the present distribution of park levy dollars; 2) to have Cincinnati parks receive a fair share of park levy dollars; and 3) to include the City of Cincinnati parks on the park levy ballot. The Committee wants the public to know

- that the Hamilton County Parks have received \$165,000,000 from the current Hamilton County levy
- that Cincinnati voters supported the County levy and received **NONE** of the proceeds for **CITY** parks
- that Cincinnati voters represent 31% of those who paid for the levy
- that the Cincinnati Parks **FAIR SHARE** should have been \$65,000,000
- that the Cincinnati parks are unable to control vine growth, to cut grass and to otherwise maintain city parks because the Cincinnati Park Board does not have enough dollars.

NANA joined several community councils as well as several prominent citizens when it voted unanimously at its February 12 to support the goals of the "Fair Share For Cincinnati Parks" Committee. For an up-to-date list or to join the ranks of supporters, please call Donald Spencer at 961-1377.

*The difference between a renewal levy and a replacement levy is that with a renewal levy the tax is based on the value of your property when the levy was first passed in 1988. With a replacement levy the tax is based on the current value of your property in 2002.

THE 100-DAY NEIGHBORHOOD COVENANT

By Gerry Kraus

On February 28 Councilmembers John Cranley and David Pepper introduced a comprehensive plan to make all Cincinnati neighborhoods clean, safe and livable and to restore Cincinnati to its former glory when it was voted "Most Livable City". In a Covenant in which they commit to work with and support the many citizens who want to rebuild city neighborhoods, they identify 10 important issues, outline steps to address these issues and pledge to bring these issues to a vote over the next 100 days (ending on June 8). At the end of the 100 days they will issue a Report Card to track the results. Mayor Charlie Luken as well as other Councilmembers support this covenant.

The 10 issues are

1. **Target Drug Dealers in Neighborhoods.** Create legal mechanisms where city solicitors and police work with community leaders to effectively exclude drug dealers from the neighborhoods they haunt.
2. **Equip Police To Improve Visibility and Responsiveness.** Bring in the required technology for efficient, goal-oriented deployment of police personnel; e.g., automatic vehicle locator technology; COMSTAT computer mapping system and to provide this crime mapping information to citizens via the Internet.
3. **Empower Citizens To Reduce Crime in Their Neighborhoods.** Design and pass a workable Safe Streets Program and encourage interested neighborhood people, businesses, religious and non-profit groups to participate.
4. **Reform CNAS (Cincinnati Neighborhood Action Strategy) to Cut Red Tape and Produce Results.** Assess where CNAS is working and where it is not and why. Design a city administrative structure to ensure that CNAS has sufficient credibility, authority and accountability including goal setting, training, improved response mechanism, with rewards for effective teams. *Note: On April 8 there will be Town Meeting to solicit citizen input on ways to improve CNAS. Call the NANA Office for time and place.*
5. **Toughen Litter Laws.** More effectively enforce the litter and weed laws on the books, including setting and publicizing response time goals for clean-up and enforcement on public and private property. Reexamine the level and imposition of fines and improve the collection of fines after the Administrative Citation Process is completed.
6. **Enhance Clean-Up of Neighborhood Business Districts.** Target priority areas for concentrated maintenance and clean-up of neighborhood business districts including sidewalk repair, litter removal and responsibilities of businesses.
7. **Crack Down on Blighted Properties.** Aggressive use of receivership and other tools to acquire blighted properties followed by land assembly and creative use of sales and "sweat equity" programs. Undertake a strategic plan for city-owned lots for clean up, maintenance and future development.
8. **Reduce Number of Abandoned Cars.** Increase fines and enforcement for those who leave junk cars on our streets. Develop a policy that makes it easier and cheaper for citizens to dispose of their cars in a clean and environmental fashion through a well-publicized car recycling program or center rather than to leave them on our city streets.
9. **Invest In Neighborhood Business Districts With Tax Increment Financing (TIF).** TIF would allow neighborhoods to use taxes gained from improvements to support further business district improvements as has been done to spur downtown development.
10. **Commit The \$50 Million Anthem Windfall To Capital Improvements In Neighborhoods.** Already committed! Next steps: Develop a workable plan to use Anthem Dollars for capital improvement and infrastructure investments to improve neighborhoods.

Question? How can we in North Avondale participate in these initiatives to improve the livability of our neighborhood?

NANA NEIGHBORS

NORTH AVONDALE ON NATIONAL TELEVISION

Marianne Knue & James Brush's (Lenox Place) home will be featured on HGTV's RESTORE AMERICA on Monday April 22 at 10 p.m.

Rodney Van Johnson (parents still on Camden) is a actor in Los Angeles where he plays T. C. Russell on PASSIONS. He started out as a traffic cop in GRACE UNDER FIRE, became a regular in PENSACOLA and after that show was cancelled he was on YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS and then PORT CHARLES.

Drs. George and Sarah Hale (Glencross) recipients of Lighthouse Youth Services' "Beacon of Light Humanitarian Award" The 2002 honorees are chosen for their support of community programs and projects that enhance the lives of children and families, volunteer work on behalf of youth, and for personal qualities and achievements, which make them role models. Celebration was held on Saturday, March 16 in the Millennium Hotel.

Anastasia Sillett (the Belvedere) was named Comey & Shepherd's Most Valuable Associate at the company's annual awards event. This award recognizes leadership, professionalism, integrity, innovation and service to others. She was also honored as a Consistency Award winner and a member of the Comey & Shepherd's President's Club.



**North
Avondale
Community
Center
961-1584**

CENTER

North Avondale "**Classic**" Seniors are still recruiting new members for the Seniors' Yoga class on Monday & Wednesday from 9:15 to 10:30

Youth and Day Camp Programs and Activities

April 1st thru 5th, 7:15 a.m. – 5:45 p.m. Spring Break Mini-Camp

Open Gym for Basketball Monday, Wednesday & Friday 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Register for Summer Day Camp Call Ms. Harris for details

SCHOOL

School Closed: April 1st thru 5th Spring Break

April 19th Parent's Night Out 6:30-11:00

April 30th Parents Information Exchange Meeting

● **April 27th,** Spring Clean Up Day

● **May 3rd** Spaghetti Dinner & Ice Cream Social



**North
Avondale
Montessori
School
872-7290**

In preparation for setting up a Westwood Historical Society, The Westwood Civic, Westwood Concern and the Invest in Neighborhoods are proud to present the first **Annual Westwood Home Tour**.

The Tour will take place **Sunday April 28th 1-6 PM**. Tickets will be \$10.00 ea. available the day of the show at Westwood School (corner of Montana and Harrison)

The tour will feature 8 homes built between 1900 and 1930 the Westwood School built @1905, Westwood Presbyterian Church and "Wiladel" now Judson village (the Oskamp home featured in Walter Langsam's book "Great Homes of the Queen City")

For more information check out their website at: www.westwoodcivic.org

Greg Spiess

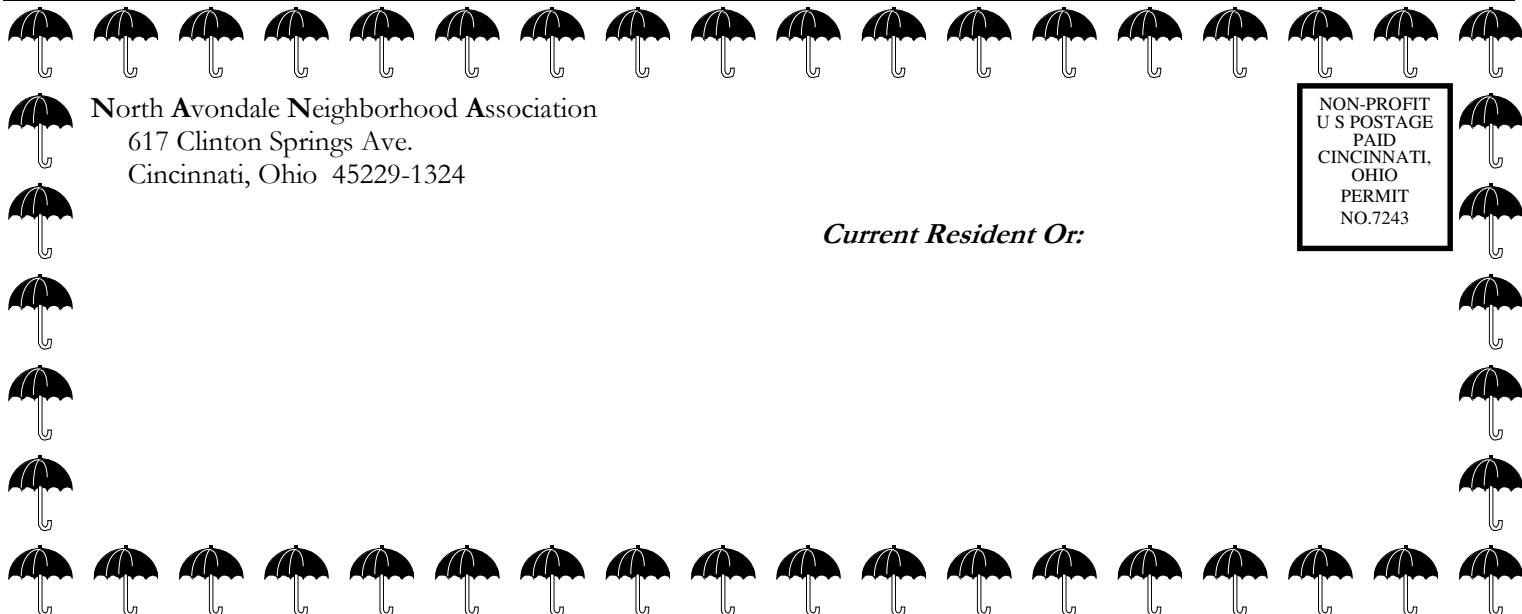
NANA CALENDAR

- Saturday, April 6 and May 4, 9:00 a.m. **to only 12:00 noon SURREY SQUARE, Between Huber Lumber & Thriftway RECYCLING: MIXED PAPER**
- Tuesday, April 9, 7:30 p.m. **NANA GENERAL MEETING**, 617 Clinton Springs Ave.
- Saturday, April 27, 10:00 to Noon **GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN-UP** Meet at Seasongood Park (see article page 1)
- Saturday, May 18, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. **GREEN UP DAY**

NANA EXECUTIVE BOARD & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President: John Delaney _____ 221-1044
 1st VP: Mary Piper _____ 961-1080
 2nd VP: Toni Ward _____ 559-1221
 3rd VP: Eva Roberson _____ 751-2446
 Corresponding Sec.: Barbara Henshaw _____ 961-5275
 Recording Secretary: Jim Obergefell _____ 961-4717
 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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