

NANA NEWS

FEBRUARY 2005

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Neighborhood Association
617 Clinton Springs Ave. (29)
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Email: clmorse@fuse.net
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Coordinator: Charlene Morse
Editor: Charlene Morse

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was a three-day cruise to nowhere, and we took the boys, ages 8 & 11. On board was a small casino. A big thrill for young minds - a big whup for George and me, but we gave each kid a roll of quarters - to fritter away.

Chris, the eldest, loses a few coins into a one-armed-bandit and discovers that it probably isn't a good idea to keep dumping away. So Chris trots back to the ice cream bar and pockets the remainder of his roll.

But Mike catches on right away with his keen 8-year old sense of greed. "Hey, I get money back!" One quarter in the slot and two appear in the trough - magic indeed.... Oh, it took maybe half an hour before Mike trots back to the adult table and announces that he needs another roll of quarters. He's got it all figured out. Denied the roll, he plea bargains - well maybe half - well maybe just two dollars then. Finally in desperation, he blurts out: "But Mom I just need one more quarter!"

Every year NANA has received \$10,000 from the city through NSP administered by Invest in Neighborhoods. It paid for newsletters, flower gardens, litter patrols, recycling, etc., etc., etc. Projects pushed into being by neighborhood volunteers. Just last year the city blessed each neighborhood with an additional \$2000 - we were thrilled. This year - we were asked to budget \$12,000 - we did. It was well planned, and included hundreds of neighborhood volunteers.

But the city ran out of quarters! We can't exactly understand the inner workings of the city budget - I even tried - only to find out that its more complicated than the insides of a slot machine. They needed more quarters to run something else downtown. They slashed our tiny budget 42%. They slashed all the neighborhood budgets \$42%. \$5000 is a lot of quarters for NANA.

So it goes with our fair city - pleading poor - "oh, gee, we don't have enough money - lets get it from the neighborhoods!" And so they do - and so they did - and they did do because they could do. Did they fritter away their roll of quarters? I'd really like to know.

Marilyn Smith



The New School will hold an open house on Sunday, February 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. Families are invited so parents can meet teachers and observe how their children interact in the Montessori environment. It is a good idea for parents to call 281-7999 to learn more.

(1)

NANA STUDIES ZONE CHANGE FOR SECTION OF SOUTH FRED SHUTTLESWORTH & GREENWOOD

When the new City Zoning code went into effect last year an Interim Development Control (IDC) Overlay District was put in place over the newly zoned RMX Residential Mixed subdistrict. An IDC is intended to temporarily regulate new uses, new building construction and demolition or alteration of existing structures. It only applies in areas where the adoption of amendments to the Cincinnati Zoning Code have been proposed and approved by the City Planning Commission in either a comprehensive plan, community plan, urban design plan or urban renewal plan. **The IDC area is from 698 & 709 to 761 & 762 South Fred Shuttlesworth and 674 & 677 to 715 & 720 Greenwood.**

Because of the IDC, NANA, the City and neighbors in and around the IDC district will analyze the zoning options. This IDC abuts SF-10, SF-6 & RM-2.0 Multi-Family (medium density mix of residential housing predominantly duplexes and multi-family). Since RM-2.0 is not appropriate we will be looking at RMX, SF-10 & SF-6 as possible zoning options.

RMX is a subdistrict intended to create, maintain and enhance areas of the city that have mixed lot sizes and house types of one to three dwelling units. Existing multi-family buildings of four or more units may remain but new construction is not permitted. The minimum land area for every dwelling unit is 2,000 square feet.

SF-10 Single-family. This subdistrict allows single-family housing at low densities. The minimum lot size is 10,000 square feet.

SF-6 Single-family. This subdistrict allows medium-density, single-family housing. The minimum lot size is 6,000 sq. feet.

If you would like input in the outcome please come to the February 8 NANA Meeting, email or call NANA.

AGENDA

NANA GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 8, 7:30 p.m.
NORTH AVONDALE
COMMUNITY CENTER
617 Clinton Springs Ave.

- NSP 2005
- Zoning Change For S. Fred Shuttlesworth & Greenwood
- Update on Reading Road Streetscape



CITY INFORMATION

Winter Operations

The City of Cincinnati Department of Public Services regularly provides updates on winter operations during snow events to the press and also posts them on the city's website: www.cincinnati-oh.gov. There is a link for winter operations on the front page under "Features".

As always, the City's customer service line is 591-6000, should you have any questions or comments.

Be a Pothole Spotter!

The City of Cincinnati is responsible for repairing potholes on City streets as well as the Norwood Lateral between I-75 and the Norwood Corporation line. As you see potholes on City streets, please report them via e-mail or by calling the Department of Public Services Customer Services at **591-6000**. Potholes located on the Interstate Highway system or its ramps should be reported to the Ohio Department of Transportation at 1-800-831-2142.

To report potholes via e-mail, use the following instructions:

- Simply send an e-mail to POTHOLE@Cincinnati-oh.gov
- Please note that you can also report potholes to the Department of Public Services website: customerservice.publicservices@cincinnati-oh.gov

If people, throughout all areas of the city, identify potholes before they become complaints and/or hazardous situations the city will provide a higher level of service to our citizens.

Here is the information needed when you submit a pothole repair request:

1. Exact location, address (i.e.; street name, street number, northwest corner, 5000 block, etc.) The more precise the location, the better.
2. Approximate size of pothole; (i.e.; 2' diameter x 3" deep).
3. Number of potholes (i.e.; how many and how close together?).
4. Placement of pothole on the street (i.e.; in curb lane, in middle of street, at gutter, etc.).
5. Hazardous or dangerous potholes requiring IMMEDIATE attention should continue to be reported to our Customer Service Hotline at 591-6000.

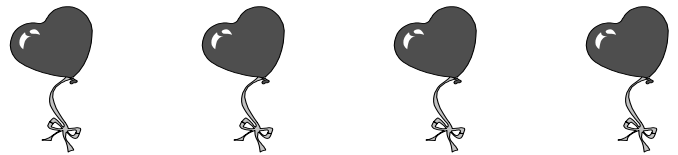
If you have any questions, please contact:
Diane Watkins, TROD, 591-6053

NANA is forming a **Nominating Committee** to select the slate of elected officers for the North Avondale Neighborhood Association 2005/2006. We welcome any neighborhood individuals who are interested in serving on this committee or perhaps being an officer. If interested, please call the NANA Office at 221-6166 or send an email to clmorse@fuse.net.

ZONE CHANGE ON READING ROAD PUBLIC HEARING ON FEBRUARY 8 By Gerry Kraus

A zone change in the North Avondale/Reading Road Business District was approved by the Cincinnati Planning Commission on December 17, 2004. The change is from CN-M Commercial Neighborhood Mixed district to CN-P Commercial Neighborhood Pedestrian and RM-1.2 Mixed Residential districts. The main difference between CN-M and CN-P is that fast food restaurants and other drive-through businesses are permitted in CN-M, but they are **not** permitted in CN-P. One small parcel on Paddock Road that separates the commercial area from adjacent residential properties has been zoned RM-1.2 Mixed Residential with a minimum lot size of 1200 square feet. This latter change is to protect the residential area from adverse commercial use.

There will be a public hearing before the Neighborhood and Public Services Committee of City Council, chaired by Council Member Laketa Cole on **Tuesday, February 8, 2005 at 11:00 AM. in Council Chambers, 3rd floor, City Hall**. If approved by this Committee, the zone change will be on the City Council agenda for passage on February 9, 2005. Residents are urged to attend the February 8th hearing, which may be controversial, to demonstrate to City Council neighborhood support for this zone change.



CAR WASH UPDATE FEBRUARY 16 – A DATE TO REMEMBER By Gerry Kraus

On June 21, 2004 the Cincinnati Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) decided unanimously by a 3-0 vote that a car wash business could not be located at the corner of Reading/Paddock Roads (formerly Antonio's Pizza). This decision was appealed to the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas by the owners of the property, Rick & Charles Pescovitz. On December 29, 2004 Judge Dennis Helmick's Magistrate upheld the decision of the ZBA. The Pescovitzes have asked that the Magistrate's decision be reviewed by Judge Helmick. Judge Helmick will hear oral arguments on the Magistrate's decision on **Wednesday, February 16, 2005, at 2:30 PM in Room 510 of the Hamilton County Court House**. Interested residents are encouraged to attend this court hearing to demonstrate neighborhood support for the Magistrate's and ZBA decision.

NANA and several neighbors have also appealed the ZBA decision that would permit a PAY DAY LOAN/CHECK CASHING business at this site to the Court of Common Pleas. The Magistrate heard this case on December 1, 2004, but to date has not made a decision.

FINDING NORTH AVONDALE ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB CAN BRING DIFFERENT RESULTS

A description of our neighborhood was found on the world wide web by a neighbor: From the Hamilton County's web page there is a link to Cincinnati residential information: www.hamilton-co.org/TopicCommunities.asp. From this page, select residential listing information which is linked to: <http://frontier.cincinnati.com/communities/>. Note the absence of North Avondale as well other communities (e.g. West End, St. Bernard, Carthage, Corryville, Paddock Hills, Mt. Auburn). The following is the description ("profile") of Avondale which compared to other neighborhood descriptions in the city is rather downbeat. Some believe this is a not so subtle attempt at redlining and consequently negatively impacts property values.

Well-kept mansions on the same blocks as abandoned buildings. The world-renowned Cincinnati Zoo in a neighborhood with one of the city's higher crime rates.

These are the different faces of Avondale, Cincinnati's fourth-largest neighborhood, with almost 19,000 residents. Almost 92 percent of its residents are black. More than 77 percent rent housing, and more than 40 percent live at or below the poverty level.

But the neighborhood also has strengths. Its proximity to downtown, the collection of hospitals known as Pill Hill, the University of Cincinnati, Xavier University and Interstates 71 and 75 make land a prime commodity.

Almost 60 churches build a sense of connection through youth & senior programs, volunteer work & other efforts.

Contrast this to the North Avondale description in the City link:<http://www.cincinnatihome.org/neighborhoods/northavondale/nrthavon.htm>

Symphony musicians, politicians, a Broadway producer, artists, dancers, composers, conductors, professors, doctors and lawyers all make their homes in North Avondale. Beautiful turn-of-the-century homes, a rich history and closeness to downtown via either I-71 or I-75 are only a few of the reasons that young families move into North Avondale, and stay even after the kids have moved out and gone away to college

An active neighborhood association plays an important role in zoning regulations and has been successful at maintaining most of the homes as single-family residences. There are many nationally recognized education programs either in North Avondale or in nearby neighborhoods. North Avondale Montessori and Walnut Hills High School are Cincinnati Public Schools that receive frequent national recognition. North Avondale is also home to the city's first integrated private swim club, and it's a neighborhood that prides itself on building and maintaining a strong sense of community among neighbors.

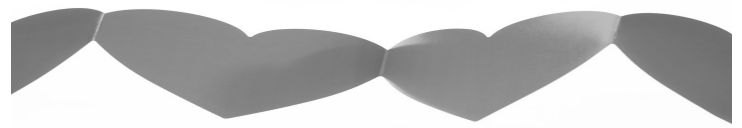
NANA would also like to know who wrote the "profiles." The Hamilton County Commission should be held accountable for creating a link that gives authenticity to the information. The link Cincinnati.com is connected with the Enquirer/Post, which is ironic given the wonderful story on North Avondale in the January 16th Sunday paper. NANA would have expected better from ANYONE who claims to be supportive of our communities in the city - be it county or the newspapers.

NANA NEIGHBORS

Jewel O'Neal (Lenox) is an artist whose painting was chosen for the cover of the Cincinnati Symphony 2004-2005 Multicultural Awareness Council "Open Door Series."

John Scott (grandson of Bishop & Mrs. F. C. Scott of Marion) - Community Planner, Victory Neighborhood Services and **Lawrence Hawkins III** (grandson of Lawrence Hawkins formerly of Wess Park) - Assistant Prosecutor, Butler County are each finalists of the Reach For The Stars Program for the Leaders For The Future Award which recognizes exceptional achievement by young African-Americans 30 years of age or younger.

Kenneth Powell (son of Harold & Arlevia Powell of Barker) a versatile musician, master of multiple instruments & well-versed in jazz was chosen by Pittsburgh Public Theater as a musician for its production of "Ain't Misbehavin,"



A THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

As you may know, City Council has cut the Neighborhood Support Program (NSP) for each city neighborhood by \$5,000 in the 2005-06 budget. This cut will dramatically reduce the activities NANA funds for North Avondale. Now, there are 3,000 households who receive the NANA NEWS each month. As of December 31, 2004 only 409 households have paid membership dues. If 1,000 of the remaining households would pay \$5.00 for 2005 dues, NANA would have the \$5,000 it needs to totally continue its activities. And what would these contributors receive in return: a neighborhood free of litter because of frequent Clean-Up projects; beautified neighborhood parkland with flowers in the spring, summer and autumn; a neighborhood with minimum crime; enforced building and zoning codes; energy toward developing a viable business district along Reading Road; activities to enhance the North Avondale and Burton Schools; efforts to maintain clean air and a viable recycling program; a well informed neighborhood through the monthly NANA NEWS; and most of all a very livable place in which to live. That should be worth at least five bucks! Just a thought....

By Gerry Kraus

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____ name _____ date _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Annual Dues \$5 \$10 \$25 \$50 or \$ _____

Thank you! Please make your check payable to NANA.



**NORTH AVONDALE
RECREATION CENTER
961-1584**

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission's North Avondale Recreation is now selling 2005

memberships.

This year an all CRC City Center Membership is being sold.

All CRC City Memberships are;

Adults ONLY \$25,

Senior (50+), Teen and Youth are \$15.

Memberships to the North Avondale Center are;

Adults \$15

Senior (50+), Teens and Youth are ONLY \$5.

Fitness memberships are \$10 a quarter.

Come and check out programs such as the weight room, Line

Dancing (50+), Workout Party (aerobics), Yoga, Tia Chi...

Call 961-1584 or stop by for more information!!!!



**NORTH AVONDALE
MONTESSORI SCHOOL
363-3900**

February, 2005

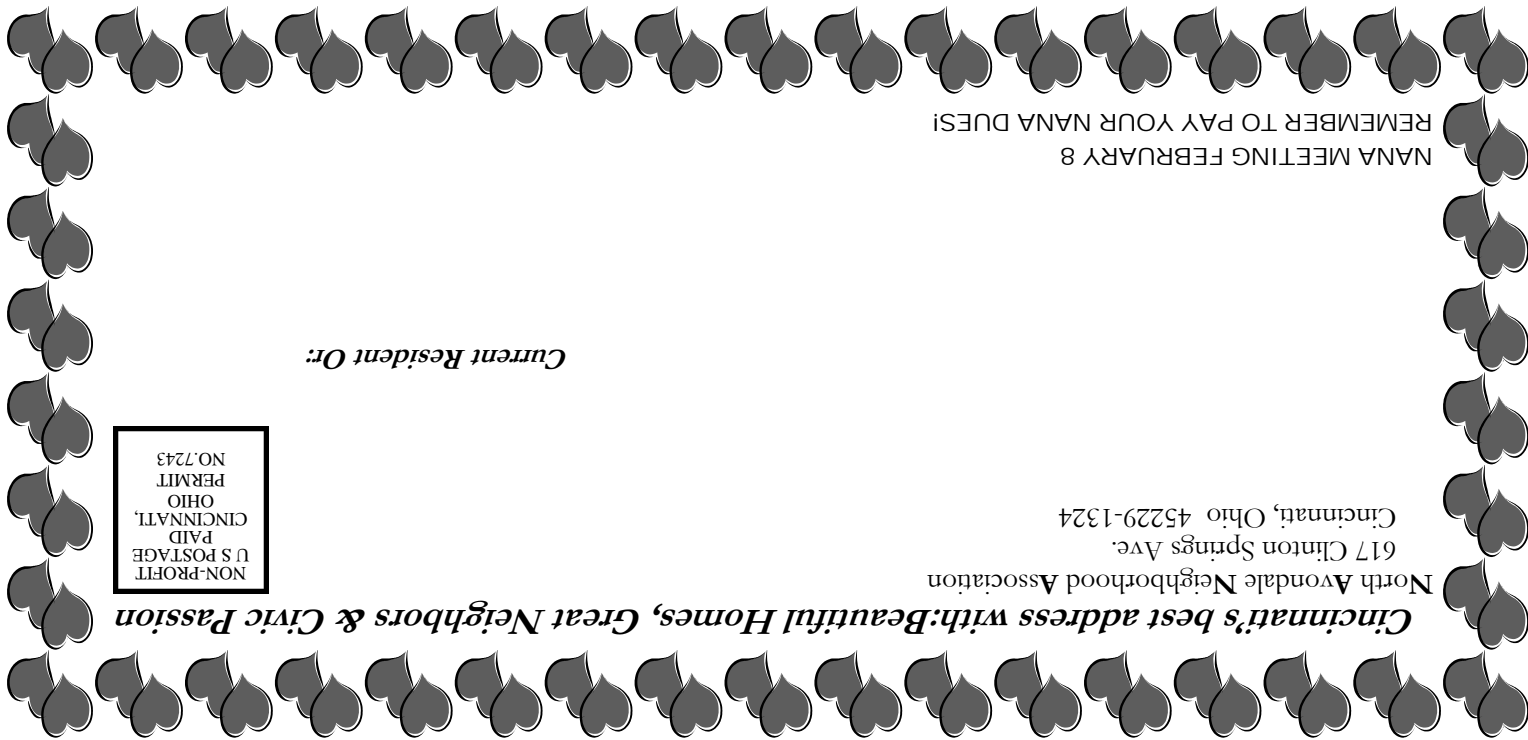
- 1 Market Day Pickup, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Hot Lunchroom
- 1 & 2 Annual Fund Drive
- 4 PTA Pizza and Game Night 6:00 - 8:30 pm
- 9 P.I.E. Montessori Math
- 18 Staff Professional Development Day -- no pupils
- 21 Presidents' Day Holiday--schools closed

March, 2005

- 1 Market Day Pickup, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Hot Lunchroom

NANA EXECUTIVE BOARD, COMMITTEE CHAIRS & IMPORTANT NUMBERS

President: Marilyn Smith _____	221-4039	Environmental: Mike Rieck _____	961-6563
1st VP: Michael Walton _____	961-8850	Landlord/Tenant Relations: Pauline Daly _____	751-8334
2nd VP: Barbara Henshaw _____	961-5275	Legal Chairperson: Marvin Kraus _____	861-3939
3rd VP: Ellen Epstein _____	304-6703	Master Plan Implementation: Bob Novak _____	751-2161
Corresponding Sec.: John Arthur _____	961-4717	NANA Coordinator & NANA News Editor: Charlene Morse _____	221-6166
Recording Secretary: Steve Kenat _____	242-3492	Neighborhood Officer Jana Cruse _____	Jana.Cruse@cincinnati-oh.gov _____ 352-3902
Treasurer: Heather Herr _____	861-8180	City Complaint/Request Hotline _____	591-6000
Beautification: Ursula Hassel _____	751-4546	Request A Recycling Bin _____	242-4401
City Liaison: Gerry Kraus _____	861-3939	Report Air Odors 24/7 _____	946-7777



REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR NANA DUES!
NANA MEETING FEBRUARY 8

Current Resident Or:

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

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

Cincinnati's best address with: Beautiful Homes, Great Neighbors & Civic Passion

- Thursday, February 3, 6:00 p.m. **CPOP** Meeting at District 4 Police station Reading Road
- Tuesday, February 8, 7:30 p.m. **NANA GENERAL MEETING**, N. A. Community Center, 617 Clinton Springs
- Tuesday, March 8, 7:30 p.m. **NANA GENERAL MEETING**, N. A. Community Center, 617 Clinton Springs

NANA CALENDAR