



# NANA NEWS

## OCTOBER 2003

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Neighborhood Association  
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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On September 3rd, Charlene and I spent five and one-half hours with Ed Valeska, Department of Public Services, Neighborhood Operations for the City of Cincinnati. This was part of the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP). The purpose was to cover each street in North Avondale, looking for areas in need of repair, clean-up, etc., things which are the responsibility of the City to maintain, i.e., pot holes, broken curbs, faded signs, litter, etc. So many of the things which we observed were things we never notice, like faded street signs. Ed sent us a copy of the 20 page print-out he sent to the different city departments to fix all the problems we found. We found the problems were evenly spread all over North Avondale

Through my work in the community, I have developed philosophical concerns. How do we balance everyone's needs when seeking solutions for neighborhood issues. When it comes to housing, we need to consider that section-eight, low-income and market-rate people want to live in our neighborhood. On the other hand we have individuals who want to provide all of those options through rehabbing, splitting up single family homes into apartments, and building new dwellings. How can there be any balance, if the playing field is varied, when unqualified entrepreneurs are allowed to become involved? And are we encouraging unqualified entrepreneurs to promote the diversity this community prides itself as representing? Regardless, there are rules and though there may be exceptions, there must always be standards that produce a quality finished product. Many may not hold my view, but I do not agree with lowering any set standard in order to make it possible for any group to develop, maintain or seek to improve the neighborhood. If standards are lowered, in order to have an even playing field, who really benefits? This is especially so, if the finished product is sub-standard. If we are to be and remain a sustainable neighborhood, we cannot afford such practices. Such practices in the long run would tend to do the neighborhood a disservice. If standards are not being met whom should we hold accountable? Should this be a major issue directed towards our city council hopefuls? City manager? Mayor? Holding us accountable for seeing that our elected officials are held accountable and responsible, in our quest for sustainability.

You can help. Call the NANA office at 221-616 or email at [clmorse@fuse.net](mailto:clmorse@fuse.net) and report substandard work, neglected and abandoned buildings. Also, so that our elected officials know our concerns and know that we are a neighborhood that cares and votes, please come to our **Candidates Night at our monthly NANA General Meeting on October 14 at 7:30** in the Community Center.

### HISTORIES OF NORTH AVONDALE - PART 1 EXCERPTS FROM MARY KARTAL'S STORY

We bought our house at 10 Burton Woods Lane in 1960. At that time the street served as an example for America, showing how people of different races, creeds and socio-economic status can live side by side in harmony. We had whites, blacks, professionals, white and blue collar workers Catholics, Jews, (an orthodox rabbi and a Franciscan friar) rich and poor, gay and straight couples, single parents, large and small families, young and old, all living within the same block. We were on friendly terms, and although we may not have visited each other, we talked when we were outside taking walks or just sitting on the porches, watching our children. We talked about the things affecting the neighborhood, about politics, current events, schools, and the children, of course.

To my knowledge we were the last white family to move to the street for a while. The real estate agents tried to dissuade us: "This is not a street for you, Doctor, it will turn, real estate prices will plummet"... ( they already had, since we managed to buy our house for \$16,000.00). The house was built in the early part of the century for a glass manufacturer, which explains the etched windows and all the mirrors in the house.

Our Jewish neighbor, a surgeon, came from a family with "old" money. His daughter took dancing lessons, and went off with white gloves looking very formal. They had cocktails before dinner, a gardener to help with the yard, and their son played in the street with all the other kids. Eventually they sold the house because they wanted to live in a place where they could entertain formally. The new neighbors, Catholics, with 4 children were college English professors. Many years later, their youngest daughter finished her tour of duty with the Peace Corps and was on her way to Paris from Chad, when her plane was shot down by Libyan terrorists. The house was sold to a gay couple who offered us their lovely back yard for our daughter's wedding. Eventually, they sold to the present owners. *(continued next month)*

NANA GENERAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup>  
7:30 p.m.  
NORTH AVONDALE  
COMMUNITY CENTER  
617 Clinton Springs Ave.

AGENDA ITEMS:  
· CANDIDATES NIGHT: IF  
YOU ARE INTERESTED IN  
"WHO IS WHO" FOR THE  
UPCOMING NOVEMBER CITY  
COUNCIL ELECTION - THIS IS  
THE PLACE TO START!



**NEW ZONING CODE UPDATE**  
**By Gerry Kraus**

All except one of the map zone changes requested by NANA have been accepted by the staff of the Cincinnati Planning Commission (CPC) thanks to the hard work of many North Avondale residents who gathered petitions, met with city staff and testified at public hearings. In addition to the zone changes reported in earlier NANA News the following additional changes include:

- Betula, Rose Hill & 2 properties on Red Bud east of Rose Hill to Red Bud Ave. have been changed from SF-10 back to SF-20. Those Rose Hill properties north of Red Bud remain SF-10.
- South Fred Shuttlesworth (south side of street to 2 properties east of Eaton Lane) & Eaton Lane changed from SF-6 to SF-10
- Wess Park Drive changed from SF-6 to SF-10
- End of Edgehill Place from SF-6 to SF-10
- 3800 & 3816 Dakota from RMX (residential 1 to 4 family) to SF-10
- Alter Place from RMX to SF-4
- Kessler Place & Kessler Ave. from RMX to SF-4

South Fred Shuttlesworth (south side) from 709 S. Fred Shuttlesworth to Reading Road continues to be zoned RMX even though 6 of the 12 properties are single family, plus an empty lot and Rose Chapel. The 4 remaining properties have been converted from single family to multi-family and NANA believes should be encouraged to convert back to single family to enhance property values on this street.

**TEXT CHANGES IN ZONING CODE**

Just as important as the map part of the zoning code is the text which determines how important zoning issues are dealt with. Did you know that under the proposed new zoning code:

- Zoning notices, public hearings and appeals available to neighborhood councils and property owners will be reduced or eliminated?
- Zoning enforcement will not be mandatory but left to the discretion of the Director of Buildings & Inspections?
- The City wants to approve the new zoning code as is and leave further revisions to the amendment process?
- Fees for making revisions will increase from \$300 to \$1000
- Your neighbor will be able to build closer to your property line without notification to you?
- Major land use changes are included in the proposed new code?
- The new code provides less control over waste management? Do you want a landfill, a garbage storage or transfer station or a tire shredding and recycling facility in your neighborhood?

NANA is working with other neighborhood groups in the newly formed Cincinnati Neighborhood Zoning Task Force to endeavor to get the Cincinnati Planning Commission and/or City Council to make changes in the text of the proposed new zoning code so that it is more protective of residential property owners and neighborhoods.

**Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection**  
**Dates: October 18** Winton Woods High School,  
**October 25** at Coney Island. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
More information call 946-7777 or visit [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org)

**BLOCK WATCH**



**Avon Fields**  
**Beechwood**  
**Red Bud**  
**Betula**  
**Rose Hill**

The meeting on August 26 was very successful. Thanks to our gracious host, John Arthur on Betula. Officer Jana Cruse shared plans to close a rooming house on Reading Rd that had an abundance of drug-related

incidents. They shut it down, boarded it up and vacated the folks that were illegally "nesting" there. Truly a magnificent effort on the part of NANA and our District IV.

- There is a new Block Watch Captain: David Harsh at 4017 Beechwood. 281-1522. He is replacing Marilyn Smith who has done a phenomenal job starting and maintaining the Block Watch. Thank you, Marilyn!
- Thanks to block watch volunteers Rick & Vanessa Wayne, Debbie & Lou Ginocchio, Lois & Mel Nizny, Marilyn Smith, Gerry & Marvin Kraus, and all who signed those petitions for helping to get the zoning changes!
- The Block Party was terrific! The turnout unbelievable! Cincinnati Police showed up to thrill the kids with sirens and rides. Thank you Lois, Mel, and all the wonderful folks who came and brought the food and the home-brewed beer.
- Luminary splendor will soon be here. We are gonna' shine! Thanks to Jolene Struebbe and her committee.
- If you are interested in preserving our architectural uniqueness as a neighborhood, please contact Janice Yates (Rose Hill) at 475-9771. She is looking into the Historic Designation process for us.
- Next Block Watch meeting is: Tuesday January 20, 2004 at 7:30 PM at the home of Jolene Struebbe & Jim Miller, 4018 Beechwood.
- Finally: Block Watch signs to be installed soon. City Traffic Division approved the locations and forwarded our request to the Highway Department.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Angela Seidel**, (Lenox Place) died on June 11. She was born in Germany where she became an opera singer. Our condolences to her husband Peter. Angela had many friends in North Avondale who might be interested in coming to her musical memorial service on Saturday, October 18, 3:00 PM at the First Unitarian Church on Linton at Reading. Former students will sing (one comes from Russia, and one from Boston) and several selections from Angela on tape will be played.

**Alice Falk**, (Red Bud) 87, a pioneer activist for those with mental retardation died of cancer on Friday, June 20. Not only did she live on Red Bud but she gave the baby redbuds that she lovingly cared for to many neighbors throughout the area.

## NANA NEIGHBORS

**WELCOME** new North Avondale Neighbors: **George Farnsworth & Vanessa Sorenson** (Marion Ave.); **Mark Visconti, & Mark Kochlefl** (Lenox); **Michael Lamba, Sandra Dickens & Family** (Redway); **Troy Burd, Angela Burd & Family** (Burton Woods)

**Xiaojie "Shau" Zavon** (Rose Hill) After 3 months' of hard work and study, she passed the real estate licensing exam in the end of August and became a real estate agent in the Hyde Park office of Huff Realty. She enjoys working with people and helping people with their housing needs and can be reached at 259-3058.

**Sonya Eagan Ricard Brock** (Clinton Springs) currently has an art exhibit of seascape paintings of Spain, North Africa and the USA at The Artery, 913 Monmouth St., Newport, September 26 through October 25 (hours: 12 noon - 4 p.m. Thursday -Sunday).

**Calvin Buford** (Rose Hill) a partner in Dinsmore & Shohl has been named the first director of Cincinnati's Minority Business Accelerator, created last year by the Chamber of Commerce and other business organizations to speed development of sizeable minority businesses and a substantial minority entrepreneurial community.

**Jane Cheng** (Red bud) 16, was featured in "*Volunteers Make A Difference*" in the September 11th Cincinnati Enquirer. Jane, a Walnut Hills student, has each week for three years been helping in the dance & acting programs at the Uptown Arts Foundation (an Over-the-Rhine center that provides urban youth with free classes in art, music, theater & dance.)

**Andrea Cheng** (Red Bud) has another book add to her growing collection. The Key Collection (ages 9 - 12) published in 2003 by Henry Holt tells the story of a young boy learning to cope with his grandmother moving far away who discovers there are ways to bridge distance, and to make new friends in the process. This warm and reassuring novel explores a special relationship that crosses cultures and generations, and holds strong when tested. Andrea will be happy to sign copies. Just call her at 221-4430 or email: [ajcheng@fuse.net](mailto:ajcheng@fuse.net) Also, see page 1, *Mary Kartal's article (Andrea's Mother, Jane's Grandmother)*

**Clotilde (Chloe) Royal** (Victory Parkway) whose **Batcock, Eye Catcher** is on display at the Museum Center entrance and **Tom Phelps** (Paddock Road) whose **Afroamer Bat Fetish** is displayed in the Weston Art Gallery at the Aronoff Center. Both are a part of the Bats Incredible project sponsored by ArtWorks.

Thanks to **Donald & Stewart Funeral Home** for beautifying the SW corner of Reading /Paddock Road with their colorful flower display.

**Dr. Kenneth Powell**, (parents Arlevia & Harold of Barker) is a winner in the National Flute Association's (NFA) Jazz Flute Masterclass Competition, which was held in August, 2003 at the NFA's 31st annual convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.



## IT'S FUN TO LIVE IN CINCINNATI

**Luken Farmers Market is still open.** Hours after Labor Day through Thanksgiving are Monday through Friday 1 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. to closing. For more information call 859-635-5244

**St. Bernard Self Storage** 1020 Kieley Place, near Paddock Rd and Tennessee Ave. offers indoor and outdoor storage and is an official collection site for "**Toy's for Tots**" 2003. The toys donated must be new and unwrapped - stuffed animals should, however, be wrapped in clear plastic. For more information or directions, call 641-4772. With your help we can make a difference this Holiday Season.

On **Saturday October 11 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.** the **Cincinnati Fire Department** will open its twenty-six fire stations to the public in honor of its 150th Anniversary, which occurred on April 1, 2003. Join the festivities at our own North Avondale **Engine 9 at 4017 Reading Road.**

The **Architectural Foundation of Cincinnati (AFC)**, in conjunction with architects from firms designing new projects for Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS), is showcasing new school works during a two-hour special exhibition and reception during which the architects will be available to discuss their works on **Thursday, October 16, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.**, at the Aronoff Center for Design and Art, University of Cincinnati, Clifton. Cost: \$ 20 per person. No charge to AFC members (AFC is currently offering a \$35 introductory tax-deductible personal membership). For information and reservations, call Sue Ann Painter 421-4469, or [PainterAFC@aol.com](mailto:PainterAFC@aol.com).

The East Row Historic Foundation will host the 2003 **East Row Historic Homes Tour**, the official homes tour of the **Tall Stacks 2003 Music, Arts & Heritage Festival**, on Saturday and Sunday, **October 18 & 19, 2003**, in Newport, Kentucky, from **11 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day**. During the tour, 12 historic, renovated/restored homes will be open to the public. **Tickets** that are \$20 per person will be sold at the George Wiedemann Jr. Mansion, 401 Park Ave., during tour hours. Advance tickets will be sold through a 24-hour toll free number: 1-866-327-8769. Tickets may be purchased with MasterCard or Visa. For more information, visit [www.eastrow.org](http://www.eastrow.org) & [www.tallstacks.org](http://www.tallstacks.org)

## ENFORCEMENT FOR FALSE ALARMS

Beginning Monday, September 15, the Cincinnati Police Department False Alarm Reduction Unit will enforce provisions of recently modified laws regarding false security alarm activation. There is no cost for residential or business alarm users to register their alarm systems, but registration is required. Alarm users face a \$100 fine for any alarm call on an unregistered system, although this fine may be waived if registration is completed within fifteen days of notification. There is also an escalating schedule of fines beginning with the third false alarm for registered users within a twelve-month period. Registration forms may be obtained by calling the False Alarm Reduction Unit at 352-1272. Last year 30,000 false alarms cost taxpayers more than \$500,000 and diverted resources from other public safety response activity. The False Alarm Reduction Unit was formed to address this issue.



**North Avondale Community Center  
961-1584**

October 17, Friday:  
24, Friday:  
29, Wednesday:

Senior Trips

Rosenthal Art Museum  
Arts Consortium  
LaComedia to see SHOWBOAT

Youth Programs

October 17th and 24th North Avondale Montessori Closed  
The North Avondale Center will provide custodial care day camp services from 7:15 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for the following costs per child, per day:

- Registered After School Day Camp Members – FREE
- Registered Bridge-Gap Members - \$10
- Drop-In Participants - \$15

October 31, Friday from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. **Fall Harvest Party**  
The North Avondale Center will host a **Fall Harvest Party**. This event is FREE for all with music, dancing and games for everyone to participate in. Costumes are optional and candy will be passed out.



**North Avondale Montessori School  
872-7290**

<http://nams.cps-k12.org>

**October 2** Open House  
**10** Fall Festival 5 to 8 at the Community Center  
**14** Bring Someone Special To Lunch  
**22** Parent Information Evening (PIE), 6:30-8:00  
**25** **Make A Difference Day** - Fall School Clean-Up, 8 to noon

**NANA CALENDAR**

- Saturday, October 4 & November 1, 9:00 a.m. to Noon Surrey Square, Montgomery Road, Norwood, Recycling Mixed Paper
- **Tuesday, October 14, 7:30 p.m. NANA GENERAL MEETING**, N. A. Community Center, 617 Clinton Springs
- Friday, October 24, 12th Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF) fundraiser "Run Like Hell" For more information: call Tom Brady 533-9300 Ext. 12 or tbrady@cff.org
- **Tuesday, November 11, 7:30 p.m. NANA GENERAL MEETING**, N. A. Community Center, 617 Clinton Springs
- Saturday, December 14, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **NORTH AVONDALE RECYCLING: MIXED PAPER** 615 Clinton Springs
- Tuesday, January 20 7:30 p.m. **Rose Hill Area Block Watch Meeting** 4018 Beechwood



*Current Resident Or:*

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

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NANA Coordinator & NANA News Editor: Charlene Morse 221-6166  
Neighborhood Officer: Jana Cruse

**NANA EXECUTIVE BOARD & COMMITTEE CHAIRS**