



NANA NEWS

MARCH 2000

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CITY/NORTH AVONDALE INTERFACES

by Gerry Kraus

DICKSON AVENUE OWNER FINED \$500: On February 17, 2000 a hearing examiner from the Office of Administrative Hearings found Vernon Menifee, owner of the property at 3955 Dickson Ave., guilty of violating the zoning code for operating a construction business in an R-2 single family zoned district. Mr. Menifee was ordered to pay a \$500.00 fine within 10 days of the decision or the fine would be doubled to \$1,000.00. This decision was made after a fact-finding administrative hearing held on February 11, 2000. Testifying against Mr. Menifee at this hearing were City Building Inspectors Eric Otto and Claude Noe, Dickson Avenue residents Thelma Johnson and Louise Stallworth and NANA representatives Charlene Morse and Gerry Kraus. Also at this hearing the examiner took testimony regarding code violations by Mr. Menifee at two other properties he owns at 1722 Pulte Ave. and 47 F. Clifton Ave. for which he was also found guilty and fined.

NATURE TRAIL VOTED DOWN: At the February 8 NANA meeting residents voted (39-9-2) to oppose having a nature trail as part of Xavier University's Victory Parkway recreational development. Also passed (49-0-1) was a motion to ask the Park Board to use any money saved by not developing the nature trail for additional plantings in the 100-foot buffer zone along Victory Parkway to further screen out the XU Convocation Center, the tennis courts and the ball field as well as the commercial structures on Webster Avenue in Norwood. Some North Avondale residents also complained that they were being told by XU ROTC officials that they could no longer use parkland on the west side of the Parkway, south of Ledgewood Drive (where bowling-on-the-green used to be) because of ROTC activities. NANA has asked that it be put on the Board of Park Commissioners' agenda to address the above issues at the Board's next meeting on Wednesday, March 23.

WASHINGTON AVENUE ZONE CHANGE REQUEST WITHDRAWN: A request by Talbert House to rezone the property at 3595 Washington Avenue, also known as the Catherine Booth Home, from R-5 (residential) to O-2 (general office) use was withdrawn on February 24, 2000. Talbert House had sought this zone change to expand its operations. Presently Talbert House provides a residential alcohol and drug rehabilitation facility for 15-20 women "who are referred from the Hamilton County Drug Court and their young children." [The Catherine Booth complex also houses a day care and after school center for infants and children.] Talbert House sought the zone change to expand its services to provide a residential program "for sixty to eighty female clients who will reside in the facility to readjust to society while housed under criminal justice supervision including, but not limited to pre-

AGENDA

MARCH 14TH, 7:30 P.M.

- REPORT ON POSSIBLE MCDONALDS' PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON THE CORNER OF AVONDALE AVE. & READING ROAD (GERSHUNY PROPERTY)
- COMMUNITY PRIORITY REQUESTS (SEE BELOW)

NANA GENERAL MEETING 617 CLINTON SPRINGS AVE.



COMMUNITY PRIORITY REQUESTS (CPR)

Each Community Council can submit up to five priorities for funding in the 2001-2002 biennial budget for city services and/or capital improvements. If you have any suggestions of things that you would like to see accomplished in our community come to the NANA General Meeting on March 14 where we will prioritize and vote on the requests. If you are unable to attend the meeting but have suggestions call the NANA Office at 221-6166

2000/2001 NANA Nominating Committee

John Angelo ▪ Yvonne Brown ▪ Mike Daly ▪ Ernest Robinson ▪ Toni Ward ▪ Bob Wilder ▪ Jean Wilson

The Nominating Committee's purpose is to select officers for the North Avondale Neighborhood Association 2000/2001 Board of Trustees.

release, work release and probationary programs: Group counseling and meeting facilities related to the rehabilitation and halfway house programs." The zone change request was withdrawn, in part, after opposition was voiced from nearby residents and from the Community Public Safety Advocate Group in Avondale. While this property is just south of North Avondale's southern boundary (at Glenwood) several North Avondale residents called NANA to express concern about the proposed Talbert House facility and a proposed "maximum security home for abused and battered kids" also in the 3600 block of Washington Avenue to be operated by Lighthouse Youth Services.

REVERSE THE BLIGHT

By Pauline Daly

Last summer at the apartment building at 3634 Reading Road I noticed what appeared to be water draining from the basement. After two weeks of calls to the number on the rental sign, the manager called hoping for help in resolving the problem. He said the drainage was from the sewer and because of the odor he could not sleep in his apartment as his windows opened over the drainage. It was the July 4th weekend and very hot outside. This drainage flows into the recreational playfields located behind Hirsch Center, which fortunately, was then closed. The path of the drainage is exactly where children walk going to the playfield and to go to Burton School. Again, fortunately, school was closed.

This property is managed by Derek Ross who along with his wife and another couple own the building. The sewer there was in place in 1920, and is a 6-inch private sewer. Apparently it also services three other small apartment buildings, Entowne, and all property to Short South Crescent where MSD picks it up.

The property owners agreed that this overflow drainage has happened about every six months for several years. The drainage stops when one of the owners of the four apartment buildings takes action. Last summer the problem lasted 2-3 weeks. I understood one owner to say that several years ago the Health Department got all the effected owners together, advised them that they had a problem, and said the buildings might need to be vacated if it wasn't corrected.

MSD gave options. 1) Certain plumbers are authorized to put a camera in a sewer line to clarify the problem. 2) If a new sewer line is necessary, owners can spread the payments over 20 years. MSD was very responsive in coming out to check whether they were responsible and to check through their records to help clarify the problem.

I talked with Mr. Ross and the other affected owners. I stressed the importance of this not happening again, due to the health hazard to the neighborhood children. In December, two days before Christmas, the drainage started again. The timing was such that the Health Department could not check it immediately and Mr. Ross was out of town. After New Years the drainage disappeared. I was told the sewer is not damaged & only needs to be cleaned out.

I find it very upsetting that this has been allowed to continue for so long. It is a serious health hazard for the neighborhood and should not wait for a child to become ill and lawsuits to be filed against those responsible.

This is a complex problem. What is fair for owners of a private sewer? They pay sewer rates as well as everyone else and are usually unaware that their sewer is private (most sewers connecting properties are public & administered by MSD). If the sewer serves several properties who is responsible for correcting it? These questions should have been worked out long ago & the situation corrected.

The owners of the property at 3634 Reading Road are responsible for correcting the sewer problem at their property. The Health Department needs to act promptly if this occurs again. It seems to provide an excuse that this problem surfaces on holidays. How long would this problem have continued, if it were occurring near the residences of the people who have the power to correct it?

If this drainage problem recurs, we will call the media immediately. Hirsch Center is now open. School is in session. This is unacceptable!

EVERYONE COUNTS IN CINCINNATI: CENSUS 2000

Look for your U.S. Census form in early March. *Remember! Ten minutes spent filling out your household U.S. Census form will pay off for ten years to come!* **Census information is confidential.** It is used to determine how \$185 billion in federal funding will be distributed for the next 10 years in cities & communities based on the information received in the census. Remember, if you don't return your form in 10 days you will receive a call or visit from a Census employee. For more information call 1-888-325-7733 or 381-5907



Thank you to:
Adrian Brush,
Marianne Knue,
Gerry & Marvin Kraus,
Ryan McGinnis,
Spencer Konicov &
Bill Starr for
volunteering at
NANA's Recycling
Drive on Saturday
February 5, 2000.

IN MEMORIAM

Miriam Katz (Rose Hill) 76 died January 22 after a long illness. In the 1950s, Mrs. Katz played a key role in the creation of the North Avondale Neighborhood Association. She helped the community retain and strengthen its identity while becoming racially integrated. She was also a founder of one of the first integrated swimming pools in Cincinnati, Clinton Hills Swim Club. She is survived by her husband Rabbi Robert Katz, son Rabbi Jonathan Katz & daughter Amy Katz

REGARDING FREQUENT & HABITUAL DOG BARKING

By Holly Oseas

Residents are advised to record times and days of offending barking. To make the complaint credible there needs to be two people. Therefore, it is necessary to seek out neighbors troubled by the same annoyances and report this problem to the office of our Neighborhood Officer Jana Cruse at 352-3576. If you can't find another person to collaborate or if you need some help in the process, call Holly Oseas at 751-4685



NANA RESPONDS TO U. S. EPA

By Gerry Kraus

On February 10, 2000 I, as chair of NANA's Clean Air Committee (CAC), participated in a Stakeholders' Meeting convened by U. S. EPA Region 5 (out of Chicago). The purpose of this meeting was "to let us [US EPA Region 5] know how we can better serve you." US EPA to Ohio EPA, a state agency, for administration and enforcement, has delegated most of the federal environmental laws governing air, water and land quality in Ohio. The Ohio EPA, in turn, has delegated administration, but not enforcement, of many federal environmental laws in southwest Ohio to the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (HCDOES) and to local health departments. This meeting was also prompted by a petition to US EPA Region 5 from several statewide environmental groups* to remove Ohio's EPA authority because "Ohio EPA does not adequately enforce anti-pollution laws."

In relating the NANA CAC's experiences since 1989 in addressing air pollution produced by several chemical companies upwind from North Avondale in St. Bernard, Bond Hill, Winton Place - particularly Cincinnati Specialties, Inc. - I stated that CAC has had no contact with US EPA Region 5; was unaware that it could appeal unresolved problems with Ohio EPA to US EPA Region 5; and that US EPA by its invisibility had provided inadequate oversight in the enforcement of environmental laws it had delegated to Ohio EPA. As an example a letter from Ohio EPA to NANA was submitted. This letter, dated February 5, 1995, was in response to a verified complaint against Cincinnati Specialties, Inc. sent to Ohio EPA on November 3, 1989 (over 5 years earlier!) by CAC member Tern Thienhaus. Ohio EPA, in its letter, acknowledged violations by Cincinnati Specialties regarding toxic air emissions, but stated that while Cincinnati Specialties "was at one time in violation of Ohio EPA regulations...it is now in compliance...and future violations are unlikely to occur." However, to this day North Avondale residents still complain about incidents of illegal chemical releases from this company.

Among the requests made by NANA's CAC were 1) that Ohio EPA and HCDOES provide quarterly public reports listing air complaints to them and what follow-up actions have been taken; 2) that US EPA determine if chemicals emitted into the air by Cincinnati Specialties, like tolyltriazole, a rust inhibitor, as well as benzotriazole and methyl anthranilate are harmful to our health [it should be noted that companies are legally allowed by permit to emit a defined amount of these and other chemicals into the ambient air or water and it is only when they exceed the permitted amount that they are in violation]; 3) that the US EPA adopt the "Principle of Precautionary Action" which puts the burden of proof upon generators of pollution to demonstrate that their emissions are not harmful to health or the environment, rather than its present policy which puts the burden of proof upon citizens to show that pollutants to which they are exposed ARE harmful to their health; 4) that the US EPA provide more aggressive oversight to insure that environmental laws are being properly enforced in a timely manner and that violators of these laws are punished and prevented from continuing to violate these laws. US EPA

Fun Around Town

Terry Gross, host of National Public Radio (NPR) program *Fresh Air*, will headline the Woman's City Club's annual fundraiser, the National Speaker Forum, on

- Monday March 6 at 7:30 p.m.
- At Plum Street Temple, 8th and Plum Streets downtown
- Tickets (\$15) are available from Woman's City Club at 751-0100 & Crazy Ladies Bookstore.

Congratulation to:

The **North Avondale Montessori School** for receiving flags to commemorate their status as a School of Achievement & for receiving a \$56,920 Classroom Reading Grant.

Bonia Shur (Redbud) on his Cincinnati premier of the orchestral his work *Lebedike Neshome* (Vivacious Soul) Commissioned by the Fox Valley Symphony

Marian Spencer (Lexington) on being named a Lighthouse Youth Services Beacon Of Light Honoree.

Volunteer Opportunities

Needed: African-American Adult Role Models for **The Girl Scouts**. For more information contact Kimberly Danker at 489-1025

The **Walnut Hills High School Alumni** Foundation needs chorus members and actors for the Alumni Peanuts/Walnuts Review which takes place Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1. If you are a Walnut Hills High School graduate interested in performing, please call the Alumni office at 569-5582.

Job Opportunities

The **Census** has job opportunities for individuals 18 and older that pays between \$9.75 & \$14.75 an hour. Initial sign-up was Feb. 26, but they may still need more individuals. Call 381-5907 for more information

Check out the website that showcases Cincinnati neighborhoods at : www.cincinnatihome.org

SAVE: Saturday, April 15 from 10 AM to 12 Noon
NORTH AVONDALE GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN-UP
REPORT TO NANA: any neighborhood "hot spots" where litter or other clean-up is needed. Call: 221-6166

Region 5 representatives stated that participants would be informed about the results of the several state-wide Stakeholders' Meetings it has been holding and would let us know what new directions and actions may be taken as a result of these meetings.

*Sierra Club, Rivers Unlimited, Ohio Citizen Action, Ohio Public Interest Research Group



**North Avondale
Community
Center**
961-1584

St. Patrick's Day Teen (13-17) Dance Come to the center on Friday March 17 from 7:00 to 10:30 P.M. The price is \$2.00 but if you wear Green you get in for half price. You do not need a center membership card to attend the dance.

DOES YOUR STREET NEED MORE FREE TREES?



If your street would look better with more trees, or if you know of other streets or public areas in our community that could use a little 'sprucing up', call **Charlene at the NANA Office, 221-6166** to suggest where trees should be planted. As part of the Cincinnati Park Board's Spring ReLeaf 2000 Program, 700 trees will be provided **free** to communities and schools throughout Cincinnati in April, 2000.

The trees available are: **'Redbud'** (small pink-purple flowers, grows 20 to 30 feet, full sun or light shade), **'Jonathan Apple'** (small whitish-pink flowers, grows to 15-25 feet, superb shade tree), **'Red Maple'** (grows to 40 to 60 feet with dazzling fall color), and **'Norway Spruce'** (grows to 40 to 60 feet, needs full sun, evergreen).

Your community representatives are submitting a request form so that North Avondale can participate. We must send in our list of proposed planting sites (city property or private property **within 30 ft. of city right-of-ways**) as soon as possible to ensure that we get the trees we want, so please contact **the NANA Office by March 13th (221-6166)** with your suggestions.



NANA CALENDAR

- First Thursday of Every Month, 6:30 p.m., S. & N. Fred Shuttlesworth Circle, Greenwood & Burton **Block Club Meeting** at Bethlehem Baptist, 760 Nth Fred Shuttlesworth Circle Questions - call Pauline Daly at 751- 8334
- Tuesday, March 14th, 7:30 p.m., **NANA GENERAL MEETING** at N.A. Community Center, 617 Clinton Springs
- Saturday April 15, 10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon, **GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN-UP**
- Saturday May 6, 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m., **MIXED PAPER & CARDWOOD RECYCLING**, 615 Clinton Springs
- Saturday May 20 , 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., **GREEN-UP DAY**, meet at Seasongood Park



NANA EXECUTIVE BOARD & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President: John Angelo	281-6644	Corresponding Sec.: Linda Grayman	281-6138
1 st VP: Gerry Kraus	861-3939	Legal Chairperson: Marvin Kraus	861-3939
2 nd VP: Yvonne Brown	281-2638	Landlord/Tenant Relations: Pauline Daly	751-8334
3 rd VP: Jean Wilson	221-7437	Beautification : Ursula Hassel	751-4546
Treasurer: Mary Piper	961-1080	Welcome: Judith Titchener	281-1107
Recording Secretary: Marianne Knue	281-5860	NANA Coordinator & NANA News Editor: Charlene Morse	221-6166

North Avondale Neighborhood Association
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