



# NANA NEWS

## SUMMER 2006

Published by :The North Avondale  
Neighborhood Association  
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Editor: Charlene Morse

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A few short random thoughts and observations as Summer in Cincinnati rolls on:

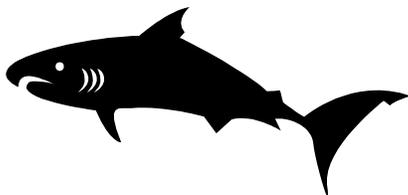
It seems the entire downtown has been under construction for forever. But in just a few months, we'll have a newly renovated Fountain Square, where the focus will be less on outdated concrete and more on a park-like, tree-lined gathering place with new and remodeled surrounding restaurants and not to mention other Fountain Square inspired projects nearby. Add in a Cirque du Soleil show on the river or climbing the Purple People Bridge, and you're really adding to the list of things to do in the City.

Back home on the northwest side of North Avondale, it's great to see a lot of walkers and their dogs out and about recently and I try to take a few minutes in the evening to talk to the next-door neighbor from our front porch. My wife and I will miss her as she tells us she needs to downsize and will be moving soon. What a great neighbor she has been.

Meanwhile, back on the business front, NANA has plenty of fish to fry. The board will make a concerted effort to recruit non-executive board members to serve on the various committees we have. From quality-of-life issues like overgrown weeds or dilapidated structures, to focusing on a plan to finally get our own North Avondale MLS listing. If you are approached by a committee chair please feel free to be flattered. It means your skills and drive are appreciated!

Hope to see you at our next General Meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>.  
Have a great Summer!

*Tim Yosmali*



### 2006 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.  
Send Checks to the NANA Office 617 Clinton Springs, 45229

### UPDATE ON:

### VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICAN/OHIO RIVER VALLEY BUILDING A FIVE-UNIT INDEPENDENT LIVING FACILITY AT 3816 READING ROAD

Anthony Beasley, Vice-President of Program Development of Volunteers of America/Ohio River Valley (VOA/ORV) and his colleague attended the June 13th NANA General Meeting. Unfortunately, due the postal service being incredibly slow in delivering the newsletter attendance was smaller than expected.

Many questions and concerns were discussed to learn more information on the independent living facility to house individuals with Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD). It is to be built on the empty lot on Reading Road between the former Bible College and the small park area at the corner of Clinton Springs. (the property starts where the former driveway next to the pathway is).

The purpose of the facility is to serve as an in-between 24 hour care/supervision and living independently without any supervision The V.O.A. does require a state license for this facility. There is a public Hearing for an Urban Design review before the Zoning Hearing Examiner on July 5, which NANA will attend. Regrettably the use of the facility will not be addressed at the hearing only the look. No one has expressed concern about the design which looks like a carriage house.

The two main concerns expressed were:

1. That the V.O.A. will not have staffing 24 hours a day. They would only provide 1, full-time position, 8 hours a day, 7 days a week. If the MRDD board feels it is necessary for 24 hour supervision for a particular client, it would be provided to a resident within that home.
2. That the V.O.A could not guarantee the residents would not have a criminal or sexual record. They did state that these records would have to be far in the past, not the primary diagnosis nor present any problems or danger to the other residents in the home.

A Motion was made and passed to table this until the next meeting and that actual written plans from the VOA and MRDD be provided to NANA.

NANA GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2006

7:30 p.m.

NORTH AVONDALE  
RECREATION CENTER  
617 Clinton Springs Ave.

NO  
AUGUST  
NANA  
MEETING



## NORTH AVONDALE SCHOOLS

### THE NEW SCHOOL • 281-7999 • 3 Burton Woods Lane

The New School is full of activity in June and July. Marta Donahoe, Administrator from Clark Montessori, and Claudia Mann, formerly both a resident of North Avondale and a teacher at The New School, are leading classes on secondary level Montessori education. The Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education accredits this program. Miss Amanda's Music Garden, a program that enriches the lives of infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their parents, is holding classes on the lower level of The New School.

Additionally, The New School Summer Day Camp, Acting Camp and Handwriting Camp, are taking place in the school. Children and adults are busy learning and playing at The New School this summer.

### NORTH AVONDALE RECREATION CENTER 961-1584



- **Summer Day Camp** 7:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. will continue until **August 11th**
  - Drop-Ins from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (game room 11-1, open gym 1-3)
- Registration for Fall After School Day Care will begin in early August.
- The **Reds Rookies Success League** a life skills & mentoring program meets Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:15 a.m. for 8 & 9 year olds, 11:30 a.m. for 10 & 11 year olds
- **Tennis NJTL League** at the Tennis Courts located on North Fred Shuttlesworth, is Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (For more information contact Vanessa Henderson at 352-4000)
- Karate, Tuesday & Thursday evening 5:00 and 6:00 p.m.
- Baseball program is coming to a close.
- Some Free (with center membership) programs:
  - Line Dancing - Monday & Wednesday, 10:30 to noon
  - Yoga - Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30 to 11:15 a.m.
  - Tai Chi - Thursday, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
  - Open Gym Basketball - Monday & Wednesday 6:30-8:30 p.m.



### HIRSCH RECREATION CENTER 751-3393

- Summer hours :M-Th 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fri 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
  - Drop in hours 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Teens & adults 4-8 p.m.
- Summer Senior programs, Tuesday - Friday 10:00 to Noon
- Summer Day Camp 7 - 6 (\$350 for summer or \$45 per week) Plus 2006 membership & pool token. Some scholarships available.
- **Reds Rookie Baseball** July 10, from 9:30 to noon, ages 9-13.



## WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES IN NORTH AVONDALE

**FULL OF BEAUTY** The Beginning of a Beautiful Friendship, 4182 Vine Street (across from Walgreen's) Shoes, Clothes, cold pops & juices, White-T's Hair & Wigs, Jewelry, Glasses and more

**Crickit** 4007 Reading Road New cell phone store. For more information go to <http://www.mycrickit.com/>

Coming soon at **3915 Reading Road** two new stores. A **Shoe and Clothing Store** and a **Convenience Store**

Thank you to the North Avondale Business Association for the six new planters along Reading Road.

Thank you to the CPOP Team for the planter at Vine & Mitchell.

As editor of the NANA NEWS, I try to have the newsletter arrive a day or two before the second Tuesday NANA General Meeting. To save money, we use bulk mail. Unfortunately last month, bulk mail which usually delivers the newsletter in 3 to 4 days was unusually slow. I did not receive mine for 10 days!

Part of the problem was that some mail carriers were on vacation. Normally some areas are slower than others. The Rose Hill & Beechwood area is often two to three days behind everyone else.

With this newsletter because it is a combined July & August Newsletter coupled with the July 4th and some late article submissions, some of you may not receive it by the second Tuesday.

## CITIZENS ON PATROL

By Marilyn Smith

I ironed my pants for the occasion – nice crisp line down the front. Stuffed in the extra large blue shirt, and proudly squished down the blue ball cap over my perfectly sprayed hair. I was COP girl and this was my first stab at fighting crime.

Of course everybody knows there's little or no crime in North Avondale – so I was all dressed up – ready to rock – and nobody to roll.

All that Police Academy training only to discover that COP (Citizens on Patrol) is a sluggish idea for North Avondale. Short of an outright yawn when I mentioned the program, some folks thought it was just plain silly – George wanted to give me a silver bullet – no gun, just the bullet

Frustrated, I called the Academy and explained my dilemma, (*COP girl with no escort*), and they took the situation seriously. Bond Hill to the rescue! They welcomed me – and my first patrol was memorable. I walked with a guy who's built like Mr. Clean and Robert, who has celebrity status in Bond Hill because everybody knows him. We took on California – step by step. We didn't solve any crimes, bust any drug lords, robbers, or vandals, but we did make a difference in our bright blue shirts with huge CITIZENS ON PATROL lettering.

We waltzed into deli's, bookstores, and bars, making notes about graffiti, broken windows, high grass, loitering youths, and smelly dumpsters. In the middle of the day with patrol cars within a 30-second radius we strolled ... and the residents adored us. They honked and waved, greeted us from balconies, stepped out of shops and expressed appreciation for Celebrity Robert, Mr. Clean, and COP girl.

Bond Hill today ... tomorrow North Avondale.

Due to the City of Cincinnati Ordinance No. 158-2006 Title XVI, **"Neighborhood Quality of Life Unified Code"** a broader enforcement of Quality of life issues will now be allowed. In the past, code enforcement was separated and enforced by specific people. For example: the Health Code, the Building Code, the Fire Code and public safety provision were each separately enforced by their own inspectors. If a building inspector happen to see a Health violation he could not inspect and issue a citation for the violation. Now, City agencies will be able to uniformly and consistently inspect and issue citations related to the overall conditions of a property, which may include violations for differing enforcement areas related to public safety or public health.

I learned about this new Ordinance at the District 4 Police Monthly Resource Meeting, (fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.- all are welcome). The Police have started their training.

Hopefully, this is a good thing. As long as the documentation of all citations is consistently computerized in one database for all the departments to see to avoid a duplication of efforts and stepping on toes, it will be a very good thing.

## EDITORIAL

Dear Neighbors,

I am a Cincinnati native, and a life long member of North Avondale. When I returned to the City 11 years ago with my wife to raise our family we specifically selected North Avondale as a place to live. I have been proud to be part of the North Avondale tradition, that of diversity and unified community, until now.

The Smithermans have been a part of this neighborhood for 40 years, and collectively the family owns over \$2 million dollars worth of property in North Avondale. The only other family I know who can make this claim is the Harten family. We appreciate the variety of families that share the values of diversity, respect, and community.

Since late Fall 2005, the Southwick home on the corner of Marion and Dakota has had the word "nigger" spray-painted on its east outside wall which is on the Dakota side near the rear of the house. Mr. Southwick's basic premise for leaving the vandalism there was that he did not put it there; that he is the victim and therefore shouldn't be responsible for its removal.

The Smithermans sent an ambassador to talk with the Southwicks about the vandalism. Others have talked with them as well. After time passed without "nigger" being removed, the circumstance was given media attention. Unfortunately, not only does the slur remain, but there was criticism for "putting our neighborhood business on TV." Once again, the term "trouble maker" is assigned to the one identifying the problem.

I strongly recommend that everyone consider racist defacement very detrimental to all property values. This is a peak time for homes to sell in our neighborhood and you cannot expect anyone from New York, Chicago, Atlanta, or Washington D.C. to be willing to buy a home with "nigger" written on it or buy near such a home. Capitalism provides them the ability to live in Pleasant Ridge or Clifton.

Recently, emails have been sent back and forth to organize a block party. Only one neighbor brought up the "nigger" graffiti, particularly since Dakota was suggested as a possible block party location. My family often walks around the neighborhood. Since October, we have refrained from walking on Dakota because I will not allow my African-American sons to read the racism and interpret it as acceptable.

There are many neighbors who want the wall of the Southwick home cleaned purely because of their concern for humanity. Perhaps there are residents who do not have a moral problem with the word "nigger". (A neighbor indicated they were not even aware that "nigger" was written on a house.) However, I must reiterate what Pauline Daly has been telling us for years. When property damage is not repaired, it sends a message to wrongdoers that the area is a suitable place to engage in more destructive and/or criminal behavior. Beware residents, the delay in removing this vandalism which emphasizes racism has opened the door wide for displaying swastikas, anti-gay graffiti, and much more.

Christopher & Pamela Smitherman

**\*Editors note:** There are three places where there is graffiti. On the front gate pillar - "N O! U"; on the back door and next to the door - "F U"; and "E U 4 ever"; on the Dakota side of the home - "(a symbol like a tongue sticking out) 4 restoration" and "FU Racist Nigger."

Also Mr. Southwick has been working with the City for months to get them to keep their promise to remove the graffiti.



**GOVERNMENT SQUARE REOPENS AUG. 20.** Metro's main downtown transit hub, Government Square, has been under construction since last summer and will officially reopen on Sunday, Aug. 20 with Metro's Fall service change.

Several additional downtown bus routes will use the new Government Square area, making transfers between routes easier. For complete information on routes serving Government Square, visit Metro's website, [www.go-metro.com](http://www.go-metro.com), or call Metro at 621-4455.

The new Government Square will offer a number of features that improve convenience and safety. In addition, the new square will be ADA accessible to better serve people with disabilities. Government Square will also be a free wireless internet hotspot through the Project Lily Pad initiative.

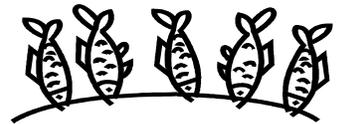
The reopening of Government Square coincides with other exciting changes at Metro, including the introduction of 40 new low-floor buses with no steps to board. The low-floor buses, updated bus schedules and other Metro materials will sport a new, more contemporary design.

For more information or to see photos of the Government Square progress, visit [www.go-metro.com](http://www.go-metro.com).

Sallie L. Hilvers, Chief Communications Officer, 632-7681

**NANA EXECUTIVE BOARD, COMMITTEE CHAIRS & IMPORTANT CITY NUMBERS**

President: Tim Yosmali _____	641-1244	Landlord/Tenant Relations: Pauline Daly _____	751-8334
1 <sup>st</sup> VP: Sulayman Bajo _____	290-8781	Legal Chairperson: Marvin Kraus _____	861-3939
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP: Deborah Elkins-Brown _____	861-4108	Master Plan: Bob Novak _____	751-2161
3 <sup>rd</sup> VP: Heather Herr _____	861-8180	Neighborhood Issues: John Jones _____	281-2596
Corresponding Sec.: Elaine Foster _____	751-8152	Quality of Life Issues: Marilyn Smith _____	221-4039
Recording Secretary: Michelle Baxter _____	475-0441	<b>NANA Administrator &amp; NANA News Editor: Charlene Morse _____</b>	<b>221-6166</b>
Treasurer: Patricia Hassel _____	751-3357	<b>City Complaint/Request Hotline _____</b>	591-6000
Beautification: Ursula Hassel _____	751-4546	<b>Police District 4 _____</b>	352-3576
City Liaison: Gerry Kraus _____	861-3939	<b>Request A Recycling Bin _____</b>	242-4401
Environmental: Mike Rieck _____	961-6563	<b>Report Air Odors 24/7 _____</b>	946-7777



GET INVOLVED -  
NANA MEETING JULY 11<sup>TH</sup>  
NO AUGUST NANA MEETING  
PAY YOUR 2006 NANA DUES

*Current Resident Or:*

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

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

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OHIO  
PERMIT  
NO. 7243



**NANA CALENDAR**

- CPOP Meeting (if held), First Thursday of the Month at 6:00 p.m. District 4 Police Station, Call NANA Office to confirm
- Tuesday, July 11, 7:30 p.m. NANA GENERAL MEETING, 617 Clinton Springs NO AUGUST MEETING
- Tuesday, August 1, National Night Out
- Tuesday, September 12, 7:30 p.m. NANA GENERAL MEETING, 617 Clinton Springs