

# NANA NEWS

## DECEMBER 2002

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The North Avondale  
Neighborhood Association  
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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I just returned from a trip to Prague, Czech Republic, and as usual when I visit European cities, I was again struck by how neat and clean the city is overall. Why, I wonder, do European cities seem significantly cleaner and more cared for than American cities? I don't have an answer, however, I guess it's because they take pride in their homes and cities, and Americans somehow lack that same sense of pride.

It seemed I couldn't walk more than 20 steps without passing a building that was being repaired, renovated, painted or otherwise improved upon. Yes, I did see buildings that still need a great deal of work; however, Prague is a bit unusual in that it's only been a democracy since 1989, following 40 years of Communist rule. The Czech people are still adapting to capitalism, so it's realistic that not everyone has been able to afford the necessary repairs or improvements. However, that doesn't prevent them from doing what they can to show pride in their homes by planting flowers, etc.

Why can't I say the same about Cincinnati? Unfortunately, I pass too many homes and buildings that are in serious disrepair. We have beautiful historic homes that are falling apart, many of which are reaching the point of no return. When we lose buildings with history and charm, we lose part of what makes Cincinnati the city I fell in love with when I moved here in 1984.

Many homes in North Avondale are obviously cared for by owners and residents, and I often comment on the micro-economy in home renovations and repair that our neighborhood supports. Many of our neighbors do have pride in their homes and it shows. However, there are also far too many properties where it's clear no one cares. If you live in one of these properties, take the time and effort to clean, paint, plant flowers, pick up litter or anything else you can do to improve your property. If you need help, ask your friends, family and neighbors. If you live in a rental property, demand that the owners improve the condition of the property; as a tenant, you have the right to expect a certain level of repair.

Show some pride in your home and you help improve our neighborhood and city. Perhaps one day, Europeans who travel to Cincinnati will leave thinking we care about our homes and city as much as they do.

On an unrelated note, I'd like to thank everyone who's sent in 2002 NANA membership dues! So far, we've received 428 donations, 16% of all North Avondale households. If you haven't sent in donations, it isn't too late - you can make your 2002 membership donation through December 31, 2002. NANA succeeds because of the commitment of our residents, and we appreciate any support you're able to provide.

Jim

### AT THE NANA OCTOBER MEETING: CANDIDATES & ISSUES FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTION

The following Candidates seeking support for their candidacy spoke and answered questions during the NANA October meeting:

#### Running for State Representative District 33

Sandra Faith Hall  
Tyrone K. Yates

#### Running for Congress

Emily Hicks representing Steve Chabot

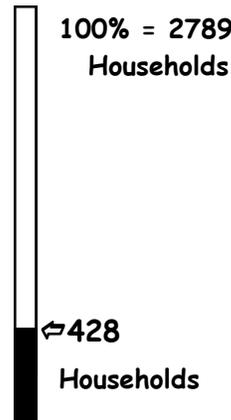
#### Running for Common Pleas Judge

Bruce Whitman (grew up in North Avondale)

**Issue 7:** Tim Reynolds informed NANA on the *Metro Moves* plan that will receive funding by Issue 7's passage

**Issue 8:** Kathy Helmbock - opposing

### 2002 NANA DUES



Thank you to the 428 Households who have paid their 2002 NANA Dues and thank you in advance to all of you who will be sending in your dues this month so we can meet our goal of 100% participation.

#### NANA GENERAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>, 7:30 p.m.

NORTH AVONDALE  
COMMUNITY CENTER

617 Clinton Springs Ave.

#### AGENDA ITEMS

• READING ROAD  
STREETSCAPE

JEFF STINE, CITY OF CINCINNATI



## PASSEGGIATA & BLOCK PARTIES

Your neighbors in North Avondale are getting together

**Block Parties** are a great way to connect. The Rose Hill/Beechwood area had their party last month. The east side of North Avondale had theirs in June. These block parties are in someone's home (Nizny & Brush/Knue respectively). Everyone brings a covered dish while the host or a group of hosts provide the meat and beverages. The Burton Woods/Red Bud/Leyman group closes off part of Burton Woods, sets up tables and everyone brings a covered dish plus in a few dollars to cover the meat, etc.

**Block Watch** is another way to get to know your neighbors (see article on page 3)

**Passeggiata** is Italian meaning to walk; promenade; to take a walk; to stroll. Neighbors meet at a predetermined date & time and walk around their streets for about an hour. Some neighbors put out food or drink that the strollers sample as they walk and talk. Two areas, the Beechwood/Rose Hill & Burton Woods/Red Bud/Leyman areas are doing this monthly. It is rumored that Deborah Ginocchio and Vanessa Wayne started this new North Avondale tradition about a year ago. The Burton Woods started theirs in August.

### DESPERATELY SEEKING FREE SPACE!!

Designer Donations for Cincinnati Charities, Inc. (DDCC) is an all volunteer fledgling 501(c)3 that sells designer clothing and distributes the proceeds to Cincinnati Charities. The Designer Shop, located in Longworth Hall benefited from free warehouse space and free parking. However, the building owner has leased this space and we are to evacuate by November 30.

#### HELP! We have nowhere to go!

DDCC is a new name for the famous clothing sales formerly operated by the National Council of Jewish Women. Executive Director Moe Rouse, Jennifer Gibson, and Marilyn Smith are North Avondale residents who are committed volunteers. As Moe explains: "It is such a shame to see it disappear. We've been able to help so many other charities through these sales".

Some of the organizations receiving funds are:

- Tender Mercies
- One Way Farm for Abused Children
- First Step Home
- Breast Cancer Research
- Success Inc.

Please, if you know of anyone who might be willing to provide 5,000-10,000 square feet in Cincinnati, especially with parking, let us know. Thanks for your help.

Moe Rouse – 281-3704. Marilyn Smith – 221-4039. Jennifer Gibson 221-2208



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## CITY HALL UP-DATES

By Gerry Kraus

**Advertising Benches Unsightly:** In keeping with City Council's goal to address quality of life issues in neighborhoods and to make them more livable, Councilmember Chris Monzel initiated a public hearing on advertising benches, which took place at Council's Neighborhood & Public Works Committee on October 15. Representatives from nine neighborhoods (from Price Hill to Mt. Washington), as well as Keep Cincinnati Beautiful Director Linda Holterhoff, spoke about how advertising benches adversely affect their neighborhoods. Among the complaints were that they impede pedestrian and wheel chair traffic; that they accumulate litter; that they sometimes block neighborhood beautification projects like flower beds; and that they are unsightly and should not be allowed to be placed in the public right-of-way. The city laws that regulate the placement, number, and the maintenance of advertising benches are enforced only on a complaint basis. Most frequent complaints, according to city administration, are about sidewalk blockage or the number of benches at a single site. Councilmember Minette Cooper offered that bus riders need benches to sit on while waiting. Some speakers suggested that where they may be needed, neighborhood groups should be permitted to provide more visually attractive benches and place them in a safe manner so as not to obstruct sidewalks. One person suggested that private individuals or companies could pay for such benches with a small plaque recognizing the donor. Councilmember Monzel asked the administration to draft a new policy on use of the public right-of-way for advertising benches as well as other private uses (newspaper racks, telephones, Metro bus shelters). How do you feel about advertising benches? Call the NANA Office (221-6166 or email [clmorse@fuse.net](mailto:clmorse@fuse.net)) or Gerry Kraus (861-3939) with your comments. They will be forwarded to the City Hall as well as help NANA formulate its position on advertising benches.

### Reminder Apartment Dwellers

#### You Too Can RECYCLE

#### Your Paper, Plastic & Metal

#### At The Permanent "Green Bin" Dumpster

#### Back By The Basketball Courts At

#### The North Avondale Community Center



## NANA NEIGHBORS

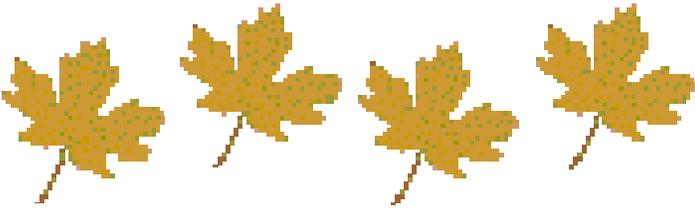
Gerry Kraus, (Stratford Place) received the Civic Beautification Leadership award for Greenspace Volunteer Gardener. Congratulations!

## NSP 2003 FUNDING

NANA is in the process of deciding how to spend \$10,000 NSP (Neighborhood Support Program) funds in 2003. The City of Cincinnati has for the past 20 years allocated \$10,000 per year to each of its 52 neighborhood groups for projects and activities that enhance the quality of life in each neighborhood. In past years NANA has spent their \$10,000 on: publishing the NANA NEWS, membership development, beautification - including our 22 adopted flower beds, & a paid coordinator to follow up on issues of safety, code enforcement, land development and zoning.

At this time, as in the past, the categories are: Newsletter, Clean-up & Beautification, Land Development & Improvement, Environmental Affairs, Law Enforcement & Safety, Membership and Seniors & Youth Projects. The Executive Committee will propose the dollar amounts for each category to present to the general body. We will discuss and vote on the final 2003 NSP proposal at the NANA November General Meeting (11/12).

Each year NANA would like to use some of its NSP money for new projects or activities. If you have an idea for improving North Avondale that you would like included in the 2003 NSP request, call the **NANA Office at 221-6166**.



**Volunteers made a difference on Saturday, October 26, 2002 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for Make A Difference Day. Volunteers met at Seasongood Park, picked up litter on Reading Road, the beginning of streets coming off of Reading Road, Mitchell & Vine; planted 300 daffodils at the top of Marian & Clinton Springs, 70 daylilies at Clinton Springs & Washington, and weeded the Dana triangle.**

**Thank you to: Ellen Epstein, Ursula Hassel, Marian Miller, Eileen Pineau, Steve Schlosser, Judith Titchener, Mike Walton, George Courtemanche, NANA's Litter Crew; Justin Fuller, Anastasia Tarpeh, Duran Vaughn, & Max Wayne.**

## GREAT START FOR BLOCK WATCH By Marilyn Smith

### BLOCK WATCH



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

The Neighborhood Relations Committee, chaired by Lois Nizny presented several stunning ideas including:

- *Light Up The Night:* A neighborhood campaign to encourage all residents to turn on their porch lights and yard lights each evening.
- *Snow Day Extravaganza:* Take advantage of the snow if and when it happens! Plan for a neighborhood Snow Walk with comfort stations along the route to warm our hearts and hands with hot refreshments and lively conversation.

Walt Woolfolk presented information on Study Circles encouraging neighbors to discuss community and police relations. A five-week Study Circle is currently in progress. If you are interested in joining a future Study Circle, call Walt at: 281-8020

A big thank you to NANA who purchased five Block Watch signs. We are planning to have them installed at each entry location to the neighborhood. The locations are subject to approval of the city, but here is where we hope they will be:

1. Entrance to neighborhood from Clinton Springs
2. Entrance coming up Red Bud from Mitchell
3. Entrance on Avon Field Lane from St. Bernard
4. Rose Hill Lane coming in from Mitchell
5. Walkway into Rose Hill coming in from Paddock

The next meeting for Block Watch will be after the holidays – Tuesday, January 21, 2003 at the home of Vanessa and Rick Wayne. If you have questions, please call Marilyn Smith at 221-4039 or email to [mpsmith@one.net](mailto:mpsmith@one.net)



**WANTED:** A North Avondale individual or individuals to organize and lead North Avondale's Master Plan Implementation Team. Energy, commitment and free time are a must. This long-term project requires continuous supervision and support to develop North Avondale into a more prosperous and dominant neighborhood. The plan's action items and implementation directives are complete This individual reports to the Board of Trustees for North Avondale Neighborhood Association (NANA) and attends or submits reports to the regular monthly meetings of the Board and general membership. Serious individuals should contact Marvin Kraus 861-3939 or Marilyn Smith 221-4039.



**North  
Avondale  
Community  
Center  
961-1584**

**November 5th :** Election Day - polls open at  
**November 8th :** School Records Day -  
 All day mini camp for ASDC members  
**November 8th :** Seniors trip to Music Hall  
**November 11th :** Center closed for Veteran's Day  
**November 14th & 15th 6:00 p.m.:**  
 ASDC Theater Production  
**November 22nd :** ASDC trip to the Newport Aquarium  
**November 22nd :** Seniors trip to the Playhouse  
**November 28th thru 30th :**  
 Center closed for Thanksgiving weekend

**APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED**

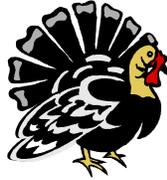
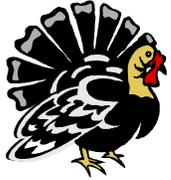
Again, due to the annual guidelines of the Neighborhood Support Program (NSP), NANA is required to accept applications for the position of coordinator; a part-time, paid position for one or more independent contractors. The coordinator assumes the following responsibilities: writing & editing the NANA News newsletter; preparing and mailing flyers and other communications; maintaining the membership and office; assisting volunteer officers and chairpersons on issues involving land development, land use, safety, and environmental affairs; assisting chairpersons in the implementation of special projects; initiating or developing with interested persons (and with NANA approval) new and creative projects that will enhance the livability of North Avondale. These responsibilities can be assumed by one person or by more than one person. Payment for services will be negotiated. Interested persons should call NANA President Jim Obergefell (961-4717).

**VENDOR APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED**

NANA is accepting applications from vendors wishing to:

- print 2,850 copies of the ten NANA News and 2,850 flyers at least six times;
- supply discounted plants, bulbs, and mulch.

If interested, write the NANA Office at 617 Clinton Springs Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45229, or call 221-6166.



**NANA CALENDAR**

- Saturday, November 2, 9:00 a.m. to Noon **Surry Square**, Btw. Huber Lumber & Thriftway **RECYCLING: Mixed Paper**
- Tuesday, November 12, 7:30 p.m. **NANA GENERAL MEETING**, 617 Clinton Springs
- Saturday, December 14, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **NORTH AVONDALE RECYCLING: MIXED PAPER** 
- Tuesday, January 21, 7:30 p.m. **Rose Hill Area Block Watch Meeting** 3986 Rose Hill (see article Page 3)

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

*Current Resident Or:*

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

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

President: Jim Obergefell \_\_\_\_\_ 961-4717  
 1st VP: John Jones \_\_\_\_\_ 281-2596  
 2nd VP: Eva Roberson \_\_\_\_\_ 751-2446  
 3rd VP: Michael Walton \_\_\_\_\_ 961-8850  
 Corresponding Sec.: Barbara Henshaw \_\_\_\_\_ 961-5275  
 Recording Secretary: Marilyn Smith \_\_\_\_\_ 221-4039  
 Treasurer: Christopher Smitherman \_\_\_\_\_ 281-5076  
 NANA Coordinator & NANA News Editor: Charlene Morse \_\_\_\_\_ 221-6166

Coalition Refs  
 Beautification: Ursula Hassel \_\_\_\_\_ 751-4546  
 City Liaison: Gerry Kraus \_\_\_\_\_ 861-3939  
 Environmental: Mike Rieck \_\_\_\_\_ 961-6563  
 Landlord/Tenant Relations: Pauline Daly \_\_\_\_\_ 751-8334  
 Legal Chairperson: Marvin Kraus \_\_\_\_\_ 861-3939  
 Sustaining Cincinnati: Teresa Harten \_\_\_\_\_ 751-5897  
 Welcome: Judith Titchener \_\_\_\_\_ 281-1107

**NANA EXECUTIVE BOARD & COMMITTEE CHAIRS**