



NANA NEWS

OCTOBER 2006

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Neighborhood Association
617 Clinton Springs Ave. (29)
(513) 221-6166
Email: clmorse@fuse.net
Website: Northavondalecincinnati.com
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President: Tim Yosmali
Administrator: Charlene Morse
Editor: Charlene Morse

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors,

Over 115 neighbors attended the September 12th NANA meeting. A PowerPoint presentation included: updates and statistical information on crime this summer.; a list of programs NANA is currently involved in; existing block watch groups; other options to explore in finding crime solutions; important City contact information. We then had some discussion with the Police and Councilmember Cecil Thomas. The meeting ended with everyone being invited to sign up for action committees that were around posted around the room.

I'm also pleased to announce that we had a great turnout at the September sessions of Citizens on Patrol Program (COPP) training at the Cincinnati Police Academy (see page 3 for next training session). North Avondale had nearly 20 civilian volunteers and made up nearly a third of the class. The trainers were very impressed by the attendance as a whole and remarked how this was the largest COPP training class they had seen. In October, we finish our training with a ride with a Cincinnati police officer for a full 8 hour shift. I can't wait.

I'll keep it brief here because there are lots of things to cover in this month's issue of the Newsletter. Oh yeah, and make sure you check out our new **NANA website: www.northavondalecincinnati.com**. Be sure to note the Nuisance Complaint Form and the Calendar of Events. Also, keep an eye out for Court Watch dates. This is a very important tool in our fight against crime. It encourages judges to keep offenders off the streets, supports police arrests and let's offenders know the community is watching!

Tim Yosmali

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

☞ Join your neighbors in making a difference on **Make a Difference Day on October 21, 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Meet at Seasongood Park to help pick up litter, work in the flower beds and generally beautify the neighborhood.

☞ The **2006 North Avondale Luminary** event will take place on December 3rd, at 6:00 p.m-9:00 p.m. Money for the Luminary kits is being collected for The Philip Bates Scholarship Foundation, Walnut Hills High School.

☞ NANA is looking for committee members for the Landlord/Criminal Accountability Action Team

UPDATE ON BURTON SCHOOL

- Burton School is North Avondale's neighborhood school.
- Of their are 349 students, the majority live within North Avondale's boundaries.
- Its school designation is *Continuous Improvement*
- It is a *School of Choice*
- It is one of the 11 neighborhood schools (out of 36) in continuous improvement or above.
- Over half of all the Cincinnati Public Elementary School are at Academic Watch or Academic Emergency
- Due to an decline in enrollment projections, CPS has decided to close or not build some schools.
- NANA has asked that they consider in their decision:
 - Academic achievement
 - Keeping North Avondale residents in Quadrant 3
 - Keeping Burton open as our neighborhood school
 - Building both South Avondale and Burton but at a smaller size of 450 students
- Presently South Avondale has 300 students and the plan is to built it to hold 650 students.
- South Avondale is on a small lot between two major roads.
- Burton is next to Hirsch Center on a large parcel of land with woods and fields
- The vision for Burton is to build a "green" school with an outdoor science lab and an emphasis on science. To create a school that would bring students back to CPS.
- If any neighborhood can do it, North Avondale can.

A decision on whether Burton will be closed will be made by November 27, 2006

CPS is planning a dialogue with the community. When the date, time, location and more information is available it will be posted on the NANA web site and on the voice message at the NANA Office.

NANA GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10
7:30 p.m.
NORTH AVONDALE
RECREATION CENTER
617 Clinton Springs Ave.

AGENDA

- Updates on Safety Initiatives and Action Teams
- Come get involved!





NORTH AVONDALE • 961-1584•

Special Events For October

14 Saturday, Make a Difference Day 9to12
18th Wednesday, Registration for
basketball 6 p.m.
20th Friday, Fall Festival 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Seniors & Adults

Mon. & Wed. - Line Dancing, 10-11:30 a.m.
Mon. & Wed. - Yoga, 6-7 p.m.
Tues. & Thurs. - Head to Toe Exercise, 10-11 a.m.
Thurs. - Tai Chi, 6-7 p.m.
Tues. & Thurs.- Walking Club, 11-12 p.m.
Tues. & Thurs. - Karate, 5-7 p.m.
Tues. & Thurs. - Aerobics, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Teens

October 21, Teen trip to Hunted House
Mon., Wed., Fri. - Open Gym
Mon. thru Fri. - Teen Lounge open
Tues. & Thurs. - Karate, 5-7 p.m.

Youth

Mon. thru Fri. - Flag Football
Mon. thru Fri. - After School Day camp
3rd week in Oct. Boys & Girls Basketball practice begins
Tues. & Thurs. Karate- 5-7 p.m.

HIRSCH CENTER • 751-3393 •

In addition to our Afterschool Day Camp, Art, Drama, Flag Football, Homework Help, Volleyball, Tween Girl's Power Hour, Gym Games, and more, we have some new activities for Fall in the planning stages at Hirsch: A Flea Market, A Harvest Festival for the Children, and Dr. Odell Owens speaking to children ages 10 and older. So far, only the date of the Harvest Festival -- October 31st from 3-4:30 p.m. is set If you want information about the Flea Market or Dr. Owens' Talk, please call the Center.

CeaseFire Cincinnati,

A campaign to STOP shooting and gun violence.

CeaseFire Cincinnati is based on the CeaseFire Chicago model, a comprehensive campaign that gained national recognition due to the significant reductions in shootings and homicide in its target neighborhoods.

CeaseFire Cincinnati will focus on:

- Community involvement to enforce a culture of nonviolence. This will include organized rallies in response to every shooting that occurs in Avondale within 72 hours.
 - Public education to change attitudes and behaviors toward gun violence
 - Intensified outreach to individuals at highest risk for gun violence by CHRC Streetworkers, Gat Ya Back, and Lighthouse Youth Services
 - Outreach & follow-up with victims of gun violence as part of University Hospital 's Out of the Crossfire.
 - Collaboration with police, probation and parole departments to enforce penalties against those who commit gun crimes
- 559 - 5450 or email cpopcenter@gcul.org.



THE NEW SCHOOL

• 281-7999 • 3 Burton Woods Lane

Pinwheels for Peace

On September 21, students at **The New School** celebrated the International Day of Peace by creating Pinwheels for Peace. Pinwheels for Peace is an art installation project started one year ago by Art teachers, Ann Ayers and Ellen McMillan, of Coconut Creek, Florida as a way for students to express their feelings about what's going on in the world and in their lives.

Students at The New School joined an estimated 1 million people worldwide who made pinwheels and planted them in the ground as a visual expression of their thoughts about peace, cooperation, and unity, both in their daily lives and in our global society. Students ranging in age from 3 to 12 contributed to the colorful garden of whirling pinwheels on the school's front lawn and gathered together to sing songs of peace. The New School is a Montessori school that is committed to teaching peace, conflict resolution and global awareness. The International Day of Peace was established by the United Nations in 1981.

NORTH AVONDALE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

• 363-3900 • 615 Clinton Springs Avenue

October 4, The choir and art students will perform at Tall Stacks

October 20, Fall festival

October 14 & 28 from 9 to 12 will be work days at the school.

Besides a general clean up, the court yard and woodlot will be emphasized.

You may recycle paper at the back of the school. It will help raise money for the school.

The Implementation Partners of the **UPTOWN TRANSPORTATION STUDY** have been working diligently to draft a plan to improve the transportation system in Uptown with the goals of reducing travel times, reducing complexity of wayfinding, promoting economic vitality and improving access to and from interstate 71.

The draft plan will be presented at an open house on **October 17th from 4 to 7 p.m.** at the Cincinnati Junior Academy, 3798 Clifton Avenue (located behind the Seventh-Day Adventist Church). For more information, visit the study website at www.uptowntransportationstudy.org.

IN MEMORIAM

Arthur (Art) Hull (Paddock Hills and Clinton Hills Swim Club member) 79, passed away September 19. He served on the School Board and over the years gave unselfishly to the community. Our condolences to his wife, Carmen (Assistant principal at North Avondale) and daughters Beri, Coe, Betty & Amy.

NORTH AVONDALE LIGHTING ACTION TEAM

By Amy Harten

“Intuitively, it may seem that more light is better. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Too much light degrades visual performance.” “One of the lasting truths of CPTED lighting is that quality of light is just as important as the quantity of light,” Chuck Genre of the **Center for Advanced Public Safety Research** addressed the “more light is better” myth in a recent **CPTED** (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) newsletter article.

“While adequate lighting around a physical structure is deployed to reduce the risk of an intrusion, it is critical that the lighting be designed carefully as poorly arranged lighting can create [glare](#)¹ which actually obstructs vision. Studies have shown that many criminals are aware of this effect and actively exploit it.” – excerpt from **IDA** Wikipedia site

As a result of recent events and heightened neighborhood awareness of crime in our neighborhood and the city at large, a number of “Action Teams” were formed to channel the interest and concern of residents into working together to change the outcome of increased crime infiltrating North Avondale. Among the 14 Action groups formed, one of these groups addresses lighting, both residential and neighborhood street lighting. The Lighting Action Team felt that one of the most important functions of the team is to provide research and resources to the residents of North Avondale in order to begin an informed discussion of options and possible solutions.

The team has consulted with studies and recommendations of many governmental and professional groups on local, national, and even international levels. Organizations included in this research are listed on the NANA web site in order for you to access studies, reports, and criteria online for your own research. In addition, the Lighting Action Team will post documents on the new North Avondale web site (www.northavondalecincinnati.com) generated by our team members, and excerpts of documents from the organizations studied, as well as links to articles and studies for personal reference and research.

In short, the general findings of the organizations were that there is little evidence that increased levels of lighting actually reduces crime. A look at the incidence of crime on inner city streets with high intensity lights is a testament to that fact in our city and cities across the U.S.

In fact, situations where there is high intensity lighting can actually see an increase in criminal activity due to a number of factors. The brilliance and harshness of this type of lighting produces deep pools of shadow, which in turn provides cover for criminals to exploit - and studies show that they do exploit it. Glare from high intensity lights and poorly designed floodlights shine into the eyes of pedestrians and drivers obscuring vision and compromising night vision, including that of the police officers searching for perpetrators. Light trespass and glare cause annoyance, discomfort, and loss in visibility, and usually reduces the benefits of security lighting. Over lighting creates a neighborhood environment that projects an image of high crime and fear instead of a community of activity, awareness, and action. **Rather, an increase in the quality of**

illumination, an increase in neighborhood presence and awareness, and the reporting of suspicious activity can collectively contribute to a reduction in crime in the immediate area.

It is our intention to follow up with a manual of suggested lighting solutions outlining best practices and providing the names of consultants for individual property owners to call for professional services. We will also provide the names of vendors who can supply specific fixtures with potential group discounts. Among the named services are landscape architects with training and experience in residential and community lighting design. These professionals will create an individual lighting design plan for you with locations and specifications that allow you to hire a contractor for installation or to install them yourself.

The Lighting Action Team requests that property owners desist from installing more floodlights until you have reviewed the information that we are working to provide for the neighborhood. There are many issues to be considered including safety for residents both in their homes and on the street, quality of life, light trespass, light pollution, historic preservation, and energy efficiency. For fixtures already installed, replace high wattage bulbs with lower wattage, angling fixtures downward to reduce glare. We respectfully request that you research the sites and articles we have provided and use the our criteria when making decisions about lighting your property. Working together as a community with our neighbors to reduce over lighting and glare will be a great benefit to us all.

Editors note: A MOTION, dated 8/21/2006 and submitted by Councilmember Cole, stated that the administration assess the feasibility of installing increased street lighting on Rose Hill Avenue, Beechwood Lane, Red Bud Lane, Avon Fields Lane, Burton Woods Lane and Leyman Drive. I Further Move that the administration study this not only from a transportation and engineering standpoint, but also from a community safety standpoint. This was referred to Martha Kelly P.E. Acting City Traffic Engineer with the request that a report be submitted back to council on October 11, 2006. NANA and the Lighting Team are in contact with her.

A few suggestions for property owners:

Turn on porch lights, front and back, and leave them on all night; fix lights that are not operational. Install sensors on your porch fixtures that will turn on and off automatically with environmental changes in lighting levels, or timers that will turn on and off.

Leave some room lights on when you are out, not just the hall light. Leave a radio on to increase the sense of presence in the home. Leave a low wattage light on in the house at night that projects presence within the home.

BASIC TRAINING FOR CITIZENS ON PATROL

Three Classes Thursday 11/2, 11/9, 11/16/06 at 5:30 pm

Where: Police Academy 800 Evans St. Rm B

APPLICATION DUE:10-17-2006 For Application Call or email: Officer: Terri Windeler, Citizens on Patrol Coordinator
Cincinnati Police 352-3533, Terri.windeler@cincinnati-oh.gov

VOTE ABSENTEE By Gerry Kraus

WHY? To ensure that your vote will be counted and that your ballot will provide a paper trail in the event of a recount or other questionable situation. This November all precinct voting will be by electronic voting machines. And the jury is still out as to the reliability of the machines that will be used. Stories abound about mechanical failure, insufficient number of machines at a precinct or knowledge about its operation by precinct workers, as well as the possibility of electronic mishap ...or tampering. Most of all, the voting machines provide no paper back-up.

Any qualified Ohio voter may request an absentee ballot without stating a reason up until November 4 at noon. This is a recent change in state law. You can vote by mail or vote in person at the Hamilton County Board of Elections, 824 Broadway. In last year's City Council election over 20,000 persons (or over 20% of voters) voted by absentee ballot.

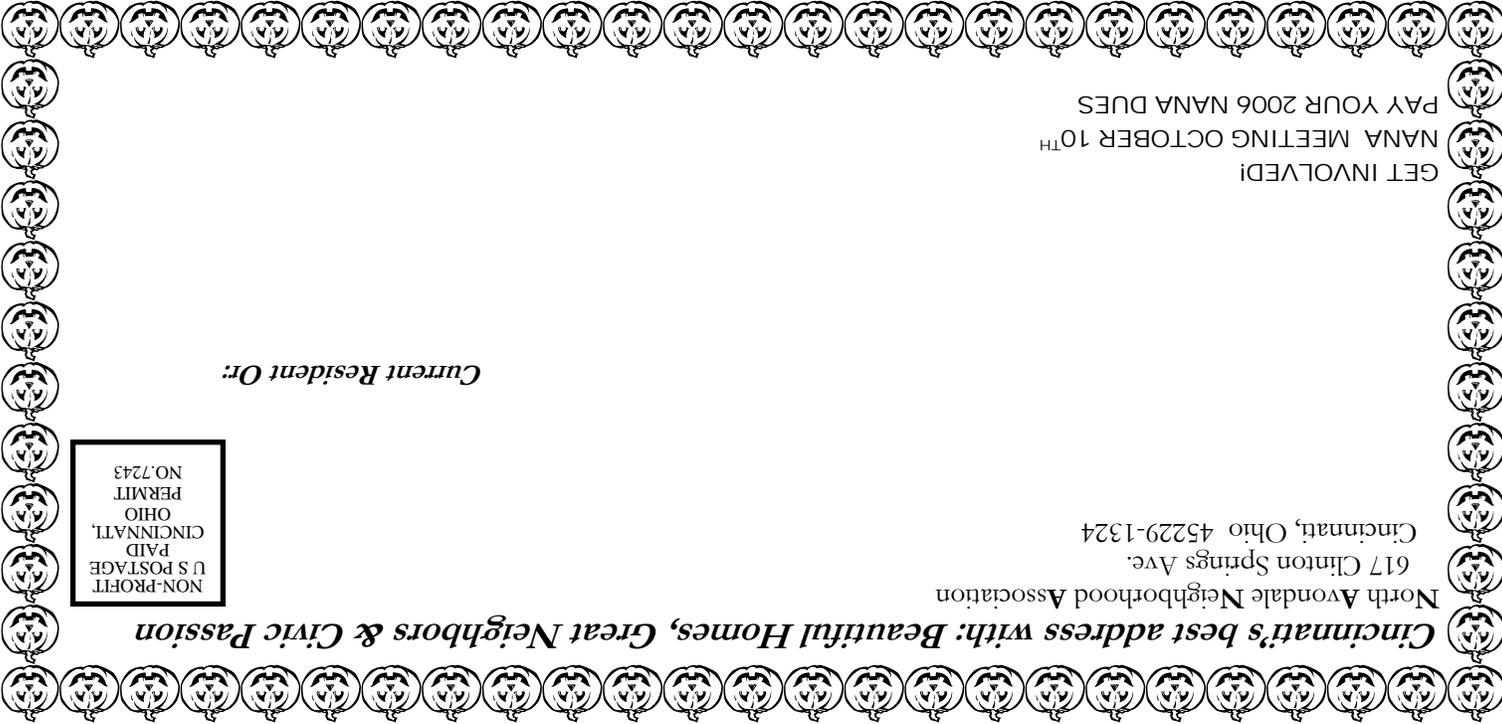
Absentee voting begins 35 days before the November 7 Election Day (October 3). You may vote by mail by submitting your request in writing to the Board of Elections or use a standard absentee ballot request form such as Ohio Secretary of State Form 11A. Forms are available online at the Hamilton County Board of Election website at www.hamilton-co.org/BOE. You may also go to the Board of Elections office during regular business hours and request, receive and vote an absentee ballot in person until the day before the election.

For further information call the Hamilton County Board of Elections at 632-7000.

Editors note: Due to Amended Substitute House Bill 3, if you vote in person you must provide a photo ID or other document with the voter's name and current voting address.

NANA EXECUTIVE BOARD, COMMITTEE CHAIRS & IMPORTANT CITY NUMBERS

President: Tim Yosmali _____	641-1244	Legal Chairperson: Marvin Kraus _____	861-3939
1 st VP: Sulayman Bajo _____	290-8781	Master Plan: Bob Novak _____	751-2161
2 nd VP: Deborah Elkins-Brown _____	861-4108	Neighborhood Issues: John Jones _____	281-2596
3 rd VP: Heather Herr _____	861-8180	Quality of Life Issues: Marilyn Smith _____	221-4039
Corresponding Sec.: Elaine Foster _____	751-8152	NANA Administrator & NANA News Editor: Charlene Morse _____	221-6166
Recording Secretary: Michelle Baxter _____	475-0441	City Complaint/Request Hotline _____	591-6000
Treasurer: Patricia Hassel _____	751-3357	Police District 4 _____	352-3576
Beautification: Ursula Hassel _____	751-4546	24 hour Neighborhood Officer _____	368-1720
City Liaison: Gerry Kraus _____	861-3939	Nonemergency Police _____	765-1212
Environmental: Mike Rieck _____	961-6563	Request A Recycling Bin _____	242-4401
Landlord/Tenant Relations: Pauline Daly _____	751-8334	Report Air Odors 24/7 _____	946-7777



NANA CALENDAR

- **CPOP Meeting** (if held), First Thursday of the Month at 7:00 p.m. District 4 Police Station, Call NANA Office to confirm
- **Tuesday, October 10, 7:30 p.m. NANA GENERAL MEETING**, 617 Clinton Springs
- **Saturday, October 21, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY**, Seasongood Park