

Published by :The North Avondale Neighborhood Association 617 Clinton Springs Ave. 45229 Voice mail: (513) 401.5356

Email: nanacincinnati@gmail.com Website: Northavondalecincinnati.com Facebook: North Avondale Neighborhood Association Cincinnati

Volume LVII No. 2 President: Marvin Masterson Editor: Charlene Morse

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Neighbors:

Happy October Neighbors! For those who made it to last month's General Body Meeting, it was great to hear from Mayor John Cranley,

Council President Pro Team Yvette Simpson, Councilwoman Amy Murray and Cincinnati City Council candidates Tamaya Dennard, Henry Frondorf and Jeff Pastor as well as Judicial candidate Rodney Harris. Our candidate's night will continue during this **Tuesday's General Body Meeting** where 12 Cincinnati City Council candidates are scheduled to speak. This agenda item is very timely as early voting will begin on Wednesday, October 11th and Election Day will take place on Tuesday, November 7th.

Additionally, as you will read in Ian Smith's article under Agenda the City of Cincinnati has released a RFP for developers to submit their ideas for the development of the vacant lot at Reading Road and Avondale Ave. (3 other RFP's have been issued for 3 other areas). Ian as well as representatives of the City of Cincinnati will discuss the citizen engagement process as it relates to this effort at Tuesday's meeting. Subsequently, on Monday, October 16th at 7 pm at the North Avondale Recreation Center, we are encouraging all our neighbors to attend the vacant lot citizen engagement meeting so we can hear from you directly on how you would like for the site to be developed!

Also, I would be remiss if I did not mention that on October 5, 2017, a group of NANA/NABA members participated in a meeting with Michael Moore, the Director of Cincinnati Department of Transportation Engineering to discuss traffic concerns in our neighborhood (Reading/Paddock, Reading/Clinton Springs, Dana/Clinton Springs roundabout, and Ledgewood). I would like to thank the following NANA/NABA members who joined me at this meeting: Joyce Alexander, Michael Caporale, Nina Caporale, David Emery, Suzanne Gosson, Rosalind Moddy-Lanton, Mark Schuller and Maura Wolf. One action item that came out of this meeting is that a working group will be established to work with the City of Cincinnati on potential pedestrian safety improvements especially around the site of the vacant lot at Reading and Paddock Roads. If anyone has an interest in participating on this working group, please let me know. Also, I am pleased to report that as a result of our initial meeting with Michael Moore that took place this summer, a speed monitor has been placed near the North Avondale Montessori School to address speed concerns on Clinton Springs. It will be moved toward the lower part of Clinton Springs in a month or two.

(Continued on page 2)

NANA General Meeting Tuesday October 10, 7:00pm North Avondale Montessori Cafetorium

Agenda

•These candidates have confirmed to be at the General Body Meeting:

Derek Bauman • Erica L. Black-Johnson • Christina Burcica • Tonya Dumas • Manuel Foggie • Brian Garry • Lesley Jones • Kelli Prather • Laure Quinlivan • Councilman PG Sittenfeld • Councilman Chris Smitherman • Tamie Sullivan

•Development of Reading Road Land Site - Action Needed

Residents of North Avondale, please come to the NANA General Body meeting this Tuesday evening, October 10th at 7 pm at the North Avondale Montessori School Cafetorium to learn about a tremendous opportunity for the North Avondale Reading Rd. corridor.

The City of Cincinnati recently sent out an RFP (Request for Proposal) to developers throughout the region to develop the land site at the intersection of Reading Rd. and Avondale Avenue. Each developer's proposal is due in **November**, and we as residents of North Avondale have the opportunity to provide input.

There will be a special meeting held on **October 16th at** 7 pm at the **Rec Center** to share and submit your opinion of what the site could be. Ideas that have been floated so far include a stand alone coffee shop with a drive through (i.e. the Starbucks in Kenwood, and soon to be the Starbucks in Westwood), a multi-use development with commercial retail on the bottom floor and apartments or condominiums on the above floors, or a form of residential housing only. Please consider this your opportunity to help cast a vision for the North Avondale Reading Rd. corridor and create an even better community that brings people together.

At the General Body meeting on the 10th, we will give a broad summary of the history of this opportunity, how your voice can be heard, and what the meeting on the 16th will entail. Please show up and show your enthusiasm for the future of our community!

Ian Smith



(Continued from page 1)

Finally, I am very pleased by the fact that so many neighbors are getting engaged to participate with NANA/NABA. It is our hope that more neighbors will get involved as we live in an amazing neighborhood! We can accomplish so much if we work together as a team. See you on Tuesday!

Marvin Masterson

NEW NEIGHBORS

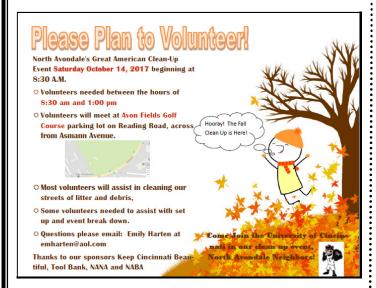
- Kevin Joiner Jr at 979 Burton Ave
- Tara D Jones at 620 Greenwood Ave
- Cincinnati Capital Partners 250 LLC at 986 Lowry Ave
- Matthew Aaron Knotts & Andrew L Kiley at 3950 Winding Way

NANA UPDATES

BEAUTIFICATION

Well everyone happy Autumn.... this weather is fabulous and the leaves have begun to show their change in colors. The sunsets have been beautiful to say the least and the daytime sky is such a beautiful blue.....

North Avondale's **Great American Clean Up on Saturday, 10/14,** is fast approaching! Please volunteer to help anytime between 8:30 and 1pm. Tasks/times are: 8:30 set-up; 9:15 - Student sign up table; 9:30 - lead a group of students to maximize our efforts, 11:30 - help serve and eat pizza and 12:00 noon - pack up supplies. Meet at **Avon Fields Golf Course Parking lot**. Looking forward to seeing you there! See Flyer below. If you can volunteer, please Email me at emharten@gmail.com.



The Spring season is so refreshing and colorful and will be here before we know it....the spring clean-up date is **April 7th 2018...**.more information in following months regarding the spring cleanup through KCB. Mark your calendars so we can knock out another Great American Clean Up.

This month Maura Wolf and I will be scheduling a Sunday gathering for the Beautification Committee; it looks like November is the plan at this point. There will be some things to discuss and chat about.... more information will be forthcoming. If you are interested, send me a note by email at emharten@gmail.com, Plan to bring your suggestions, your thoughts, your ideas written down so we

can discuss them and put our creative brains together & come up with more plans for our Neighborhood. We can put out a project such as an improvement to Seasongood Square Park, which is something that I discussed before.....requires planning so please help me.

There is a lot to do in and around our neighborhood that need attention and I think about ideas often. Anytime that you see an opportunity for a Neighborhood Cleanup Effort focus spot for spring 2018, let us know.

Emily Harten Beautification Chair

To pay the Parks to maintain the flower pots along Reading Road, we are taking donations for 2017. Please consider helping with a tax deductible donation so we can continue making our neighborhood beautiful and adding value to YOUR property!!! You can make a donation online at: northavondalecincinnati.com/donate/ and check Other and put: flower pots or you can mail a donation to 617 Clinton Springs 45229. Thank you!

Beth Ewing, Flower Pot Fundraising Chair

HEALTH & WELLNESS

As fall approaches, so does the flu! Flu season varies but starts in October and can extend until May. The flu is spread from coughs or sneezes. One prevention is the annual flu vaccine. It is especially recommended for those with chronic health conditions like diabetes. The flu shot can be given to babies 6 months old or older and women who are pregnant, even though discussions with a doctor are recommended especially if there is a question as to whether you should get one or not. Flu shots are available at doctor offices, community pharmacies and at all Cincinnati health centers in late fall.

Kimya Moyo, Health Department Liaison



FUNINTHE NEIGHBORHOOD

≫Feet In The Street





5K RACE STARTS AT 8:30AM AT THE AVONDALE TOWN CENTER

USTF MEASURED COURSE

SPECIAL AWARDS FOR DIVISION WINNERS

Race Divisions:

Run - Men & Women awards in 12 divisions Walk - Men & Women awards in 5 divisions Teams - Form your own team or join a team to compete for 2 feam awards

Refreshments and Live Entertainment available in Fleischmann Gardens after the race.

GAMES, RAFFLES & GIVE AWAYS for all participants.

https://www.runningtime.net/races/avondale-feet-inthe-street-5k

⋄Gabriel's Place



≈175 Year Anniversary

"175 YEARS OF SERVICE TO GOD, HUMANITY AND COMMUNITY"



Zion Baptist Church 630 Glenwood Avenue Cinti, Ohio 45229 (513)751-8608 zbaptist@fuse.net

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP SERVICE, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2017, 10:15AM

GUEST PREACHER FOR MORNING WORSHIP



REVEREND DR. OTIS MOSS JR., PASTOR EMERITUS OLIVET INSTITUTIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH, CLEVELAND, OHIO

THE 175TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY GALA 4:00 PM (DINNER, ENTERTAINMENT AND FELLOWSHIP) THE SAVANNAH CENTER 5533 CHAPPELL CROSSING BLVD. WEST CHESTER TOWNSHIP, OH 45069

DONATION: ADULTS \$50.00 CHILDREN (10 YEARS AND UNDER) \$11.00



Sunday, November 12, 2017, 4PM **The Savannah Center** 5533 Chappell Crossing Blvd West Chester Township, Oh 45069

Dinner, Entertainment and Fellowship

Adults: \$50.00 per person Children (10 years and under) \$11.00

James H. Cantrell, Pastor



FUN WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

Save the date for the Cincy Block Party on November 17th!



Keep Cincinnati Beautiful has been a long-standing partner of the City and its 52 neighborhoods for almost 40 years (I know, we can't believe we look this good either). We've been through a little bit of everything, and weathered some crazy storms, all to continue serving the community we love so much. Leading up to the big 4-0, we need your help to make our 40th year the BEST ONE YET!

So grab a friend and plan on coming to our **first ever fundraiser** to help us get over the hill with a big, old fashioned (indoor) block party on **November 17**th from 7-11 pm--we promise it'll be a blast!

Stay tuned for more details.

YOUR OPINION COUNTS

≈2018 Neighborhood Summit....March 10, 2018

It's that time again! Time to start planning the 2018 Neighborhood Summit

Please take a couple of minutes to fill out the short survey that lets us know what topics are most important to you and your neighborhood

The survey will stay open through **Wednesday October 18**

We look forward to seeing you at the 2018 Summit Take Survey at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R577M8R

Thanks for your time,

Invest in Neighborhoods and the Neighborhood Summit Planning Committee





FROM YOUR NEIGHBORS

Just a heads up. We live on Rose Hill and had a few packages stolen from our front door a few weeks ago.

James Mclean

October 22 at 3:00 at the Basilica of the Assumption in Covington. On the program is Te Deum in A Major HWV 282 by Georg Frederic Handel, Dixit Dominus RV 595 by Antonio Vivaldi, and Wo soll ich fliehen hin BWV 5 by J. S. Bach. Concert is free; donations cheerfully accepted. More info at musica-sacra.org.

Shelley Dumoulin (Rose Hill Ave.)

My wife and I just moved into the neighborhood John and Brittani Jacobs Lenox Lane

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I'm a local photographer and would like to include my information for all of you. I'm available for travel but I mainly photograph in Cincinnati, OH and occasionally in Charlotte, NC and Sarasota, FL areas. Visit my website to learn about my photography.

hyunahperezphotography.com lifestyle photographer (family, newborn, seniors, engagements, bloggers)

> Fall Mini Sessions October 7 & October 21 \$125 – 5 digital images

HYUN AH PÉREZ

PHOTOGRAPHY

Hyun Ah Perez 4014 Red Bud





NORTH AVONDALE MONTESSORI 363.3900 • 615 Clinton Springs www.namrockets.org

NAM October Calendar

Friday, 6th - Sibling sign up ends Tuesday, 10th - LSDMC Meeting - 3 pm - Media Center Friday, 13th - NAM Fall Festival - 5 Ppm to 8 pm -

Playground/Gym/Cafeteria

End of first quarter

Friday, 20th - Reports Cards go home with our students!

Friday, 27th - Art To Remember

NAM Celebrates Peace Day!

On **Thursday, September 21,** NAM students participated in International Peace Day. "This is a time where everyone in the world stops fighting for one day and has peace. Wouldn't this be fantastic if we could have peace world wide everyday," said Art Teacher, Stephanie Cooper.

NAM students in age levels 6 to 9 and 9 to 12 designed and created pin wheels to display in the front lawn. "We had over 500 students participate in the event. When the wind blew on Peace Day this was quite a show. Our students enjoyed the activity," said Principal Lewis.

NAM students also created Peace Books in Media class for parents to review. "Going across the curriculum and working with Stephanie in art was a really great experience for our students. The collaboration between art and media made this project fun and exciting for our student said parents," said Media Specialist Paulette Simpson.

"I designed my pin wheel by using different colors representing various countries around the world. Not only did I learn about Peace Day, but creating the book was fun too," said grade 6 student Jorja.

"I want to recognize the efforts of our students and teachers to make this a special activity. We had many parents come to school and view the display of pinwheels along with viewing the books. This activity brought our parents into the building and when we have this tremendous turn out, it helps build our community," said Principal Lewis.

When Ms. Cooper was asked what is the project for next year, she simply replied, "Peace!"





THE NEW SCHOOL MONTESSORI (TNSM) 281.7999 • 3 Burton Woods Lane www.newschoolmontessori.com

The New School Montessori has added a new subject to its Specials Program - Farming

Alexa Abner (with Skool Aid) is exploring farming with TNSM's elementary students. The children worked hard clearing honeysuckle to make room for sprouting lettuce and chives in their fall garden plot. They harvested acorns, chokeberries, buckeyes and pokeweed from TNSM's campus for use in various projects. The bright purple dye of crushed pokeweed berries were used in creating covers for their field notebooks. The 4th-6th graders established a table of contents, outlining the permaculture principles students will be considering each week as they design their farm together.

We invite you and your family to visit our open house on Sunday, October 15 between 2:00-4:00PM. Children are encouraged to explore the Montessori materials in the classroom and to tour the building with you.

To learn more or to schedule a private visit, call 513.281.7999 or go to www.newschoolmontessori.com





Ann Baumgardner, Communications Director

•November Election: a list of key dates & information.

Tuesday, October 10, - last day to resister in order to vote in November

Wednesday, October 11, 2017-early voting begins

Tuesday, November 7, 2017-Election Day polls are open 6:30a.m.-7:30p.m.

Check out the Board of Elections www.boe.hamilton-co.org where you can view official election results, review eligibility requirements and other issues associated with how to register to vote, download an absentee ballot application or

eview Every OTE vote, on or

website at

use the interactive Find Your Polling Location section to find out where to vote! Also check out the League of American Voters for more information about candidates and issues: http://www.lwvcincinnati.org/ Any questions? Call 513.632.7000.

FROM THE CITY & OTHER NONPROFITS

FREE information technology (IT) training and career development at Per Scholas.

Per Scholas is looking for candidates who are passionate about technology and eager to start a career in IT. Their next IT Support class will start on October 30. For more details you can read the attached file!

A SNAPSHOT:

- * 8 weeks, Monday-Friday from 9:00-4:00
- * Hands-on instruction to troubleshoot and maintain the computers, software, networks, and mobile devices that nearly all businesses use
- * Customer service training to support end users with technical help.
- * CompTIA A+ certification
- * Job placement assistance with access to a network of local employer partners
- * No prior IT experience needed
- * No cost, no catch. We invest in our students' success. Our courses, job placement, and other services are funded by generous donors and are 100% free to students and graduates.

About 94% of our students graduate, 85% of our graduates obtain employment in IT, and more than 88 employers have hired our graduates in Greater Cincinnati.

NEXT CLASS: October 30 - December 22, 2017, meet Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

Application deadline date: October 13, 2017 (space is limited - apply now at http://www.perscholas.org/cincinnati).

Class Location: CityLink Center, 800 Bank St. Cincinnati OH 45214.

We provide workforce solutions in Atlanta, Cincinnati, Columbus, Dallas, the National Capital Region, and New York. All our services are free to students. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Wayne Ivy, Director, Career Advancement and Alumni Relations, Cincinnati 513.357.2006

wivy@perscholas.org

Talbert House is pleased to offer another critical resource to veterans and families of Hamilton County. (513) 281-VETS is a 24/7 hotline that recognizes the unique needs of veterans and connects callers to resources for information, referrals to treatment, or direct services in moments of crisis. The 281-VETS hotline is available for veterans and their family members, loved ones, and neighbors. Callers are immediately connected to qualified Talbert House staff trained to provide access to care and/or crisis de-escalation including suicide prevention.

Data from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and SAMHSA shows that veterans have an increased chance for mental health problems, lower access to care, and higher rates of suicide. Talbert House currently provides crisis hotline services throughout Southwest Ohio with over 18,000 calls and 1,250 texts annually from the general

public. 281-VETS is an added service dedicated to veterans and their civilian connections, a concept initiated by former board member Bob Alexander, Tony Kohl, Jeremiah Meiner, and Tim Waechter.

281-VETS is accepting calls now. In addition, Talbert House is seeking veteran volunteers interested in offering peer-support to provide shared perspective through discussion, mentorship, and listening at a commitment level based on individual interest. These expanded services built upon evidence-based practices aim to connect veterans with supportive peers for better long-term outcomes. Veterans of all ages, branches, and service years are encouraged to contact Alex Rulon at (513) 961.3292 for more information regarding volunteering."

New Horizons is holding our annual SpecTECHular event on Friday October 22, 2017 from 8am-10am. We will provide breakfast and training. There will also be awesome prizes raffled off, including \$40k in free IT and computer training.

Samantha Meredith Career Consultant / New Horizons Computer Learning Centers



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Cincinnati USA Book Festival
SATURDAY, 10 A.M.
ONTORED 10

Meet 100+ authors under one roof including: Stephanie Powell Watts, Gretchen Carlson, Jeff Rossen, and more.

ADMISSION IS FREE!

BooksbytheBanks.org #BBTBcincy

4

PARKS & RECREATION

North Avondale Recreation Center ● 617 Clinton Springs Ave. ● 961.1584

Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9:30 am to 9:00 pm; Friday: 11:00 am to 9:00 pm Closed Saturday and Sunday - open for Instructor led programs only.



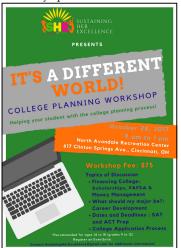
Memberships: Youth (5-17) \$2.00; Young Adult (18-24) \$10.00; Adult (25-49) \$25.00; Senior (50+) \$10.00; Weight Room \$10.00/3 months, \$35.00/year

• CORE Beats

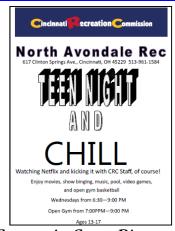
Circuit training is a form of body conditioning or Endurance **training**/resistance **training** using high-intensity aerobics. It targets strength building or muscular endurance. An **exercise**

"circuit" is one completion of all prescribed exercises in the program

Please call 961.1584 if you have any questions.







Aziel Cordero Community Center Director

≈7 Star Dragons Karate

September has been an exciting and awesome month 7 Star Dragons are happy to share our Accomplishments and Thank all our supporters!7



STAR DRAGONS 2017 PKC NATIONAL AWARDS Top Row: Sierra Hix, Oscar Mathews, Jared Belmont, John Watson, Daven Gibson, Kevin Hartnell, Front Roll: Master

Davis, Oshiana Warren, Layah Clark, Miranda Hartnell, Amina Issa, Briez Kelly. Earned awards yet not pictured: Morgan Mitchell, Zachary Dangerfield, Zephaniah Dangerfield, Joyclyn Tanner, Karabo Maloba.

On September 2, 2017, 15 members of the 7 Star Dragons team were honored at the 2017 PKC National Awards Banquet. Congratulations to our students for such a successful 2016-17 competition season. These students competed in various PKC rated competitions from June 2016 - June 2017 and received points for every 1-4 th place finish. The students compete with other students in seven, PKC Regions in the USA. At the end of the season, final point standings determine the top 10 competitors and awards are presented at the National Awards Banquet. Special Congratulations to First Place National title holders, Amina Issa (NAM), Daven Gibson (Clark Montessori), Miranda Hartnell (Sands Montessori). Our team was awarded 4th Place in team standings out of 73 teams whose wins were recorded for team standings; whereby determining the year end ratings. Awards were given to the top 5 rated teams. Without the commitment to excellence and parent participation, this accomplishment would not be possible!



Team members and Master Davis with their awards for Forms and Sparring on September 3, 2017.

On September 1-3, 2017, 10 members of the 7 Star Dragons Competition team competed at the 2017 PKC International Karate Competition in Indianapolis, Indiana. The team won an impressive 50, 1st through 4 th Place wins! Amina Issa was the top winner with 6 first place and achieved the 12 and under Weapons Grand Champion! This is a school record! The team made a lasting impression this year at the 2017 PKC International Karate Competition!

On September 2, 2017, Mayor Cranley proclaimed, 7 Star Dragons Day! The proclamation was read and presented to our team on "7 Star Dragons Day" in the presence of all the officials, participants and spectators attending the PKC International Event. It was an honor and was received with much gratitude!

(Continued on page 8)

(Continue from page 7)

Master Terrell Davis with Proclamation and 2017 3rd runner -up PKC Team Trophy.

On September 3, 2017, WCPO updated their site and added a second news story with reporter Lucy May. The following link is provided. A congratulations was placed on their Facebook page after being victorious! Thank you WCPO News for such support and recognition!



http://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/hamilton-county/cincinnati/champion-seven-star-dragons-karate-teaches-kids-more-than-kicks-and-punches

Terrell Davis

HIRSCH CENTER ●3620 Reading Road ● 751.3393

Will be closed starting December 1 for additions and modifications. Regular programing will be until November 30.





591.6000	
5916000.com	
569 8679	
lori.hamann@cincinnati-oh.gov	
569.8655	
douglas.neack@cincinnati-oh.gov	
569.8600	
765.1212	
352.2960	

Truancy Hotline 363.0003

Track property code violations:

http://cagisperm.hamilton-co.org/cpop/
Nexdoor Neighbor Site: http://nextdoor.com
Request City Services 5916000 com

To learn about Crime in Cincinnati visit: Crimereports.com

Request City Services5916000.comRequest A Recycling Cart591.6000Report Air Odors 24/7.946.7777Where to Recycle Different Thingshttp://earth911.com/

Cincinnati's Best Address with: Beautiful Homes, Great Neighbors & Civic Passion

NANA CALENDAR

- Tuesday, October 10, NANA General Meeting, 7:00 pm, North Avondale School Cafetorium, 617 Clinton Springs Ave.
- Saturday, October 14, 8:30am to 1pm Great American Clean Up, Meet at Avon Fields Golf Course Parking Lot
- Monday, October 16, 7:00pm, Special Meeting Vacant Lot Citizen Engagement, NA Rec Center, 617 Clinton Springs
- Thursday, November 2 & December 7, NANA Education/Rental Housing Meeting, 1:30 pm, District 4 Police Station, 4150 Reading Road
- Tuesday, November 14 NANA General Meeting, 7:00 pm, North Avondale School Cafetorium, 617 Clinton Springs Av.

NANA EXECUTIVE BOARD & COMMITTEES Marvinhmasterson@gmail.com Beautification: Emily Harten President: Marvin Masterson emharten@aol.com 1st VP & Strategic Development: tribbltn@gmail.com Block Watch: Carolyn Gillman cgillmanwhhs@gmail.com Tiffani N. Tribble 2nd VP: Michael Caporale varicap@mac.com Law & Safety: Michelle Baxter flybye@zoomtown.com 3rd VP: Yvonne Fender fender@zoomtown.com Neighborhood Issues: John Jones jwjphoenix@gmail.com Rental Housing: Pauline Daly 751.8334 Cor. Sec.: Jennifer Cronk jennifercronk@hotmail.com Rec Secretary: Carolyn Gillman Strategic Development: fvpgillman@aol.com maurawolf100@gmail.com Maura Wolf Treasurer: Steve Megerle sim4880@aol.com

ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORS—THE BEES

How to Make Your Backyard a Friendly Home for Bees

Scientists conclude that the effects of climate change are <u>wreaking havoc</u> on our bee populations, and if the trend continues, decreased bee colonies threaten to devastate our crops and ecosystems.

Colony collapse has slowed in recent years, but bees are still struggling due to softened environmental regulations, land development, pesticide use, and parasites like the <u>varroa mite</u>.

What can you do to make your immediate environment a healthier place for our fuzzy, winged friends? Try one--or all--of the following:

Plant a Pollinator Garden

A backyard pollinator bed creates a homey habitat for bee colonies, increases your fruit and vegetable yields, and ensures the health of your other flowers.

However, it's important to do your research before jumping in head first; native pollinator plants are specific to different U.S. regions. Cheerios learned this the hard way when they rolled out their "Bring Back the Bees" campaign. Researchers found that some of their free seed packets contained seeds for invasive species in particular regions.

But with a little bit of planning, you shouldn't have a problem. Consult this <u>list</u> of recommended native plants, catalogued by state or geographical region. Then, find a reputable seed supplier and begin mapping your garden.

Remember, it's helpful to invest in blooms that emerge from early spring all the way until late fall. This provides nectar for various bee species. Spring-blooming flowers, shrubs, and trees are great at initially attracting, and keeping, pollinator bees.

Be aware that different types of bees have different pollinating habits. For example, some bees are drawn to a variety of plants, while others will only visit one particular type of flower. The more varied your blooms, the better.

Perennials Save Money (and Stress)

Pollinator plants are <u>perennials</u>, meaning they come back each year without needing to be replanted. Once you map out and plant your garden, you can enjoy blooms year after year. Just be sure to thin out any pollinators that threaten to become invasive.

Say No to Pesticides

You might be tempted to use common chemicals in order to achieve a Better Homes and Gardens-worthy lawn, but think twice before dousing your lawn in pesticides. Sprays are often toxic to animals--and bees--and can <u>stay in human's' system</u> for years. Instead, dust off your garden tools or grab your lawn mower. You'll get a great workout AND protect the pollinators in your yard.

Create Signage

Pollinator plants come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes. Some look more wispy and weedy, while others sport gorgeous blooms (think sunflowers or evening primrose). If you're new to pollinator gardening, it can be difficult to tell the different varieties apart.

As you plant, mark the different species with signs. Use painted rocks, popsicle sticks, or metal stakes and imprint plant names with pencil or pen. (If you're worried about signs getting damaged or faded with weather, assemble an informal log of your garden indicating where you've planted each variety of flower.)

Also, consider crafting a larger, painted sign marking your garden. This will start conversations with neighbors and encourage friends and family to follow suit!

Leave a Little (Ground) Room

You might be surprised to learn that the majority of North America's native bees--70%--nest in the ground. By leaving a little untouched patch of dirt for them, they're able to create cozy habitats in your yard. To ensure they remain undisturbed, surround the area with chicken wire or some other barrier, like a small fence or a rock wall.

Find a Home for the Other 30%

The remaining native bees like to cozy up in wood tunnels. But if you don't have an old fence post laying around, you can mimic their preferred nesting grounds by creating a <u>mason bee habitat</u> out of an old tin can and some rolled-up parchment paper. It's cheap, easy, and it only takes five minutes.

Bee Mindful

By creating space for friendly pollinators, you'll be making your home--and the world--a more vibrant, sustainable place.

Do you have any advice for planting a bee-friendly garden? Share your stories in the comments.

Christy Erickson savingbees.org

BEAUTY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Thank you to all the volunteers and individuals who have taken care of the flower beds in our neighborhood and made it a prettier place to be!

Pictures of the Dana Triangle made beautiful by gardeners Richard Jackson and Mary Piper



Other Gardens West of Reading gardened by: Mary Piper (along Asmann), Susan Kenford (Mural Bed), Richard Jackson (circle at Dakota & Marion, the roundabout), Marion Triangle Area, North Avondale Wall, and flower pots by the City





















Seasongood Park gardened by Emily Harten









West of Reading gardened by Charlene Morse (Kessler Memorial) and the City







Clinton Springs & Washington gardened by Beth Ewing













Places of beauty on Clinton Springs: Lowe's donated time and materials to fix up the North Avondale Montessori School. And even tenants in apartments with very small yards on way to the swim club can bring beauty to our neighborhood!

