



NANA NEWS

FEBRUARY 2022

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Association Cincinnati
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President: Heather Herr
Editor: Charlene Morse

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Neighbors,

On February 2nd, Punxsutawney Phil (our nation's most popular marmot) unfortunately saw his shadow Wednesday morning after scurrying out of a burrow at Gobbler's Knob. As the legend goes, that means the country can expect below-average temperatures for the next six weeks.

Here is the good news...Phil the Groundhog delivered the same news and cold temps last year as well, but we then experienced above-average temperatures last March. So, as we turn the page on the last few weeks of winter, let's rejoice that warmer temperatures and Spring are right around the corner.

In our most recent NANA Executive Board Meeting we began to discuss organizing an Event Committee for North Avondale. Due to the success of several neighborhood events last year, we were able to raise a relatively significant sum that can be reallocated into a budget for even more North Avondale neighborhood events in 2021. We will be adding this topic/idea to the agenda at an upcoming General Meeting to begin discussions and asking for input and potential event planning/coordination volunteers. Stay warm and safe!

Heather Herr



FUN IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD LUMINARY 2021

The wonderful tradition of Luminary was on **Sunday, December 12 from 6-9**. We had an all time record of streets participating in this year's Luminaria.

Thank you to the volunteers that made this possible, they are:

Spring House Lane:

•**Sylvia & Bryan Nelson and Ron La Nier and thank you for serving s'mores/fire pit.**

Dickson, Lowry, Parker Place:

•**Monica Human and thank you for serving s'mores/fire pit.**

Wedgewood:

•**Eric Bollman**

Burton Woods, Clinton Springs, Leyman and Red Bud:

•**Mary Pray and thank you for serving s'mores/fire pit**

Avon Fields Ln, Avon Fields Pl., Beechwood, Betula, Red Bud Ave, Red Bud Pl. and Rose Hill:

•**Carolyn Gillman**

•**Thank you to Valerie Williams and Robbert Dejong for serving s'mores/fire pit**

•**Sarah and Walter Koucky for donating Cider.**

•**Thank you to Sara and Fred Kaufman for doing a fire pit.**

Avondale:

•**Lexi Goss**

Redway Ave:

•**Marla Barone**

Winding Way:

•**Beth Ewing and Vanessa Wong and thank you for serving s'mores/fire pit.**

•**Thank you to The Baxter's for donating the sand!**

NANA GENERAL MEETING February 8, 7:00pm

VIA ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7228542133>
Passcode: 45217

EVENTS

Next Meeting: March 8, Tuesday, 7:00 pm

THANK YOU FOR PAYING YOUR 2022 NANA DUES

<https://northavondalecincinnati.com/membership/>



NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUE

Hello Neighbors,

The New School Montessori has been a part of the North Avondale neighborhood for over 50 years! During that time we have been honored to serve many North Avondale families as their school of choice, promoting a holistic education with a focus on diversity, environmental stewardship, peace education, and the Montessori philosophy. The school has hosted North Avondale community events and for a while was a meeting space for the North Avondale Neighborhood Association. We love this neighborhood and are grateful for the surrounding community.

We understand that our school, situated in a quiet residential neighborhood, has an impact on traffic, parking, and the bustle from the occasional outdoor event. We are committed to limiting the impact as well as building neighborhood relationships. One way we have intentionally limited our impact is through keeping our enrollment to roughly 150 students for decades.

There are two developments happening we want to make you aware of and hopefully highlight the mutual benefits to The New School Montessori and our North Avondale neighbors. We also welcome your feedback as we go through the planning process.

One is our recent purchase of **33 Burton Woods Lane**. This property is immediately adjacent to our building at 29 Burton Woods Lane. The sellers are a New School Montessori alumni family and they offered the property as a partial donation. Due to the family being spread out throughout the country, the house had been neglected. We believe it would have been a challenge for the sellers to find someone willing to invest what would have been needed to renovate. We came to an agreement after sharing our plans to raze the house and create more natural space. There are no plans to build any type of structure on this property. We intend to plant trees, grow grass, and increase the natural beauty of our campus and neighborhood. Our purchase, we feel, was a win-win for the neighborhood and our school.

The other development is the current New School Montessori capital campaign called the Kaleidoscope Campaign: A Beautiful Vision. One aspect of the campaign is to increase our Diversity Endowment to further support families at our school. Currently 25% of our community receives aid. We would love to create more opportunities for inquiring families, including families from the North Avondale area.

The other component to the Kaleidoscope Campaign is to address the challenge presented by our Annex building (the old church). After inspections by different architectural firms we were informed that it has lived beyond its architectural intent. As a result The New School Montessori began to have conversations around how to renovate or build new. We looked at this challenge as an opportunity to further our commitment to the arts, environmental stewardship, and community dialogue. With a new building we could fully align our mission and values through innovative earth-friendly design. The new building's purpose



would be to deepen the educational experiences for our students, not increase enrollment.

The new building (the Kaleidoscope Center) will also allow The New School Montessori to redesign our campus layout in a way that increases the natural space and opens a “greener” visual experience for our neighbors. The Annex would be razed and The Kaleidoscope Center would be pulled back to sit closer to the Mitchell Mansion.

We are very excited about these plans and are eager to share more information. We would also like to hear your concerns, and answer any questions to the best of our ability.

On Thursday February 17 @ 6:30 we would like to invite NANA and residents from Burton Woods Lane to join us for a ZOOM town hall meeting. If you would like to submit questions in advance so that we can be sure to have an answer during the call, please email them to, jeff.g@newschoolmontessori.com

We look forward to a productive exchange of ideas, and welcome your input. We have enjoyed being your neighbors for over 50 years, and look forward to a collaborative future together.

Best,

*Jeff Groh, Director,
513.281.7999 (work) 513.379.0081 (cell)*

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83417492790?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83417492790?pwd=M0czS1JjaDNvbG5NMjdZLy8vbXoydz09)

[pwd=M0czS1JjaDNvbG5NMjdZ](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83417492790?pwd=M0czS1JjaDNvbG5NMjdZLy8vbXoydz09)

[Ly8vbXoydz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83417492790?pwd=M0czS1JjaDNvbG5NMjdZLy8vbXoydz09)

Meeting ID: 834 1749 2790

Passcode: FFPE11



ENVIRONMENT



Do caterpillars damage to your plants? Here is a new way of gardening. You plant FOR the caterpillars and you want them to eat your plants because that's the only way we'll have more butterflies.

HERE are the plants that can help you support the most caterpillars. Use your zip code or a nearby larger city's zip code to find your best caterpillar host plants. [LINK https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/](https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/)



COMMITTEE UPDATES

BEAUTIFICATION

Jolene Struebbe, Beautification Chair



North Avondale Litter Report

Keep an eye out for the **Xavier Community Action Day** that is scheduled for the morning of **Saturday, March 26**. If you would like to help, let me know. Students will arrive on site around 9:45 am and provide 3 hours of service until 12:45 pm. They are a pleasure to work with.

Your neighborhood Litter Chair, Coral Weigel

DEVELOPMENT

This is to inform you that as of the January 2022 meeting of the **North Avondale Joint Strategic Planning Committee (NA JSDC)**, there is no longer a chair person of the Committee. After serving out a year with Jeff Herr as co-chair, we no longer have personal capacity. Nor did anyone volunteer to keep the Committee running until such time that a new chair can be found. As NANA/NABA look for replacements and future direction of the Committee, I leave you with some observations and suggestions.

The majority of the Committee members are involved to gather info/have their voice heard but do not have time to serve as working committee members. Of the 30+ committee members, only 15 ever attended a committee call. Only four committee members were able to help the chairs with any tasks. Net, I think it is fair to say the group functioned as a non-working board offering oversight, not as a working committee.

To be successful, and attract a new chair(s), the Committee should be made up of contributing members with defined responsibilities. This will also serve to recruit Committee members. The JSDC should also move forward with hiring a consultant to provide professional help and work with the Committee members on their areas.

The body of work undertaken by the Committee could be defined as follows:

Chair(s)

- Preside over meetings
- Oversee work of sub committees
- Oversee work of paid consultants, including securement
- City / Port primary liaison

Admin

- Take minutes
- Schedule meetings
- Maintain repository of documents
- Maintain any budgets required

Development

- Work with consultants, Committee, gov't leaders and developers to spur new development in business

corridor including creation of official positions on development

Zoning

- Work with Committee, consultant, NANA, NABA and gov't leaders to enforce and define zoning changes, questions and enforcement

Community Engagement

- Work with NANA, NABA, consultant and gov't officials to lead community engagement as it relates to development and zoning changes
- Prepare monthly committee update for NANA News

I think if the Committee is limited to a subgroup of people with 1-2 people working in each of these capacities (ie maybe 10 members), it would have a significantly increased chance of success.

There are currently no open items within the Committee outside of finding a consultant. The purchase option on 3864 Reading does not expire until the end of March, at which time there stands to be a fair amount of work either with community engagement on the current applicant or finding a new viable buyer.

Beth Ewing, NA Joint Strategic Development Committee

EVENTS

Neighborly Love Second Annual Ronald McDonald Valentine's Day Charity Event

We are super excited to announce that we are doing the second annual Valentine's Day Basket donation for the Ronald McDonald House this year!! We had such an incredible outpouring of beautiful baskets last year from the community that it was a must to bring this new tradition back for the wonderful families at Ronald McDonald.

Each basket needs to be wrapped in cellophane due to COVID restrictions. The baskets are meant to cheer up the adults and children. They can include things like coloring books, books for adults, toys, wrapped candy, bath or spa items, gift cards, homemade valentine cards from your kids, bubble makers, candles, stuffed animals, blankets or anything you think would bring joy to them during a difficult time. All items must be new and not used. Try to keep it a valentine theme if you can.

All baskets will need to be dropped off on my front porch at **965 Lenox Place no later than Thursday, February 10th**. My husband and I will bring them to Ronald McDonald the morning of the 11th.

If you want to sign up, please put your name in the thread and approximately how many baskets you'll be making. Our goal is 200!!! Let's pay it forward in 2022! These baskets will warm their hearts and fill yours! Xoxo

If you have any questions, please email me at scopetto@msn.com, call or text my cell at 917.683.0349.

Morgan Rottinghaus, Chair.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

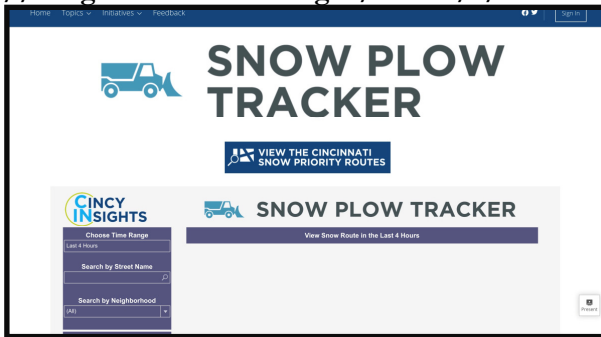
2022-2023 NANA Nominating Committee



(Continued on page 4)

FROM THE CITY

<https://insights.cincinnati-oh.gov/stories/s/usdr-2hia>

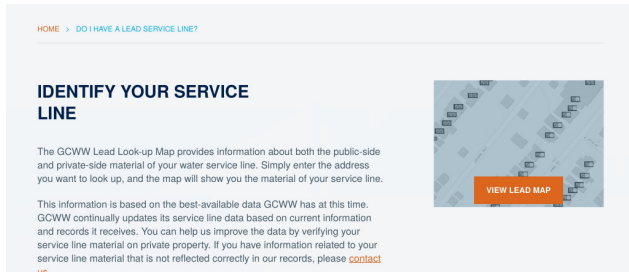


<https://insights.cincinnati-oh.gov/stories/s/CincyInsights/s59x-yqv3>



Do You Have A Lead Water Line?

To check out your property go to: [https://](https://la.mycgw.org/replace-your-lead-service-line/)



la.mycgw.org/replace-your-lead-service-line/



ODOT to hold virtual, in-person public meetings for I-75 Improvement Project Study

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) invites you to participate in a public meeting to learn about proposed traffic and safety improvements on Interstate 75, between Shepherd Lane and state Route 126, in Hamilton County.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022 - 12:00 (Noon)
To participate online, visit www.publicinput.com/I75Improvement

To participate via telephone, call 855.925.2801, enter code 2998 when prompted

In-person Meeting:

Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

(Continued from page 3))

The Nominating Committee is forming and NANA is gathering names for the Nominating Committee and the 2022/2023 slate of elected officers for the North Avondale Neighborhood Association. If you are interested or have anyone to suggest, attend the NANA General Meeting or call the NANA answering machine at 513.401.4546 or email: nanacincinnati@gmail.com.

Serving on the NANA Board is a great way to give back to your community and help in making our community grow and thrive like we envision. You can make a difference!

FUN IN THE CITY

The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati's Matilda the Musical JR. will be running February 5th- 13th at the Taft Theatre, my partner, Roderick Justice, is the Artistic Director.



The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati – The nation's oldest professional theatre for young audiences
(thechildrenstheatre.com)

Ian Woodmansee (Dakota)



THE NEW SCHOOL MONTESSORI (TNSM)

281.7999 • 3 Burton Woods Lane
www.newschoollmontessori.com

The New School Montessori has a long history of listening to children's ideas. And there are numerous forums where children can voice concerns and work for change. Morning meetings are held in every level and are good places to discuss what is working and not working in a classroom. Our (9-12) students often share their concerns with their elected student senate members who bring those issues to the fore.



Quite a number of years ago, a student pointed out that the word "fort" is incongruous with The New School and our peace-loving ways. These structures that kids had been building since 1970 needed a different name. The word "hut" was suggested, and that's what we've been calling them ever since. We are grateful for this student's insight.

Ann Baumgardner, Communications Director

PARKS, LIBRARIES & RECREATION

2022 Summer Camp Preview is Here!

Full Calendar of Events on Cincinnati Parks Website

Upcoming Monthly Events

Everyday

StoryWalk at California Woods!
In partnership with Cincinnati Public Library, Hyde Park Branch: walk the Lower Ridge loop trail as you read "In the Snow: Who's Been Here" by Lindsay Barrett George.



Fridays in January

Frosty Fridays Hike Series

Fridays in February

Winter Naturalist 101 Series

Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Nature Encounters at Trilside Nature Center

January 22

The Cure for Cabin Fever – Part 1

February 5

The Cure for Cabin Fever – Part 2

Save the Date for 2022 Summer Day Camp Registration!

Registration for 2022 Explore Nature! Summer Day Camps goes live on **Saturday, February 26**.

Keep an eye out on [our website](#) and social media pages for a summer camps preview and registration link countdown at the end of January.



Mark Your Calendars: Registration Opens February 26 at Noon

Ready for exploring this summer at camp? Cincinnati Parks' Explore Nature! team offers one week summer camps at various locations for ages 3 1/2 – 14 years old. Our camps include daily hikes, games, live animal encounters, experiments and make & take projects to keep campers active all day.

Cincinnati Parks is committed to providing a safe environment for our campers and staff. Due to current circumstances with the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be following state guidelines, the Center for Disease Control (CDC,) and American Camp Association (ACA) guidelines to keep everyone safe. Learn more on our website about COVID precautions at this year's summer camps. **Summer Day Camps Registration Link & Summer Day Camps Preview Online** <https://www.cincinnatiiparks.com/best-summer-day-camps-preview-2021/> Scholarships are available for those families in need of financial assistance.

We look forward to another year of successful and rewarding experiences at Summer Camps for your children...our campers! Please contact our main office at 513.321.6070 if you have any questions.

Library Event

St. Bernard Branch Library Information In Person Homework Help

• **Monday-Thursday 3:00 PM – 6:00pm** at participating locations Walk-in homework help is available at select library locations, for students in grades K-8. Days and times may vary. For a list of participating locations and details about this service, please visit [cincinnatiiparks.com/best-summer-day-camps-preview-2021/](https://www.cincinnatiiparks.com/best-summer-day-camps-preview-2021/) Registration is not required.

In Person Toddler and Preschool Storytime at St. Bernard Branch Library

• Every Wednesday 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM Children ages birth to 6 and their families are welcome to enjoy

books, songs, and activities, while building literacy skills. **Take and Make for Adults Program**

• Selected Sundays from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM at the St. Bernard branch library Try a variety of maker activities. All required supplies will be provided by the library. Call the St. Bernard Library for details.

Free Meals <https://cincinnatiiparks.com/services/meals/>

- St. Bernard, 3-3:45 p.m.
- Norward

Stay in Check out & Win

We hope you're enjoying Library's Winter Checkout Challenge, which runs until Feb. 25.

If you've joined the challenge online, don't forget to stop by one of our 41 locations to pick up your free Winter Checkout Challenge tote. It's free for joining the challenge!

cincinnati public library

All CHPL locations will be open for their regular business hours beginning **Monday, January 31**.

Hours vary by location, so [check the website for your branch](#).

- Our Virtual Information Center can be reached at 513-369-4900 and will remain open regular hours.
 - Sunday 11-5 p.m.
 - Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
 - Friday & Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Our website is always available and you can [stream and download materials 24/7](#).

[Check out our events calendar](#) for upcoming things to do at your local branch library

cincinnati public Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library 800 Vine Street Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Avondale Event History Series
with the University of Cincinnati

The series will provide a historical overview of the Avondale neighborhood from the beginning to the current time. It is a wonderful opportunity to explore how the Avondale neighborhood has changed over many decades and preserve some of the memories of Avondale as it continues to change.

Jewish Avondale
Saturday, January 22 - Noon | Dr. Karla Goldman, University of Michigan

Racial Change in Avondale
Saturday, March 12 - Noon | Mr. Charles E. Lasey-Leminger, University of Cincinnati retired

Readers Avondale
Saturday, May 7 - Noon | Dejah Hussein-Wetzel, Urbanist Media

cincinnati public library Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library 800 Vine Street Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

North Avondale Recreation Center -

- Hours: open Monday thru Friday 10 am to 8 pm; Saturday 9am to 2pm
- We are closed February 21st
- Weight Room is by reservations
- Masks must be worn
- **Senior Knitting & Social Group:** Monday, 12:00 to 1:30 membership required
- **Adult Softball:** starts week of 5/9; registration link
- **Adult Kickball:** starts 5/17 and runs for 6 weeks; registration link
- **Soccer Unites** partnership with FCC: 6 week program; games Tuesday & Thursday Afternoons at the new mini pitch; teaches basic soccer skills and character building; Spring Sessions starts in April.
- **Matt Brown** transferred on 1/1/22 to the Mt Washington Rec Center on the Eastside after two years at North Avondale. While at North Avondale, Matt was in the Athletics division where he organized and coordinated: Adult-Softball, Adult-Volleyball, Youth Soccer, Camps for Champ, Adult Kickball and the Lunken Tennis Center. At Mt. Washington, he will be getting back to his roots by being the Club CRC, Summer Day Camp and Teen programs coordinator. He enjoyed his time at North



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Avondale and will miss the staff, Day Camp Families and community members he had the pleasure to work with and get to know.

Nialani Robinson, Community Center Director

• Congratulations to 7 Star Dragons Competition Team who traveled to Fredericktown, Ohio on November 6, 2021 to compete in the 2021 UPMAC National Championships. 100 percent of the team members earned a 1st through 3rd place finish. MJ Hartnell, Kevin Hartnell, Zachary Dangerfield, Garvin Dixon, earned 2 -3 gold medals each. The team competed in forms, sparing, weapons forms and Chanbara foam sword sparing. This was the teams first major event since COVID. These students and many new students have been training on Tuesdays and Thursdays at NARC from 6-8 pm, to continue to represent our community in 2022 at various competitions. Visit our website to become a member of our team. <http://7stardragonskarate.com/#home>

We appreciate the continued support of our families, CRC, NANA and our community.

A Special thanks to **Charlie McGinnis Sensei, Shihan (Master Aikido Instructor)** for arranging a special visit from Aikido of Cincinnati on November 16, 2021. We practice break falls and rolls with our pre teens and teens. We enjoyed our instructions and benefited tremendously.



Sensei Terrell Davis

Hirsch Recreation Center - 3620 Reading Road • 751.3393

- **Hours:** 10am to 8pm Monday thru Friday
- Saturday 9 am - 2 pm
- We are **closed** February 21st
- **The Fade Room** (Membership required) **Tuesday 5:30 - 7:30pm**
- This program will provide youth 8-13 an opportunity to come into the center for a "barbershop style" experience (video games, sports on TV air hockey

etc...) 4 - 30min time slots available per week. Haircuts are free of charge (no styling). Signed permission slip to reserve a time slot

- **Girls on the Run (3rd-5th grade) Tuesday and Thursday 4:00- 5:15pm**
 - Register online @ <https://www.gotrcincinnati.org/> by **Feb. 10th** or stop by and see Ms. Brittany.
- **Spinning classes:** Mon. & Wed., 6:15 – 7:00 pm. It is necessary to sign up before class. To register call 751.3393 or go to the front desk.
- **Yoga:** Tuesday 6:00pm - call to reserve space.
- **Senior Program:** arts & crafts, journaling, walking club, essential oils

Pick up a Program Schedule at the Center

Brittany Barrett, Community Center Director

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

- Tamatha Scott at 3967 Abington Ave.
- The New School Montessori at 33 Burton Woods Ln.
- Maribel Cortes Conde at 995 Dana Ave.
- Trenai Bryant at 685 N Fred Shuttlesworth Cr.
- Saini Jet at 39 Glen Este Pl.
- Downtown Maintenance Care Solutions LLC at 853 Glenwood Ave.
- Steven Mills at 712 Greenwood Ave.
- Hausterling Development Group LLC at 319 Mitchell Ave.
- Thomas Patrick & Andrea Katherine Doyle at 960 Redway Ave.
- Jessica & Tyler Watkins at 3980 Rose Hill Ave.
- Jaun Hollomon & Ruth Wooten at 4124 Rose Hill Ave.
- Monisha & Michael E House II at 3828 Springhouse Ln.
- William Carter at 191 Sturgis Ave.
- Ricardo Roosevelt Donalson II at 3936 Vine Vista Pl.
- Shaen N Feenstra & Jason D Achauer at 3801 Washington Ave.
- Consuelo & Jeffery B Molden at 3903 Wess Park Dr.
- Execution Investments Inc at 3966 Wess Park Dr.
- Companion Individualized Aide LLC at 41 Wuest St.

NORTH AVONDALE SCHOOLS

NORTH AVONDALE MONTESSORI

513.363.3900 • 615 Clinton Springs www.namrockets.org

In honor of the Bengal's first Super Bowl appearance since 1988, CPS will not have school on Monday, February 14! Staff and students will have the day off to celebrate what we believe will be our city's first-ever Super Bowl victory! #WhoDey



No School
Monday, February 14

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

☞ The Victory Parkway Bridge was built in 1917 to replace a truss bridge and to provide a more pleasing view as you enter Eden Park. Although the bridge isn't anything to write home about while driving along from above, the real beauty is of the architecture from below. The bridge which is 472 feet and spans Kemper Lane, was rehabilitated in 1939 when cantilevered sidewalks and balustrades were added. Reinforced concrete open spandrel arch bridges like this were popular in the 1920s and 1930s due to their attractive looks and cost saving material designs. Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uym-b18mFeE>



Norwood

In this video we cover the strange, interesting and unusual stories and places in Norwood, Ohio that are for the most part, known only to the locals. For example, do you know what famous actor was born in Norwood? Or why a tunnel was built for the Norwood incinerator? Have you ever seen the historic stone swimming pool and bath house hidden back in the woods in the Norwood park? Check out this video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgFQv_sMCc)



☞ Our 2022 Farm Boxes are here & ready for subscription with an extended 30 week growing season with pick up or home delivery options!



To accommodate small and larger households, we have a Small Farm Box, 1-2 people with seasonal veggies, fruits, micro greens & herbs, which is smaller portions than last year's Bounty Bag. There is a Large Farm Box, 3-4 people with larger portions of seasonal veggies, fruits, micro greens & herbs plus 1 dozen organic eggs and homemade baked goods-breads & granola made by myself & Petra. You can also get the Small Farm Box & a separate egg subscription.

Link for 2022 Small & Large Farm Box Subscriptions: <https://app.barn2door.com/e/9YGlR/all>

April Pandora, Urban Farmer (Clinton Springs Garden)

NANA CALENDAR

- Tuesday, February 8, 7 pm, NANA General Meeting Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7228542133> Passcode 45217
- Tuesday, March 8, 7 pm, Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7228542133> Passcode 45217



FROM YOUR NEIGHBORS

☞ James Hart is accepting new piano students (age 6 through adults) at my North Avondale home Studio as of February, 2022. I teach students from beginning to advanced levels in all genres of music from classical through jazz and popular forms. Your initial interview/lesson is free.

I'm a classically trained pianist, composer and music educator with a career that has spanned both Europe and the United States. My teaching credentials include:

- Butler University, Indianapolis, 1968 - 1973
- Munich (Germany) Conservatory (Hochschule für Musik), 1977 - 1982
- Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1994 till present
- Concerts/master classes & music seminars throughout the U.S. and Europe, 1977 till present
- Jazz concerts and club dates, 1977 till present

Please give me a call at: 513.252.3366. I'd love to speak with you about how you'd like to learn to play the piano.

James L. Hart (Valley Lane)

Xavier University Music Professor

☞ I would like to remind neighbors that in the event you are building or renovating a structure on your property that it is imperative that you go through the proper zoning and permitting procedures in place with the City of Cincinnati. When it comes to a deck, a porch, a wall, garage etc... that involves the neighbors surrounding your property. The surrounding neighbor's all appreciate knowing the proper permitting is in place. It is also a good idea to obtain proof of insurance and workers comp from contractors working on your property. Ideally, that information should be shared with the neighbors in the event that the contractor will enter the neighbor's property during the construction.

Doug van der Zee

☞ I've been thinking about creatures, other than humans, that live in/about Rose Hill. Here is my list, other than cats (domestic), dogs, hamsters, gerbils: Deer, possum, squirrels, chipmunk, mouse, groundhog, raccoon, coyote (though I haven't seen one in the last year or two... where are they?), sewer rat (last one seen was by Lois Nizny, in our basement in winter of 1976), oh, yes, feral cats !, and thanks to cicadas, moles; garter snake, black snake (only one), frogs, (Lazarus) lizards, various birds, fish (in ponds) ... Lois said she saw a rabbit, Spring 2021 (I didn't)... A neighbor said he saw a fox cross our garden. I've not seen a fox in 50 years. Anyone add any more?

Mel Nizny, MD (Rose Hill)

(Continued from page. 8)

guest attending balls in the 3rd floor ball rooms on these homes. (Sadly, not mine!).

Bob and Mary say they would resist moving from North Avondale. They continue to like it here!!

Jolene Struebbe



LONGEVITY IN NORTH AVONDALE

An ongoing project to record our history from those who have lived in the neighborhood the longest! Please reach out to me, Jolene Struebbe, jmstruebbe@gmail.com if you would like to tell your family story. This month, as I kick off this project, I am so excited to introduce two “longevity” families and share their stories of living in North Avondale. You will learn about Ernest Fontana & Nelida Mietta-Fontana at 3950 Ledgewood and Bob & Mary Wells at 4245 Rose Hill.

Ernest Fontana and his wife, Nelida Mietta-Fontana, met in graduate school at the University of Notre Dame. They moved to Cincinnati in 1966 and lived for a brief while in Swifton Village. In August 1968 they rented at the Park Lane on Victory Parkway and began their tenure in North Avondale. They then moved to their current location at **3950 Ledgewood (which was built in 1925) in August 1970**, where they rented from their friend, Richard Meister, until they bought the house from him in May 1971. They paid \$19,500 for the house and recall having an 8 ½ % interest rate!



Ernest and Nelida were both involved in education. Ernest was a professor at XU and ultimately became the chair of the English Department at Xavier. Nelida was a public-school teacher and ultimately a principal. North Avondale was attractive for many reasons for the young couple, but initially because it allowed Ernest to walk to work and they could get by with one car. They describe their home as a middle-class house, yet a serious upgrade, almost “Baronial” Ernest says, compared to homes they lived in as children – Ernest in Little Italy in Cleveland and Nelida in Argentina. And, to this day, they love that North Avondale is close to downtown and the hospitals, is aesthetically pleasing and has “housing that cannot be duplicated”! As an aside, they mention that North Avondale is especially good for older people as recently it only took them 6 minutes by car to get to the hospital for a medical concern! They love that they have a “nature preserve” in the backyard—deer, birds and more! “It is a paradox to live in the middle of the city and have all of this nature surround us”, Ernest says!

They have two children, a son born while they lived in Park Lane and a daughter who was born on Ledgewood. The children both went to Xavier Lab School, then the North Avondale School and onto Walnut Hills. At this time, the North Avondale school was a neighborhood school and the children knew and played with children all across North Avondale. (Once the school became a magnet school it lessened these contacts.) They recall that there were many black and white children, as well as Catholic and Jews on the street, that all went to school together. Their son, who now teaches Black and Hispanic children in the Chicago area, feels that his experience at North Avondale School and in the neighborhood set the foundation for him to be successful with the diversity in his classroom today. Nelida says they had “a great childhood”, sometimes outside all day playing, only coming in for lunch.

Their careers kept them busy, but they still found time to

attend monthly NANA meetings. Today, Nelida remains active in the neighborhood book club.

Over the years they say North Avondale has become more upscale. It is not as integrated. They recall Jewish families, however, leading the campaign to avoid “white flight”. Today they say the neighborhood is still mixed, it just that the “categories” have changed. There are many more LGBTQIA+. It is wonderful that North Avondale continues to be welcoming to all.

Ernest was fortunate to pick up a great book at the Cincinnati Art Museum book sale, published by the Williams Co., titled “Ohioans of Today”. He says half the book is about Cleveland, where he is from and ½ about Cincinnati- North Avondale! I know, that I, for one, am looking forward to taking a look at this book soon!! (PS There is also a graduate thesis published by a graduate student at XU on The History of North Avondale. More information on this when I return to Cincinnati in April and can share details of the author.)

Now, for Bob and Mary Wells

Bob and Mary Wells, lived in Cleveland where Bob got a Ph.D. at Case Western. They moved to Fairfield in November of 1972 when Bob got a Job with P&G at Miami Valley Labs. Mary has a Masters in Special Education from Columbia and worked in Cleveland, and then subbed in Cincinnati. One day, while watching TV, Mary saw people in North Avondale discussing a project and they leaned very liberal. Mary liked and noticed this. Concurrently, a coworker of Bob’s lived on Beechwood Ave. and invited them to a party. They went “nuts” at the architecture, the spacing of the houses, and the trees!! (As a side note, this “friend”, lived at the current Xavier President’s house and he paid \$20,000 for the house a few years earlier!)



There were plenty of houses for sale when Bob and Mary decided North Avondale was for them. The riots had occurred in South Avondale and houses were very cheap. They loved North Avondale from the get go! Their house has style, large closets, nice yard and a big basement! Bob and Mary closed on their dream house at **4245 Rose Hill Avenue on July 6, 1973**. They paid \$35,000 for the house.

Over the years, Mary was very involved in North Avondale. She was the editor of NANA News, and was the Treasurer of the Clinton Hills Swim Club. In the 1980’s she was part of the “Sanctuary Movement” housing refugees from El Salvador at the Quaker House. She continues to be part of a neighborhood book club.

In the time Mary and Bob have been in North Avondale, they have noticed that the houses have become a lot more expensive and the people have become younger (HA)! When they moved in, they were surrounded by “medical” people. There were lots of psychiatrists then, but fewer today.

Bob notes that the streets of North Avondale used to be paved in wood blocks! He has several that he has collected as the streets have been renovated. He says the wood blocks date back to horse and buggy times. In fact, he can remember being told that in the early 1900’s Saturday nights meant carriages lined up on Beechwood Avenue with visitors and

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