



NANA NEWS

SUMMER 2002

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The North Avondale
Neighborhood Association
617 Clinton Springs Ave. (29)
(513) 221-6166
Email: clmorse@fuse.net
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President: Jim Obergefell
Coordinator: Charlene Morse
Editor: Charlene Morse

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last week, I learned a couple things. One, being President of NANA will pop up when I least expect it and two, drugs and drug dealers continually assault the health of our neighborhood and the quality of life of our neighbors.

A wonderful saleswoman was helping me at Banasch's in Norwood, and when I paid for my purchase, she asked for my zip code. After giving her the information, she asked where I lived in North Avondale. As it turns out, she also lives in North Avondale, and she asked if I was involved in NANA. I couldn't very well lie and say no, so I introduced myself as the President, and we had a short discussion about problems she sees in the neighborhood.

Why, she wondered, do I never see police at the sub-station in the President building at the corner of Burton and Reading? Is that facility used?

Why, she lamented, do I see the same crack dealers at that intersection when I leave for work in the morning and when I return from work in the evening?

What concerned me most was the sense of relief I saw in her face when she admitted that she's moving out of North Avondale. We're losing the very kind of neighbors we need - friendly, hard-working people who care. Yes, she has a great opportunity to move to a new home and I'm very happy for her, however, it's North Avondale's loss. How many more neighbors will we lose? How many other people will give up and move elsewhere because they're tired of seeing drugs on our streets every day?

I didn't have any answers for her, and that scares me. I don't have any answers even now, several days after talking with her. I'll ask these same questions at my next District 4 resource meeting and hope that the Cincinnati police can offer solutions. All I can think to do right now is ask you to help any way you can. Call the police when you see drug deals taking place. Organize a Block Watch program on your street (contact Office Jana Cruse at 352-3889 for help). Walk your neighborhood. Talk to your kids. Fight back against the criminals on our streets - this is our neighborhood and we have to help the police help us. If we don't care and put forth some effort, the criminals win, and we can't let that happen.

Jim

HELP WANTED
FRONT DESK WORKER
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
Call 242-1010 for more information

NORTH AVONDALE RECEIVES \$500 MERIT GRANT FROM INVEST IN NEIGHBORHOODS

At the June 13th Invest In Neighborhoods' Annual Meeting NANA was awarded \$500 to go towards **NANA's Litter Control Project**. This money will be added to the \$1,000 NANA pledged at its' April Meeting to buy supplies and hire workers to pick up litter.

WANTED: Part-time workers to pick up litter at \$7.50 an hour for a few hours a week. If interested call Charlene at the NANA office - 221-6166

SHOULD NORTH AVONDALE REMAIN IN THE COALITION OF NEIGHBORHOODS?

What is the Coalition of Neighborhoods?

The Coalition of Neighborhoods (Coalition or CN) is comprised of six neighborhoods: Bond Hill, Evanston, Kennedy Heights, Madisonville, North Avondale & Paddock Hills.. CN has as its mission to maintain, promote, and expand healthy, integrated neighborhoods. Their strategy, for 30 years, has been to develop the individual capacities of neighborhood residents so as to encourage and support their involvement with institutions, public and private, that impact on the racial and income composition in our neighborhoods which in turn helps eliminate hate crimes, discrimination, disparate treatment, bigotry and overall racial strife.

In what activities is CN involved?

- Schools and educational issues
- Assisting citizens on the Local School Decision Making Committees (LSDMC)
- Spearheading a community led effort to bring the successful Paideia Alternative Program to the Cincinnati Public School System (CPS).

(Continued on page 2)

NANA GENERAL MEETING

JULY 9TH, 7:30 p.m.

**NORTH AVONDALE
COMMUNITY CENTER**

617 Clinton Springs Ave.

AGENDA ITEMS

- COALITION OF NEIGHBORHOODS
(SEE ARTICLE ABOVE)



(Continued from page 1)

- Implementing a community policing strategy that promotes an integrated police force, and partnering with neighborhood leaders to insure safe and peaceful neighborhoods.
- In 1998, for the first time in Cincinnati's history, there is at least one black officer at every level of rank
- Coordinating Fighting Against Crack Trafficking (FACT)
- Member of Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) Community/Police Relations Round Table.
- Helps in HOME's Training to orientate police on how they should respond relative to Ohio's Ethnic Intimidation Law, and the Federal Hate Crimes Act.
- Helped Evanston receive the "Weed & Seed Strategy" of over \$1,000,000 for the next five years to fight crime
- Educating the public racial issues in the housing industry through meetings, television & radio programs and other media.
- Working with financial institutions and their efforts to invest and lend to neighborhood residents to facilitate fair and equal access to credit and capital, and financial services.
 - Citizens have been orientated in the use of the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA), ECOA, EEO, RESPA, and the Fair Housing Act
- Insuring that toxic waste, trash and other pollutants are not indiscriminately deposited in the working poor and integrated neighborhoods of Cincinnati.
- In 1990 and 1991, on behalf of the State of Ohio, the Coalition pre-qualified 193 potential homebuyers who were applying for the Pro-Integrative and the Minority Set-Aside loan funds which resulted desegregation of many Cincinnati neighborhoods.

What is North Avondale's responsibility to the Coalition?

NANA needs to reaffirm their commitment with the Coalition of Neighborhoods by:

1. Making sure NANA has **two representatives** to serve on the Coalition of Neighborhoods Board of Trustees (preferably one black and one white) which meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 5:30.
2. Develop a written contract of those items to work on with the CN staff and assign a person (preferably one of the North Avondale CN Board representatives) to work with CN staff on the contract items.

What can NANA neighbors do?

Come to the July 9th NANA General meeting in which the Coalition will attend (or call the NANA Office at 221-6166) to help make the decision - **SHOULD NORTH AVONDALE STAY IN THE COALITION?** If yes:

- Help develop the items to work on with the CN staff.
- Be one of the NANA representatives on the CN Board or help find them. NANA helped form the Coalition and has been involved for 30 years. **Unfortunately we have not been able to find consistent representatives for the last few years.**

WITHOUT TWO REPRESENTATIVES WE WILL BE FORCED TO RESIGN FROM THE COALITION

**NEW OHIO STANDARDS IN
LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATH
By Pauline Daly**

The Academic Content Standards in English/Language Arts and in Mathematics was sent to the school districts in December 2001 and adopted in June 2002. The grade-level indicators specifically state the knowledge and/or skills expected at each grade level. The standards are a rigorous progression across grades allowing the parent to easily know what knowledge/skills the child has already learned.

Parents, ask to see these standards - your school has them. Ask the teacher & child what is being taught and compare. If the answer is not satisfactory, keep asking - the principal, the superintendent, the school board. The state has mandated that all children receive this education. Every year of delay in implementing these standards, more children are lost to the cycle of problems resulting from lack of education.

'Language!', a literacy intervention curriculum which provides a good Language Arts education, will begin in Cincinnati in September. It includes the reading standards now required by the state. It is designed to be used with any kind of reading problem and for use from second grade through adulthood. It combines techniques used for many years in specialized tutoring and in private schools and the latest research findings. It trains the teacher to teach someone to read allowing individualized progress.

Burton School will be conducting a week of training beginning September 16. The teachers trained will work with Special Ed. students and other students with reading problems in grades 4 - 8. There is space for training other teachers. The cost is \$600 plus materials (\$275-350). Call Phillip Wyly, Burton Principal, at 872-7200 for more information. As I have used this method as a volunteer tutor you may call me at 751-8334 to learn more about the curriculum

The State of Ohio has done good work. We need to support it. We need to learn more and push to make it happen.

NANA NEIGHBORS

Maria Vishnevsky, (Clinton Springs) an Ohio Certified teacher is offering skills practice & homework help to elementary students in the area at \$20.00/hr. Call 281-6893 for more information.

Alexander Brackett (Red Bud) Cincinnati Marlins' swimmer, age 12, won first place in the Boys' 11-12 50 Meter Backstroke event with a time of 34.99 seconds at the May 17, 18, and 19. "Pepsi 2002 Pentath-Swim Challenge" Swim Meet which was held at the Cincinnati Marlins' Keating Natatorium. 386 swimmers from all over Ohio, Indiana and Cincinnati competed in this first of the summer Long Course season.

Talented North Avondale author, **Bella Briansky Kalter** (Lenox Lane), will read from her newly published novel, *Lillian and Athena* on Wednesday, July 17 at Noon at the Mercantile Library, 414 Walnut St., downtown. Free and open to the public. Refreshments served. For more information, call 621-0717.

I-75 NORTH/SOUTH TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE PRESENTED AT JUNE MEETING

The **North South Transportation Initiative**, a comprehensive study of transportation needs is currently under way for Interstate 75 from Piqua, Ohio to Covington, Ky. Debra DeCourcy spoke at the June 11 NANA meeting to offer some background and answer questions about the study. If you missed the meeting, the information below may be of interest to you.

Following are some little-known facts about I-75, which may give you a better idea of why the North South Transportation Initiative is being done:

- An average of 140,000 or more vehicles per day travel between I-275 and the Brent Spence Bridge in Cincinnati.
- I-75 is the oldest interstate in the region (opened in the late 1950s).
- I-75 is one of the busiest trucking routes in North America, moving an estimated \$24.5 billion in goods annually.

During the past year, the Initiative project team has been evaluating safety conditions, congestion, roadway and railway capacity, and the condition of the transportation infrastructure along I-75. Their goal is to determine the best alternatives to improve traffic flow in this dynamic and growing region.

Involved in this process are elected officials, representatives from transportation agencies, special interest groups. Input from the general public is through public meetings and community group presentations.

A three-tier screening process has been developed. The first & second-tier screening levels (Level 1 & 2) have been completed. Level 1 measured transportation effectiveness and financial feasibility. Level 2 involved a greater level of detail based on how each alternative affects the transportation system performance, economic development, community impacts, environmental impacts and costs.

Level 3 is currently being conducted and is based on the most detailed information available for each alternative. The result of this screening process will be a prioritized list of locally preferred transportation projects that will improve the transportation system within the region.

If you are interested in obtaining more information about the study, visit www.nsinitiative.com, or contact: OKI • 801-B W. Eighth Street, Suite 400 • Cinti., OH 45203 • (513) 621-6300

Coming This Fall...**SKYVIEW CONDOMINIUMS**

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For more information, call Larry Hall at **242-5245**



CITY GETS TOUGH ON LITTER & WEEDS

By Gerry Kraus.

On June 19, 2002 City Council passed ordinances that make it tougher for negligent property owners to ignore litter, junk cars* and high weeds on their property. Spearheaded by Council Members Pat DeWine and David Pepper these new ordinances “eliminate cumbersome warning requirements, mandate quicker clean up by property owners and allow City litter patrol officers to inspect more properties.” This initiative is based on the premise that litter, junk cars and noxious weeds on private property lessen the value of adjacent properties, lead to urban blight, encourage other more serious crimes and can be a threat to public health. The new rules are

1. No warning is required before a citation of violation for litter/weeds violations and a fine is issued to the property owner . *(Formerly a warning with 15 days to clean up was required before a citation of violation could be issued.)*
2. If violations are corrected in 7 days, the fine is reduced by 50%. If the violations are not corrected in 7 days the fine is increased. And after 7 days the City can have the litter/weeds removed and charge the property owner for the work. If the bill is not paid, the city’s cost becomes a lien against the property and is added to the Real Estate tax bills.
3. Fines for litter violations start at \$100 and are increased to \$500 after 7 days. Fines for weed violations start at \$200 and increase to \$500. The thinking is that weeds are not just thrown on one’s property but grow over a period of time and are clearly the property owner’s responsibility.
4. In addition to litter patrol officers, police or other city agents can issue citations for violations.

Handbills on utility poles are already a violation and citizens are encouraged to remove any such signs. Just tear them off the poles.

With these new rules in place litter, junk car and weed violations can be quickly corrected minimizing the adverse effect these blights will have on the quality of life in our neighborhoods. In order for the process to work most efficiently citizens must call in and report possible litter, junk car or weed violations. **The number to call is 591-6000.** Also report suspected violations to the NANA office (221-6166) so NANA Coordinator Charlene Morse can follow up on citizen complaints at the bi-monthly CNAS meetings.

*Mr. DeWine stated that under the new rules abandoned and junk cars would be considered “litter”.

ROSE HILL AREA BLOCK CLUB will meet Wednesday, July 24 at 7:30 p.m.. Sandy & Ed Kohn will host this second meeting at their home on 4105 Rose Hill. Group Leaders for this meeting are Sandy Kohn, David Harsh, Vanessa Wayne, and Jim Obergefell.

The meeting is approximately 1-1/2 hrs broken into four parts.

1. Introduction of planning process
2. Breakout groups (4 groups with Group Leaders)
3. Presentation of each group's recommendations by the Group Leader
4. Discussion and refining of plans

PROPOSED U. C. POWER PLANT
By Michael Rieck

NANA first learned of the proposal to add a new power plant at the University of Cincinnati (UC) on Friday, June 7th "through the grapevine", even though the Citizen Advisory of public meeting was issued on May 24. This allowed only 7 days until the end of the public comment period, an inadequate timeframe for citizens impacted by this proposed

facility to prepare a response.

At NANA's General Meeting on June 11, NANA unanimously voted to object to the Ohio EPA's permitting the U C to install and operate a proposed new power plant in central Cincinnati.

We object for many reasons, but the primary point is that UC rejected five levels of Best Available Control Technologies (BACT) before settling on their proposal. They argue that the other more efficient, but rejected, alternatives were too costly. This is based upon UC's calculation of cost-effectiveness, however, our advisors tell us these other technologies are in place and effective in other locations in the country. Since BACT usage is the law and has been shown to be cost-effective, it is inconceivable to us that we should be subjected to additional pollution for what seems only minimal savings.

North Avondale is only one of several communities lying downwind from the proposed facility. Our county is already in non-attainment status for ozone.. Consider the irony that Children's Hospital, whose admissions are the highest for acute asthma and chronic bronchitis cases, is less than one mile downwind from the proposed site. A further irony is the location of a US EPA center directly across the street from this proposed facility.

As a leading-edge teaching and research institution, with added controls, the plant could be a showplace nationally and a source of pride for its residents. The alternative is to rue a bad decision no more than a few years down the road.

NANA CALENDAR

- Tuesday, July 9, 7:30 p.m. **NANA GENERAL MEETING**, 617 Clinton Springs
- Saturday, July 13, 9:00 a.m. to Noon **Surry Square**, Btw. Huber Lumber & Thriftway **RECYCLING: Mixed Paper**
- Monday, July 22, 7:30 p.m. **Pre-planning Block watch meeting for group leaders** 718 Betula
- Wednesday, July 24, 7:30 p.m. **Rose Hill Area Block Watch Meeting** 4105 Rose Hill
- Saturday, July 27, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. **Xavier Ignatian Service Day** Xavier Alumni & North Avondale Neighbors work together in NANA adopted Flower Beds - call NANA Office for more information
- Saturday, August 3, 9:00 a.m. to Noon **Surry Square**, Btw. Huber Lumber & Thriftway **RECYCLING: Mixed Paper**
- **NO AUGUST NANA GENERAL MEETING**
- Saturday, September 14, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **NORTH AVONDALE RECYCLING: MIXED PAPER**



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

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751-4546	Beautification: Ursula Hassel	961-4717	President: Jim Obergefell
861-3939	City Liaison: Gerry Kraus	281-2596	1 st VP: John Jones
961-6563	Environmental: Mike Rieck	751-2446	2 nd VP: Eva Roberson
751-8334	Landlord/Tenant Relations: Pauline Daly	961-8850	3 rd VP: Michael Walton
861-3939	Legal Chairperson: Marvin Kraus	961-5275	Corresponding Sec: Barbara Henshaw
751-5897	Sustaining Cincinnati: Teresa Harten	221-4039	Recording Secretary: Marilyn Smith
281-1107	Welcome: Judith Titchener	281-5076	Treasurer: Christopher Smitheman
248-4688	XU Liaison: John Delaney	221-6166	NANA Coordinator & NANA News Editor: Charlene Morse

NANA EXECUTIVE BOARD & COMMITTEE CHAIRS