



Quarterly Newsletter of the Clifton Town Meeting
SUMMER 2022 • VOLUME 31 • NUMBER 2



Clifton: An American Garden Community



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Clifton Town Meeting
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Clifton Town Meeting - Your Community Council

Established in 1961, CTM is Clifton's official community council recognized by the City of Cincinnati. Our object is to preserve and develop the community, recognizing that Clifton is one of Cincinnati's first suburbs, possessing traditional charm and a unique creative character. CTM advocates on behalf of residents and businesses, giving a platform for ideas, concerns and opinions.

President's Message

Clifton Town Meeting (CTM), Clifton Business Association and Clifton Community Fund continue their good work for everyone's benefit! As your neighborhood community council, CTM has obtained a Neighborhood Support Program (NSP) grant to support Chronicle publication, to sponsor a CCAC Carpool Cinema drive-in movie at the Clifton Recreation Center, and to install security cameras in our business district. These three projects were scheduled for completion in May and will enhance our shared quality of life. The CTM Membership Committee created a "Welcome to Clifton" brochure that CTM members and Clifton businesses have received. The brochure lists 140 businesses and services, a true reckoning of amazing abundance. Printing and distribution were underwritten by Uptown Consortium and Clifton Business Association.

A passionate group of volunteers has worked to resurrect our annual Memorial Day Parade and Picnic, which will be held on May 30 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Mt. Storm Park. You can join in this celebration that includes a pet parade and costume contest (organized by PUPP/Pop Up Puppy Party), bike and stroller decorations, sidewalk chalk art by Kathleen Streitenberger (sponsored by Brown Checco Fine Arts), live music by the Comet Blue Grass All-Stars (anonymous sponsor) and, of course, food!

Clifton Plaza becomes our outdoor summer entertainment center again with the Clifton Plaza Music Series, sponsored by Clifton Business Association (CBA) every Friday evening from June through September. The Clifton Cultural Arts Center (CCAC) presents "Rhythm on the Plaza" on Tuesday evenings June through mid-August. PUPP is back with monthly gatherings for all dog-loving neighbors on fourth Mondays from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., May 23 to Oct. 24. And many other performances are scheduled, including improv and school-based music.

Regular meetings of the Transportation Committee address safety issues and members tirelessly advocate for changes that improve pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular safety. Current focus: the complex Clifton/McAlpin intersection, a road diet on Ludlow Avenue and improved crossing at Clifton Hills Avenue, and connection of the bike lanes between Central Parkway and Clifton Avenue. The Housing and Zoning Committee is working with proposed zoning changes and discussing a Duke Energy rider. The Community Plan Committee has been delayed by changes in city staff, but we expect a restart soon.

Please join in our monthly CTM board meetings, held the first Mondays at 7 p.m. The link to our Zoom call can be found at www.cliftoncommunity.org. Become a member of CTM and participate in our many activities that ensure Clifton's good quality of life. Reach us at contactctm@cliftoncommunity.org

— Gérald Checco (President)

2022 CTM Board of Trustees

Executive Committee

Gérald Checco (President)
Nestor Melnyk (Vice President 1)
Jan Brown Checco (Vice President 2)
Tim Maxey (Treasurer)
Michael Roller (Secretary)

Trustees

Brendon Cull, Molly Gray, Robert Hamberg, Mary Pat Lienhart, Nagma Malik, Jayme Ritter, Genet Singh, Zeeshan Tayeb, Rachel Wells, Monica Windholtz

Keep in Touch with CTM!

For announcements and links to virtual meetings, visit our website at <http://www.cliftoncommunity.org>. When you move, please send an update to your mailing address to ctm.chronicle@gmail.com. And also let us know if you'd prefer to receive your Chronicle as an e-newsletter.

CTM Committees, Chairs & Liaisons 2022

Executive—President Gérald Checco
Arts & Culture—Joyce Rich, Mary Pat Lienhart
Caretaking & Beautification—Jayme Ritter
Chronicle—Jan Brown Checco
Clifton Community LLC—Gérald Checco, Tim Maxey
Communications —Monica Windholtz, Rachel Wells
Events—Molly Gray
Finance—Treasurer Tim Maxey
Governance—Mary Pat Lienhart
Housing & Zoning—Nestor Melnyk, Jayme Ritter
Membership—Robert Hamberg
Nominating—Gérald Checco
Parks—Robert Hamberg, Mary Pat Lienhart
Transportation/Public Safety—Brendon Cull, Mary Pat Lienhart

CTM Ad Hoc Committees

Community Plan—Nestor Melnyk, Jayme Ritter
Nutrition & Fitness —Zeeshan Tayeb
Golf Outing—John Whedon

CTM Liaison Roles

Uptown Consortium—Gérald Checco
Invest In Neighborhoods—Gérald Checco
TriHealth/UC Health—Zeeshan Tayeb
Clifton Community Fund—Tim Maxey
Clifton Business Association—Gérald Checco, Jan Brown Checco, Genet Singh
Neighborhoods of Uptown—Malcolm Montgomery

To inquire about volunteering for CTM committee work, please email contactctm@cliftoncommunity.org

The Clifton Chronicle

Quarterly Newsletter of Clifton Town Meeting
P.O. Box 20042, 45220-0042
The Chronicle is CTM's free-to-the-public newsletter, delivered to over 6000 readers on 3/1, 5/25, 9/1 and 12/1. To subscribe for a printed paper or to request your Chronicle by email only, please provide your postal mailing, email address(es) and full name(s) to ctm.chronicle@gmail.com. The Chronicle is supported our advertisers and by the City of Cincinnati's Neighborhood Support Program and Neighborhood Activation Funds.

Clifton Chronicle is available online! This code and the address below will take you to the newsletter and to our archives on our website.



<https://www.cliftoncommunity.org/clifton-town-meeting/clifton-chronicle/>

Clifton Chronicle Committee

Jan Brown Checco, Chair 2022—Josie Angel, Marianne Brunner, Gerald Checco, Bob Driehaus, Barb Wriston Ruddy, Rachel Wells, John Whedon, with advice from the CTM Executive Committee

Be A Chronicle Content Creator!

We invite our readers' participation for content creation. Our next deadline is July 24 for the Fall Issue that covers activities from September 1 to December 2022. Send all images (300 dpi jpg) and stories (400 words max in Word) to ctm.chronicle@gmail.com

Make Your Voice Heard - Become a Member of Clifton Town Meeting! Here's how:

Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) is your community council, advocating on behalf of the Clifton community. We sponsor many activities and festivals throughout the year, but to continue this important community work, we need YOUR INPUT. Membership is open to all neighborhood residents, property owners and businesses, age 18 or older. **Membership dues cover 12 months, are our second largest means of support, and are tax deductible.** CTM also accepts donations, so please consider this as you sign-up or renew at <http://www.cliftoncommunity.org/membership/>

Sign up online or clip this form and send it along with a check or money order payable to:
Clifton Town Meeting, P.O. Box 20042, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220-0042.

Name(s) _____ Address _____
Phone(s) _____ Email(s) _____
Committees and Activities that interest you: _____

Membership Categories:

___ Single (1 vote).....\$20 ___ Senior citizen, 65+ (1 vote).....\$10
___ Household (2 votes).....\$20 ___ Senior household, 65+ (2 votes).....\$14
___ Full-time college student (1 vote) \$10 ___ Life membership (2 votes).....\$180
___ Business (1 vote).....\$40 ___ Donation of \$ _____

Thanks for writing legibly!

Rachel Wells, Our Newest CTM Trustee

Appointed to fill a vacancy in March, Rachel Wells is Clifton Town Meeting's newest trustee and a regular contributor to this newsletter. "Writing has always been a way for me to meet new people and learn more about my community, so I'm grateful to have the opportunity to do just that," Rachel said. In addition to writing articles, Rachel reviews others' submissions to the Chronicle and suggests style changes to align with the Associated Press Stylebook. She also serves on CTM's membership and communication committees. Rachel moved to Clifton in 2014 at the end of her (first) career as a newspaper reporter covering local government in central Illinois. She has since worked in communications, public engagement and grant writing roles, and is currently a project manager for a national education nonprofit based in Cincinnati. Rachel is a member of the Burnet Woods Parks Advisory Council and follows the Corryville Community Council.

Living in a multifamily building — The Parkside, a 125-year-old multifamily building on Jefferson Avenue that's listed on the National Register of Historic Places — she says, "I rely heavily on Clifton's greenspace, especially Burnet Woods, and the access we have to public transit. To me, the ability to walk both through a dense canopy of trees and to a variety of arts and entertainment, dining, retail and educational establishments is a rare mix, but Clifton has it all," she said. Rachel hails from central Illinois and travels regularly to see family across the country. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, bicycling, sewing and going to the movies.

Congratulations are in Order!

These Clifton neighbors have been recognized recently for their service to our community:



David Mann — for Lifetime Achievement from Invest in Neighborhoods Summit for his remarkable service to Cincinnati (with IIN CEO Elizabeth Bartley)



Leslie Mooney/Clifton Cultural Arts Center — The Spirit of America Award from the Cincinnati Association



Kate Bonansinga/UC DAAP Dean of Fine Arts — with Christian Huelsman and Jenny Ustick from Keep Cincinnati Beautiful for murals in city stairways



Gerald and Jan Checco — The Director's Award from Keep Cincinnati Beautiful (with KCB CEO Jonathan Adee), and also the Leadership in Crisis Award from Invest in Neighborhoods (with Tim Jeckering and friend)



Know someone that deserves the congratulations of our neighborhood? Send a photo with caption to Clifton Chronicle at ctm_chronicle@gmail.com



Parade and Picnic • Monday, May 30

Our Event Schedule

10:30 am - Congregate at McAlpin and Middleton to participate in the Parade!

Decorated bikes, pets and humans are essential for maximum fun along the way!

11:00 am - The Parade - accompanied by the UC Alumni Band - walks north on Middleton from McAlpin, turns left on Lafayette, heading to Mt. Storm Park...

12:00 noon - Community Picnic at Mt. Storm Park, burgers and dogs available for lunch with drinks and Dojo Gelato. Including Pet Parade Costume Awards and Live Music by the Comet Bluegrass All Stars! *(To note: In case of rain, we'll picnic in the CRC gym!)*

Produced by Clifton Town Meeting in partnership with Clifton Community Fund, the Cincinnati Parks Foundation and Mt. Storm Advisory Council. Join Us!

Enhanced Business District Safety

For the past four years, Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) and Clifton Business Association (CBA) have discussed concerns about safety in our business district. While it's relatively safe, some incidents have raised our awareness for the need of precaution. To that end, CTM and CBA jointly developed a Safety Master Plan with advice from Police District 5, a plan that includes security cameras along Ludlow Avenue. This spring, two sets of cameras were installed — at the Telford benches and at the Clifton Plaza — as an important

first step. These cameras will capture 3-months of activity and files can be reviewed when something illegal

happens in the heart of our village, allowing for identification of perpetrators. Funding for the cameras came from a Neighborhood Support Program grant from the City and from a private contributor.



Clifton History in Our Sidewalks, Part II



Six bronze plaques were imbedded in the sidewalks of the Ludlow Avenue business district in 2010 as part of a larger Ludlow Avenue revitalization project, which also included establishment of the seating area at Ludlow and Telford. The plaques were designed and fabricated by the Andrews/LeFevre Studios in New York City, guided by input from our community. The plaques commemorate the history, buildings and businesses of Clifton.

The Clifton residents who worked with the city on this project included Jinny Berten, Kip Eagen, Phil Herrick, and Steve Schuckman with the support of ArtWorks. The intention was to create visually striking works of art called "Art Carpets." The content is whimsical in nature with visual puns and "insider" references to local history. These public art works are unique to Clifton within Cincinnati.

The largest plaque sits in front of Clifton Plaza. Look carefully and the images are self-explanatory, celebrating some of Clifton's exceptional architecture, like the allegedly haunted house on Cornell Avenue. A favorite true story is remembered, of the cow that escaped a Camp Washington slaughterhouse and evaded capture in Mt. Storm Park for 12 days.

Some of the Art Carpets are related to nearby buildings (one at the Esquire Theatre, one in front of Graeter's Ice Cream). Let me know which plaque you'd next like to know about at cliftonccf@gmail.com.

— by Margaret Reich, with help by Kip Eagen

Cincinnati Shakespeare Company's *Twelfth Night* in Mt. Storm Park, August 17 at 7:00 pm

This popular event is brought to you by the Mt. Storm Advisory Council and the Cincinnati Parks Foundation — and is absolutely FREE! Bring the whole family! Arrive early, set up your blankets and coolers, then sit back among friends to enjoy this heartwarming comedy while the sun sets behind you.



Clifton Hosts Cincy VegFest

The Cincy VegFest is back at Burnet Woods Bandstand on Saturday, June 4, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. A day of inspiration through food, music and yoga, unfolding a path to a more peaceful world through compassionate plant-sourced vegan living. VegFest has something for everyone!



Environmentalists: For the earth lover in you, enjoy cutting-edge eco-living-veganic-permaculture talks, including inspiring presenters and conversations to understand and make connections between our economy, climate change, pollution, and poverty in the world and what we are able to do about it.

Foodies: For the vegan in you, come enjoy delicious world-class vegan food while dining with well-known vegan authors, speakers, and friends and learn about cooking, nutrition, gardening, music, lifestyle and more.

Animal Lovers: For the animal in you, come enjoy conversations with other like-minded and kindred souls. Learn with inspired teachers about the connection between fellow animals and the environment, world peace, compassionate living, sacred activism, and more.

Yogis: For the guru in you, get activated on and



off the mat through the teachings of ahimsa and nonviolence and practices in mindfulness, meditation, and living authentically.

Kids: For kids and kids-at-heart, experience fun-filled and meaningful compassionate activities and games.

FREE Event! All are welcome. For more information, www.cincyvegfest.com

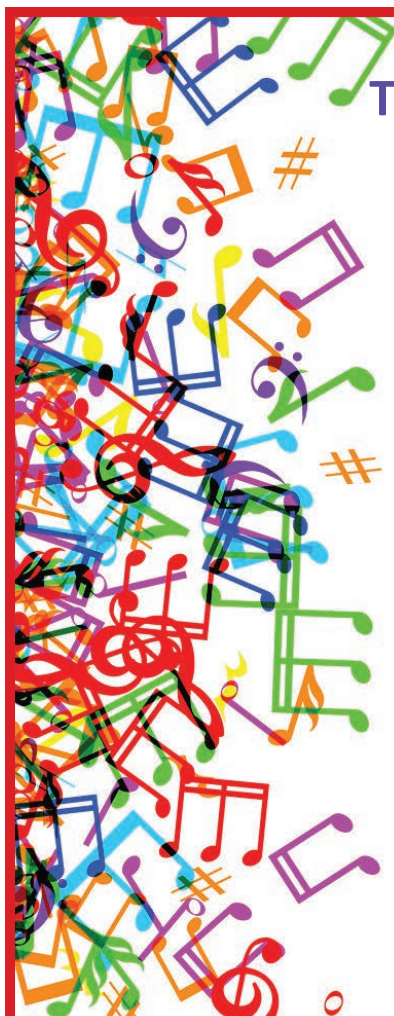
Free Community Yoga Classes at Burnet Woods



Offered on weekends by World Peace Yoga, located at the Bandstand, thanks to support from Cincinnati Parks Foundation's Stewards of Burnet Woods.

Schedule: Saturdays, 10:00-10:45 a.m. Free Community Yoga (medium intensity, all levels)
Saturdays, 11:00-11:45 a.m. Free Community Yoga (low intensity, all levels)

Sundays, 11:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. Free Community Sadhana Service (meditation, breath-work, and philosophy)



The Clifton Plaza Summer Music Series

Join us at Clifton Plaza on Fridays 7 – 10 pm from June through September for evenings of music and community that will uplift your weekend! Clifton Plaza is located at 329 Ludlow Avenue, 45220.

Sponsored by Clifton Business Association

June 3	We Are The Walrus	Beatles Music Jazz Quintet
June 10	Tracy Walker	Singer Songwriter
June 17	Faux Frenchmen	Gypsy Jazz
June 24	Zumba Band	Latin Music
June 31	Jess Lamb and The Factory	Singer Songwriter
July 8	Wild Carrot	Acoustic Americana
July 15	Maria Keck	Ambient folk-pop vibes
July 22	Matt Tolentino Trio	Acoustic Big Band
July 29	Mohenjo Daro	Indian and Middle Eastern
August 5	Eric Wurzelbacher	Jazz
August 12	Beasts of Joy	Acoustic Rock and Jazz
August 19	Highly Likely	Campfire jams and island vibes
August 26	El Ritmo De Mañana	Latin Jazz
September 2	Jenna Reel & Patrick Oakes	Jazz and Pop covers
September 9	WonkyTonk	The Genre of Love / Alt-Folk/Americana
September 16	Mill Creek Drifters	Roots Music
September 23	TBA	
September 30	TBA	

CLIFTON GOLF OUTING 2022



Saturday, August 27, 2 p.m.
at Avon Fields Golf Course
 Registration for the event
 can be made on the
Clifton Town Meeting
website beginning in June at
www.cliftoncommunity.org
 If you would like to volunteer
 and help grow sponsorship for
 this event, please contact
 John Whedon at
thewhedons@gmail.com

Clifton Golf Outing is a Clifton Town Meeting event.

More About Clifton Golf

Chronicle contributor Lucy Whedon chats with Lady Bearcats' No.1 player, senior Katie Hallinan, a Walnut Hills High School alumna.



Lady Bearcat Katie Hallinan with reporter Lucy Whedon

Lucy: The UC Women's Golf Team (aka the Lady Bearcats) has helped Clifton Golf Outing raise over \$75,000 for Clifton beneficiaries like Burnet Woods,

Good Sam Cancer Center and CANS Elementary School. Do you do other volunteer work as well?

Katie: Yes, as student athletes, we are required to complete many community service hours. We read to kids at Cincinnati schools, many of us support First Tee, a golf organization that teaches golf and values to kids, and we volunteer at local hospitals. We have also written letters to veterans and to men and women serving in the military.

Describe how you volunteered at the 2021 Clifton Golf Outing. *As foursomes came to hole number four, they made a donation to have a Lady Bearcat tee off for them.*

More and more girls and women are playing golf. What is it about golf that you are drawn to? *Golf is a sport that can be enjoyed for a lifetime. It has allowed me to participate at the collegiate level and enjoy a "golf family" with the UC women's team. Golf has always given back to me.*

What are you studying at UC and what do you plan to do once you graduate? *I'm a Bio Medical Sciences major and plan to get a Masters in Public Health. I hope to eventually go to Med School.*

What is your favorite place to go in Clifton? *I love Nippert stadium where, on a sunny day, you can just sit and read. The football games are fun, too. It's such a great place.*

What is your favorite thing about Clifton? *I love all the small shops and unique businesses that you'd never find in the suburbs. Clifton is a great place!*

Thanks for Your Help, March 26 Planting Crew!



Did you miss the early Spring action? Mark your calendar for May 21, 9 a.m. and the planting of the Ludlow flower pots with summer flowers. Bring along your gloves and hand trowels. Or join other volunteer teams for graffiti removal, storm drain raking and litter picking. It's a chance to meet your neighbors and also to make our gaslight village shine!



Photos: Alice and Wilson Palmer; Kam and Leah Mogadam; Shelby and Ann from Parks and Jan Checco; Mark, Gerald, Nestor, Jayme and Chris, and Sophie and Mike Pieper, and helpful city crew member

A Four-way Stop is better than a Two!

The long-awaited solar halo stop signs arrived for Spring at the intersection of Middleton and Resor avenues. Zebra striping soon to follow, it has taken a while for motorists to really see and stop on Middleton. But with the help of colorful pennants, traffic is successfully being calmed, and pedestrians are safer. Thanks to the City for the new signs, and to the Clifton residents who donated to the fundraiser that made the solar powered lights possible!



Music - Six Days a Week!

This summer, Clifton Cultural Arts Center will host 66 music performances that are FREE to everyone! Inspired by the popularity of our annual summer concerts at Burnet Woods Bandstand, we've expanded our free outdoor summer performances to cover six days a week. "Uptown Arts Alive" concerts are not just for Clifton – all five Uptown neighborhoods are represented," says Lex Nycole, project coordinator for the new series. From June 1 through Aug. 16, Wednesdays in the Woods will be complemented by five new weekly performance series. Every Uptown neighborhood is covered, as well as every age and artistic taste. Tuesdays are for "Rhythm on the Plaza" at Clifton Plaza on Ludlow Avenue, featuring salsa, mambo and more. Wednesdays are still for "Wednesdays in the Woods" at Burnet Woods Bandstand. On Thursdays, CUF plays host to "Happy Hour @ U-Square" on Calhoun Street, with DJs and bands to help you dance away the weeknight blues. On Fridays at lunch hour, the CCAC hosts pianists and live buskers for "Live at Lunch @ Short Vine" near the site of their temporary headquarters at the corner of West Daniels and Short Vine. Then, start the weekend off right with some smooth sounds on Saturdays at "Jazz Brunch" in Mt. Auburn's Inwood Park. Wrap up the weekend with the whole family for theater and dance performances by some of the city's best talent for "Sunday Showtime" at Hirsch Recreation Complex at Reading Road and Gholson Avenue in Avondale.

"Our hope is that people will go to the performances in other neighborhoods besides their own interacting with people they wouldn't otherwise meet," said Nycole. "At the end of the day, our goal is always to bring people together through the shared experience of art."

For information about the Uptown Arts Alive's artist lineups, visit cliftonculturalarts.org.

Lessons from the Pandemic

— by Kate Schroder



I was thrilled to join Interact for Health last January as President and CEO. The private nonprofit foundation works to improve health outcomes and health equity for people right here in Cincinnati and 20 surrounding counties in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. Our region is home to many leading health care

systems, but some people in our community still do not have the same opportunities as others to be healthy. Some live far from stores selling healthy food, or live in housing that's crumbling, moldy, or unsafe, or have no easy way to visit a health care provider's office. These challenges persist particularly for people of color, for those with lower incomes and those who live in rural areas. But successful community collaboration shown during the COVID-19 pandemic offers hope that — together — we can tackle these issues. Demand for COVID-19 testing rose quickly around the holidays when the omicron variant surged, but many testing sites were located at unfamiliar places or difficult to get to for residents of African American neighborhoods. Government funding covered only a portion of the costs to run testing sites. Interact for Health worked quickly with the Cincinnati Health Department and Closing the Health Gap to support testing sites in Avondale, Mount Airy, Paddock Hills, Roselawn and Walnut Hills so that all people in our community could be protected against the coronavirus. The 2021 Regional Community Health Needs Assessment provides a roadmap for progress. More than 10,000 individuals and organizations participated in the survey, which identified cardiovascular, behavioral and maternal health as some of the most pressing health needs in the Greater Cincinnati and Dayton regions. The assessment also identified needs for investment in workforce pipeline, diversity and health-related social needs, such as housing and food. Growing up, my grandma used to remind me of the words of Mr. Rogers: "Be one of the helpers." I'm excited to join my Interact for Health colleagues and community partners to help our region build back stronger after the pandemic, making a healthier community where every person — regardless of race, ethnicity, or economic status — can thrive.

Kate Schroder, President and CEO of Interact for Health, lives in Clifton with her husband John Juech and their two children.



City Hall Corner - Clifton

— by Council Member Mark Jeffreys



As a city councilmember residing in Clifton, I'm happy to share some information about my areas of focus in City Hall, especially those that impact our community. We are attending to things that I heard repeatedly on the campaign trail — the need to make our streets safer, cleaner, and more inviting. We recently saw a car flip over on Clifton Avenue and are reminded daily of the need to make our streets safer for everyone. In March, I held a Safer Streets Now forum in Avondale, inviting local and national experts to address this issue. We identified several solutions, including curb extensions that would be superior to (and 10 times cheaper than) presently applied solutions. The administration is now exploring how to roll these out. We also met with Clifton stakeholders to discuss concerns, implementation of speed humps at Warren and Clifton avenues and the need for more crossing guards at our schools. As a down payment on solutions, and in partnership with the mayor, I proposed (and City Council passed) the allocation of \$1 million for pedestrian safety initiatives across the city. Our police play a vital role in safety, so I've asked the administration to report on the status of District 5's permanent relocation plans. This issue has been ongoing, and as a council, we need to push for resolution with one important criteria being response time within all neighborhoods served. I also submitted a motion asking the administration to report on how we can partner with the Ohio State Highway Patrol to free up police department resources as we address Cincinnati's most pressing public safety needs. To combat littering — a stain on our beautiful city — I am working with the administration and my colleagues to rectify illegal dumping and littering. I enjoy participating in clean-ups in Clifton and other neighborhoods, but we also need more systemic solutions. My ultimate focus is to build a Cincinnati of opportunity, where all residents live in safe, vibrant neighborhoods. It's the early days for most of us on city council, and I believe we're making progress. I appreciate the opportunity to hear from residents, and to serve the people of Cincinnati. I invite you to reach out to me any time with ideas, issues and concerns. Mark.Jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov.



It's Going to be a CCAC Summer

www.cliftonculturalarts.org



If you visit Clifton Cultural Arts Center's website right now, you'll discover a brand-new logo and an overall redesign to match — a blast of color and activity! The logo looks like bright, concentric circles, but look closer: the letters c-c-a-c are

revealed, written out in a bullseye pattern. This suggests the central cultural hub that CCAC strives to be for our community. The curved lines create movement, circling and rippling out, and the vivid variety of colors suggests a lively organization with plenty to offer.

"When Clifton Cultural Arts Center first started, the look and feel of things took inspiration from our former home, with classical style and colors to match the historic Clifton School building," says John Leo Muething, CCAC's new Marketing and Development Manager. "Now, with more than a dozen years of programming under our belts, tens of thousands of people from every background attend our programs annually. With a new home on the horizon, we've designed something that represents what CCAC has become today."

It's just the tip of the iceberg of so many new things happening at CCAC! "In the end of April, we closed on the Clifton Avenue land that is destined for our new home, and CCAC officially now owns that property," Muething said. The location is 3412 Clifton Avenue, a vacant area between Skyline Chili's parking lot and Clifton United Methodist Church. Clifton Cultural Arts Center will construct the first purpose-built community arts center in all of Cincinnati. But, before the fencing goes up and the construction crews arrive, CCAC has plans for a "Kickoff Celebration" and everyone is invited. Muething said to expect the typical speeches for a groundbreaking but also promises performances and activities to keep things lively.

"We often say it's 'CCAC's new home,' but really, we're building a new home for everyone. We want to make sure that everyone feels welcome here, right from the start," Muething said. The celebration is slated for the end of May. Watch for details to be released very soon!



Family Workshop: Whimsical Bamboo Creations with Deb Brod, Sat. June 4, 10 a.m. - noon



Leave your mark on this new Clifton icon. Gifts of \$1,500 or more will be memorialized on a permanent donor wall and can be paid over multiple years.

Visit ccacnext.org to learn more.



A Treasury of Millstones

— by Geoff Gelke



Dr. Thurman Henderson



Halfway down the northern curve of Clifton Avenue resides Dr. Thurman Henderson in “Shady Side,” a splendid Italianate mansion built in 1851 by Joseph Clarkson Ringwalt, successful Cincinnati merchant. The hilltop residence is embraced by woodland that, in the 19th century, included a “pretty lakelet” formed by damming the ravine behind the home. Replete with select trees and foliage, the property enjoyed raves in Sydney Maxwell’s 1870 publication *Suburbs of Cincinnati*. One can imagine the Ringwalts’ pleasure, swimming for over fifty-five years within their private fairyland forest! Today, Dr. Henderson – a renowned physicist, inventor, engineer and scientist – continues to enjoy vestiges of his property’s past grandeur. He was delighted to recently understand details that formerly eluded comprehension – dozens of 24 to 40 inch-wide round and flat stones, all hiding in plain sight throughout the grounds. Eighteenth century millstones!

These probably came from the 1791 Irwin Mill – a grist mill built along the Mill Creek at the bottom of Clifton Avenue (called Irwin Mill Road until 1848.) The stones are classified as “edge-roller” type, engineered to roll on their wide edge surfaces around a large flat stone. Connected to a center drive shaft, the wheels rolled in circles, crushing grain spread beneath them. The grooves on the edges facilitated the movement of ground grain out to a deep circular pan where the flour was collected and bagged. More than one millstone could be driven by the center shaft, powered by gigantic overhead wooden gears, which were rotated by a waterwheel turning in the creek water’s flow. In periods of drought, the hydraulic flow was assured by a nearby “mill pond” via water channeled downhill in a “race run” (wooden trough). Such simple grist mills were typical in wilderness times when most millstones in America came from France or England, perhaps accompanied by the huge wooden gearing which allowed frontier mills to be constructed quickly. Much to the disappointment of William Irwin, his mill was eclipsed by the 1830s when the Miami & Erie Canal came through the valley. Among the ruins would have been piles of used millstones, just waiting to be discovered by Mr. Ringwalt and recognized for their potential as pavers. Scores of them were set in place throughout his estate as stepping stones down into the ravine through the woods on the way to the pond. The millstones now protrude irregularly from the ground, shifted by 150 years of erosion. Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Henderson, visitors to Clifton can now view and touch some of these millstones and imagine them at work in 1791, grinding flour to bake the bread of Clifton’s first farmers. Could these be our community’s oldest relics? For more information email ggeike6@gmail.com

Romancing the Millstones

Cliftonites are well known for their “love affair” with neighborhood history and culture. On Sunday, April 10, 2022, a group of 20 volunteers from our neighborhood and from the Mill Creek Alliance, performed the herculean task of rescuing centuries-old millstones from a 60-foot deep ravine off Clifton Avenue. The millstones weighed between 300 and 700 pounds each, with the heaviest ones being furthest and deepest away from the flatbed transporter!

It was a great opportunity for basic human ingenuity and employment of techniques used to build the pyramids. Ropes, straps, sleds, levers and strong backs were the tools, followed by a trailer and a hitch. The millstones are now on display at the Clifton Plaza with

an interpretive sign describing the importance of these oldest European-made artifacts in our neighborhood.

Many thanks to Dr. Thurman Henderson for sharing his treasures, to Geoff Gelke for discovering them and their significance, to John Osterman for assembling the moving crew that included Chris Carr, Mike Elovitz, Chad Falkin, Larry Falkin, Betsy Jones, Robert Hamberg, Jeremy Hicks, Bruce Koehler, Mike Miller, Malcolm Montgomery, Garrett Parsons, Robert Rack, Joe Sarvo, and Chip Skidmore. We are equally grateful to CAZA Sikes for providing their professional artifact appraisal services that allowed Dr. Henderson to correctly document his millstones.

— by Gerald Checco

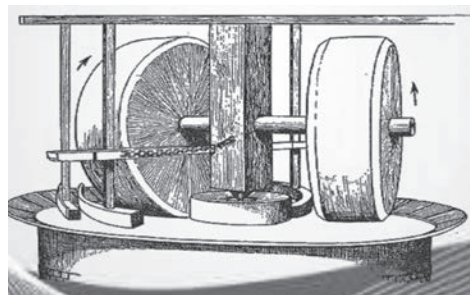
Early American Grist Mills



Mills of early America were only one or two stories high and contained simple milling machinery consisting of a water wheel, gears and millstones. Millstones turned on lower floors or on a platform while unmilled grain and drying flour were generally stored above the first floor.



The miller spent all his time in the basement where he suffered from cold, mold, mildew and poor light. “Miller’s thumb” allowed him to judge the quality of the flour by touch alone. He would travel to the millstones level to fill the hopper with grain or to scrape the millstones. The miller’s boys did the rest, filling sacks with newly ground corn meal and flour as the wheels turned. They carried the sacks on their backs up a ladder to the top floor of the mill where the flour and corn meal were dumped on the floor and raked out to cool from the heat generated by grinding. Sometimes ropes and buckets were used. When cool and dried, the cornmeal and flour were swept up, poured into sacks and readied for market.



These millstones are “edge runners” which often worked in pairs, rolling on top of a flat grinding surface. Turning around a center drive shaft rotated by large overhead wooden gears, they ground grain into flour. A waterwheel powered by the creek’s flow turned the gears at Irwin Mill (1791-1830’s), located on the Mill Creek at the bottom of Clifton Avenue.

The loft was certainly the best place to store grain and flour because the mill stream could flood lower floors. It was also more difficult for rodents to get at the grain upstairs because ladders were pulled up at night and trap doors closed. Several cats were always present, but little could be done against summer’s added problems of heat and insects.

These millstones - possibly Clifton’s oldest surviving relics - were gifted to our community by Dr. Thurman Henderson in 2022.

Ukrainian Flags of Clifton



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The Mill Creek Greenway Trail

There's more to it than you think! A very popular 1.25-mile section of walking and biking paths in Salway Park and Northside wraps around the northwestern limits of Clifton. But did you know, another mile along the Mill Creek holds a hidden section? Here's how to find it:

As the trail heads south from Northside, there are two gaps where the trail seems to end. If you press on for another mile, you'll discover more nature in the center of the city. Use the sidewalk along Dooley Bypass just south of the Ludlow Avenue Viaduct. Move past the gap at Aztec Services Group then follow Elmore Court towards the Mill Creek, where the trail resumes. Continuing south, this trail ends under the I-74 overpasses. But don't give up this is just a second gap.

My favorite section comes next. Cross Spring Grove Avenue at the Colerain Avenue crosswalk. Continue on Spring Grove Avenue sidewalk, cross the Mill

Creek and turn onto Geringer Street. The trail resumes just past the intersection of Geringer and Spring Grove Avenue. You'll see the Mill Creek just through the trees. Traffic noise fades away. Deer and water birds make good use of this green corridor.

This section of the greenway leads south to join Mill Creek Road at the yellow bridge. Stop on the bridge to spot water birds: great blue heron, Canada geese, killdeer, kingfisher, black crowned night heron and even bald eagles. Also observe a great example of shared public space: the city reallocated one of the traffic lanes on the bridge for use by walkers and bikers instead of by vehicles.

Follow the trail a little further to Ethel M. Taylor Academy in Millvale, where the path ends. Soon we'll report on efforts by Mill Creek Alliance and Tri-State Trails to extend the trail to the Metropolitan Sewer District's Lick Run Greenway

and points further south. We are also working to establish a mini park at the yellow bridge with access to the creek for fishing and paddling. The yellow bridge land is owned by the Millcreek Valley Conservancy District, our public flood control agency. Happy riding and walking on a newly discovered pathway!

— by Chris Carr,
The Millcreek Yacht Club member



It's back! The Clifton PUPP/Pop Up Puppy Party is returning to Clifton Plaza. The monthly gathering is not just for puppies and not even just for dog owners. From April through October on the 4th Monday of each month, 6 – 8 p.m., Clifton neighbors will gather for the love of dogs. Volunteers temporarily enclose Clifton Plaza with fencing for off-leash fun. Drinks will be sold, but food is not allowed for the two hours during PUPP.

Keep up to date with Clifton PUPP activities by following us on **Facebook** at **Clifton Pop Up Puppy Party-PUPP** and **Instagram @CliftonPUPP**.

Clifton PUPP dates, always from 6-8 p.m. May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 26, and October 24 (with a Costume Contest for people and dogs!)



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Manifest's New Clifton Site Offers Room to Grow

— by Rachel Wells



Adam Mysock, Education and Studio Program Manager, and Jason Franz, CEO and chief curator

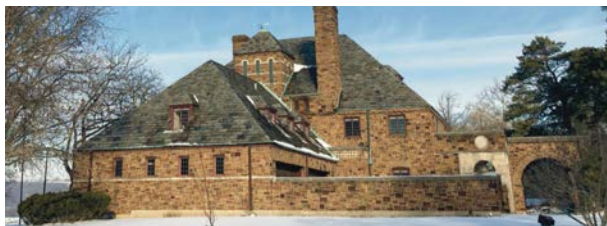
The founders of Manifest Creative Research Gallery and Drawing Center believe it shares a central premise with museums, libraries, churches, schools and gymnasiums. “The point is to grow,” said Jason Franz, Manifest’s founding executive director and chief curator. With classes open to those of all ages and experience levels, and a fine art gallery that strives

for accessibility and connection, Manifest’s target audience is simply “people who want to learn, grow and reconnect with their creativity.”

Currently housed in two separate locations on Woodburn Avenue and East McMillan Street, Manifest Creative Research Gallery and Drawing Center is expanding its footprint to Clifton after acquiring the 13,000-square foot stone building at 3464 Central Parkway last year. The new, permanent facility will host both an educational drawing center and a gallery, bringing all of Manifest’s parts into one primary space that will be known as the Manifest Center for the Visual Arts, or Manifest at M1.

The new location is a chance for Manifest to better leverage its different functions for more dynamic programming, but it’s also an opportunity to connect more closely with existing art communities in Clifton, Northside and Camp Washington. “All three have a foot planted in the arts in some way, and we’re excited to add to that and inspire a

coming together through the arts,” said Manifest Operations Manager Erin Corley. “It’s an exciting thing to be at the center of a movement, and we foresee the general area evolving toward what can be described as an arts corridor—a place that inspires the public to visit and other arts organizations to settle in.”



Manifest's new permanent location at 3464 Central Parkway in Clifton



In the second floor space: Brigid O’Kane, co-founder, Manifest board member and Associate Professor of Design at DAAP

Renovation of the Central Parkway facility will take about three years, but the Drawing Center program is expected to be fully moved in and renovations for a new photography space and dark room complete by the end of May 2022. Expect open houses, some program availability and showcases through the summer. Manifest’s new building is a former funeral home, but its French Normandy style and the surrounding grounds offer a canvas primed for the energy of learning and discovery. Education and Studio Program Manager Adam Mysock described future outdoor classrooms, where Manifest will curate outdoor experiences to play different visual elements against each other. Think light against

dark foliage, or a feathery dill plant against a rock, he said.

From curated gardens, an arched walkway will invite passersby to gaze inside at what will become a white-box gallery. Inside, a massive organ will find a new home, but a colorfully tiled water fountain will be preserved on the first floor. On the second floor, new tracks added for improved lighting blend with existing stenciled rafters that cross a high, peaked ceiling. “What is to be our main studio is an incredibly inspiring and perfectly preserved historic structure that really underscores the nature of Manifest’s philosophy of respecting the past—the history that got us here—while pressing forward into the future, all while being present here and now, today,” Jason said. “In fact, the design nuances and thoughtful details of the entire building do this—echoing our ethos and sensibilities as craftsmen, thinkers, scholars, and creative adventurers.”

Manifest has always insisted on keeping accessible hours and inviting the outside in. That means even neighbors walking their dogs may find inspiration as they pass by. While Manifest values its local community, its reach extends well beyond any Cincinnati neighborhood. “While we are a small organization compared to some, we have a reach that extends to nearly all arms of the globe (98 countries to be exact),” Corley said. “We have a history of putting Cincinnati on the map in both a regional, national, and international sense, with artists often visiting from all over the United States and occasionally from abroad.” Learn more about Manifest's new building and upcoming programming at <http://www.manifestdrawingcenter.org>

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Uptown's Talent Kitchen Cabinet

Uptown Consortium, Inc. (UCI) focuses on sustaining and creating places where talented people want to live, work and play. Uptown Cincinnati's **Talent Kitchen Cabinet** (TKC) is a group of students who provide insights that inform UCI's planning and future development. The second TKC cohort consists of nine University of Cincinnati students from diverse backgrounds and interests. We asked them to weigh in on how Uptown can attract and keep young talent. The group offered powerful input, said Brooke Rapp, director of community development at UCI. "We are so impressed with the TKC's valuable insights," she said.

Uptown is innovative, booming, energized and dynamic — a place where young talent wants to be. Clifton is one unique Uptown neighborhood with its diverse mix of families, educators, artists, students and young professionals. MicKenzi Addy, a fifth-year student of urban planning said, "Small businesses like Biagio's Bistro along Ludlow Avenue help create a sense of place. Clifton has unique architecture and features that you don't find anywhere else." Fourth-year chemical engineering major Raphael Hicks praised Burnet Woods for "a beautiful walking trail, a great way to take a break between classes or for lunch, to just walk and enjoy nature."

Scan the QR Code in our ad for a video featuring TKC members answering questions about creating a sense of place, transportation enhancements and community amenities, what constitutes the perfect atmosphere, and the importance of a bike network. To learn more, visit www.uptowncincinnati.com/news.

About Uptown Consortium, Inc. (UCI)
UCI convenes local neighborhoods, civic and institutional leaders to focus on opportunities in transportation, safety, economic development, community inclusion and more. UCI members include Uptown Cincinnati's largest employers and a leading tourist attraction: Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, UC Health, TriHealth, the University of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens. Uptown communities include Avondale, Clifton, Corryville, CUF and Mt. Auburn,

neighborhoods that are home to an estimated 46,721 residents and 1,099 businesses that employ an estimated 90,469 individuals.



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Adolph Strauch — Great Garden Design in Clifton and Beyond

— by Steve Schuckman



A chance meeting in London in 1851 began a relationship that shaped the way we experience parks and gardens in Cincinnati. Robert Bowler (owner of a Clifton estate that became Mt. Storm Park) was visiting the World Exposition at London's Crystal Palace when he met

Adolph Strauch, a Prussian gardener. During their garden tour conversation, Bowler invited Strauch to visit him in Cincinnati – if he was ever in America. Not long after, Strauch indeed did visit America. While waiting to change trains in Cincinnati for a cross-country trip, he recalled Bowler's offer. He visited Bowler, who in turn invited him to stay to design the landscape of his estate. The master gardener decided that Cincinnati would be his new home, and the rest – as they say – is history.

Strauch (1822-1883) had studied in Vienna and worked at the Schonbrunn Palace gardens. The form and beauty he introduced at Bowler's estate was noticed, and many wealthy Cincinnati residents contracted Strauch to redesign their own properties. It seemed everyone wanted a Strauch design, which eliminated fences and created flowing landscapes of lawns with stands of trees that framed views. He designed the grounds of Henry Probasco's estate at Oakwood and George Schoenberger's estate at Scarlet Oaks, among others. Though these landscapes are long gone, Probasco's house remains on West Cliff Drive, and Schoenberger's remains at Scarlet Oaks.

Just three years after settling in Cincinnati in 1851, Strauch was hired to redesign and redefine the

landscape in Spring Grove Cemetery, where he later became superintendent in 1859. His hand can be seen in the winding roads, lakes, the groupings of plantings, and his open lawn design, which became a model for other "garden" cemeteries that followed. He eliminated fencing and railings between plots to create a free-flowing design of space that he called a "landscape lawn plan," introducing plants from around the world. He also designed other important cemeteries, including Forest Lawn in Buffalo and Oak Woods in Chicago. While still working at Spring Grove, Strauch became superintendent of parks (1871-1875) and designed Eden Park and Burnet Woods.



Bowler Mansion

Due in large part to Strauch's work, Clifton became known as a garden spot of America, and our hilltop community took on the look of a single large park. An 1875 publication described Clifton as "...hill, dale, lawn, ravine, field and forest, interspersed with bright evergreens and shrubbery, blossom with shady nooks and sunny glades in which nestle the roomy, cool verandas and graveled walks of the fine homes of Clifton." Strauch talked of his own designs as expressing "cheerfulness, luxuriance of growth, shade, solitude and repose amid scenery designed to imitate rural nature." Other than the "Temple of Love" – an elegant domed landmark that covers the cistern over a reservoir that watered the gardens and greenhouses of the Bowler estate – little remains of Strauch's landscape design there today. A recent effort to rejuvenate the park's landscaping is inspired by the precepts of Strauch's work.

Robert Bonner Bowler — A "Baron of Clifton"



Robert Bowler (1803 – 1864) came to Cincinnati from Providence, Rhode Island in 1820. In 1842, he married Susan Pendleton, granddaughter of the politically powerful Judge Nathaniel Pendleton, and made his riches in dry goods and railroading. His 1845 two-story brick and stucco

house – Mount Storm – featured two terraces and a porch with views of the Kentucky hills sweeping up the Mill Creek. A tower was added later. Bowler's landscape included shade trees from around the world and 17 greenhouses, making it like none other in the Midwest. A lovingly-tended collection of rare roses, 90 varieties of camellia, 60 begonia varieties, a collection of bananas and palm trees were splendidly complemented by seven Australian black swans gliding on small lakes. A publication of the period noted, "The entire residence was most lavishly decorated with rare plants, bright flowers and buds, exotics evergreen and smilax, the perfume of which filled the air."

Sadly, Bowler enjoyed this paradise for only 19 years. He was struck and killed in 1864 by an urban stagecoach. His wife, their three children and grandchildren stayed on with the help of Irish laborer James Cluxton, who worked for 53 years to care for the property and helped to rear the children born at Mount Storm. The city of Cincinnati purchased Mount Storm and its 70 acres from the Bowler family in 1912 with a promise to make it a park. The former grand home was demolished when a battle to save it was lost in 1917.

— by Jan Checco

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James Schurrer, New Principal of DePaul Cristo Rey High School



Last fall, with assistance from the search organization Partners in Mission, DePaul Cristo Rey launched a national search to find its next academic leader. Candidates spent full days on DPCR's campus in January meeting with teachers, staff, students, and parents – all unanimously agreed James Schurrer is the

right person to lead DePaul Cristo Rey's academic and student-focused programs. President Siobhan Taylor is CEO of the school and the principal reports to her.

Mr. Schurrer will assume this role on July 1, 2022. He is currently the Dean of Faculty, an English teacher, and a coach at Cincinnati's St. Xavier High School, where he has worked since 2012. Previously, he was a teacher and administrator at schools in Toledo and Springfield, Ohio. He holds a bachelor's degree in education from Ohio University and master's degrees in american culture studies and education leadership and supervision from Bowling Green State University. Ready to begin his new role at DPCR, he says, "DePaul Cristo Rey's mission lives at the intersection of faith and action, and I am humbled to help lead this school into the future. With our dedicated faculty and staff, we will strengthen our students' experiences as we create transformational opportunities and build the kingdom of God in Cincinnati."

Michael Ward has been serving as DPCR's interim principal since April 2021 and will remain in that role until June 30 to assist in the leadership transition. DePaul Cristo Rey is a Catholic, college-preparatory high school with a mission to educate young people who have the potential but limited

financial means to go to college. Sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, DPCR is one of 38 high schools in the nationwide Cristo Rey Network® which serves 12,300 young people.



DPCR Seniors Achieve 100% College Acceptance! With focus, perseverance and grit, every DePaul Cristo Rey senior has been accepted to college,

despite having their high school years significantly impacted by the global pandemic. The Class of 2022 has 69 seniors, and this is the eighth year in a row that every DPCR senior has been accepted to college. This year's seniors earned more than \$2 million in scholarships and five have received full-tuition merit-based scholarships.



Clifton Branch Library

Clifton Branch Children's Librarian Eric Davis asked dedicated library customer Dora Schield what she loves about her Library. Here is what she shared:

"I've been nourished in public libraries for all of eight decades. Being a semi-retired historian, much of the background information I require for articles came from research at libraries. It was in my hometown library of Wausau, Wisconsin, where I

learned to read at an early age and fell in love with the written word. I knew I truly needed libraries and vowed I would never live in a neighborhood that didn't have one nearby.

"There are school and private libraries open to specific populations, but public libraries are open to all. When I moved to Cincinnati in 2005, I often visited the Main Library to learn about the city where I've retired. I still visit that library, but the main location of continued education, entertainment and joy has been our Clifton Branch. When I visited our library for the first time, I said to myself, 'This is home.' The staff members who were there that first day in 2005 (at its prior location) are still assisting us library customers today. Technology and many other expanded services, and those dedicated staff members, have enriched our library since its move to the current Parkview Manor location on Brookline Avenue. I've volunteered at many libraries during my nine lives, including Cincinnati's Mercantile Library. However, introducing my children to the value of libraries, and the pride I felt the first time I wheeled my granddaughter's stroller into the Clifton Branch Library is something that is very important and special to me."

Thank you so much, Dora. We'll look forward



to seeing you soon, and we welcome one and all to visit us at the Clifton Branch Library. We're open seven days a week! And remember, kids and teens are invited to join us to Discover

Summer, June 1-Aug. 1! Get a free book and fun activity booklet when you sign up. Choose and complete three goals to be eligible for a grand prize. Visit CincySummer.org for details. Check out some fun events at CHPL.org/events and keep your curious mind engaged all summer long!



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Annunciation Catholic School Partners with Romero Academy

Catholic education is thriving in Clifton! We're feeling joyful about new things coming to our church and school! Catholic education and formation at Annunciation School will continue and in partnership with Romero Academy/Seton Education Partners, educators who are committed to ensuring that children develop the knowledge, skills, and character traits necessary to excel academically and pursue lives with meaning and purpose. The Romero model is called "blended learning" which gives students a dynamic classroom structure. Students will have opportunities to work independently, in groups, and with technology. The beauty of Catholicism is woven into every subject and lesson.

The core tenets of the Romero education model are:

Proven academics: Each child will work in teacher-led small groups while also having the opportunity to learn at their own pace while utilizing computers.

Partnership: Recognition and respect for parents as their child's first teachers. Provision of frequent and high-quality communication. We share and celebrate successes, and if there are concerns, we communicate before they become problems.

Catholic values: Christ is at the center of everything we do.

High expectations: Balanced with love and joy, the path to college and heaven requires much of students.

Character building: We explicitly model and teach the values of courage, wisdom, self-control, and justice.

The 2022-2023 academic year will see transition to the Romero model, enrolling students in K- 4th grade. Each subsequent year a new grade will be added. In the academic year of 2023-2024, the school will be run fully by the Seton Partners of Romero Academy for the benefit of the Annunciation Parish and Clifton community. It's a collaborative partnership that we are thrilled about! For our church and school, this change will reinvigorate Catholic education and also the Catholic community in Clifton — a community

that loves Jesus, loves children and family, and loves Clifton. Romero Academy at Annunciation will weave those values and that energy into our school, providing a character building, opportunity-equalizing educational experience for children.

To enroll or visit, call: Annunciation School office at [513-221-1230](tel:513-221-1230). To learn more, visit: setonpartners.org



Our New School Kaleidoscope Center — by Jeff Groh

The New School Montessori has doubled down on its commitment to foster earth stewardship and environmentally conscious design. A recent purchase of a quarter acre of land adjacent to our property will result in creation of a native plant garden that provides a sanctuary for pollinators, as well as a protected area for a biodiverse green space.

The New School Montessori is also creating a new arts facility — the Kaleidoscope Center (borrowing the name for a group of migrating butterflies). The center will apply environmentally-friendly building practices, modeling how mindful development can teach us how to tread lightly on the earth. Maria Montessori believed that the outdoor environment was an extension of the indoor classroom. Nature provides endless opportunities for experiential learning.

New School Montessori



Our first, second and third graders learned about many forms of writing and the different writing instruments used throughout history. As a souvenir for Montessori's fourth Great Lesson, children constructed their own version of a quill pen(cil). Needless to say, it inspired gratitude for the modern writing tools we have today! The fourth Great Lesson begins in ancient Egypt with the early writings of the Phoenicians, explaining how their written language influenced the Romans and the alphabet we use today. People used to write on clay or wax, but with the successive use of parchment, the capillary action of a hollow shaft of a specially prepared goose, swan or turkey feather would fill with ink for writing. The Magna Carta and the American Declaration of Independence were both written using quill pens. With the invention of metal pens, quills fell out of favor.



James Baldwin said, "Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them." The New School Montessori's creation of a biodiverse native garden and an earth-friendly new building demonstrates a kindness to nature that we hope — and trust — our children will imitate for generations to come.



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Immanuel Presbyterian Community Days

Immanuel Presbyterian Church is excited to announce three Community Days events (June 18, July 16, and Aug. 20 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.), when we'll collect items for upcoming mission outreach programs. Please join us to assist in collecting and sorting donations – and bring a few items yourself! If you have items and are not able to make one of the community collection days, please drop off your donations to the church office at 3445 Clifton Avenue. Questions? Please contact our office at [513-751-0312](tel:513-751-0312).

The three events are:

- **Non-Food Collection for St. George Interfaith Food Pantry.** Focus on cleaning supplies, paper towels, tissues, quart-sized Ziplock bags, easy-open quick snacks for kids, powdered laundry detergent, small dish detergent, and personal items, including unscented body wash, unscented shampoo and conditioner, and toothpaste.
- **Shoobox Christmas Project.** It's never too early to prepare for this event benefiting children aged 1 to

18 who visit St. George Interfaith Food Pantry. Items needed: large clean shoeboxes, monetary or in-kind donations such as new card games, LEGO sets, stuffed animals, craft sets, small toys, etc.

- **School Supply Drive benefiting Fairview Elementary.** Take advantage of the back-to-school sales and pick up a few extra items for students and teachers. Items needed include but are not limited to crayons, pencils, pens, notebooks, eraser blocks, eraser caps, folders, and loose leaf paper.

Clifton Area Neighborhood School

As we come to the close of another school year, we can't help but reflect back on how challenging, but ultimately rewarding this year has been. This spring has brought us a return to (somewhat) normalcy, and the opportunity to host events and activities for the kids and community. Not even a rescheduled Reds opening day could stop our current and prospective families from touring our school during our open house on April 12. We were thrilled to revive one of our students' favorite events, the Family Ice Cream Social on May 1. On May 15 we hosted a park clean up day at Bellevue Park.

CANS uses an expeditionary learning (EL) model that provides hands-on, experiential learning opportunities that foster social, emotional, and physical development. Along with other EL schools nationwide, CANS participated in Better World Day on May 6 when we celebrated meaningful student work that has contributed to a better world. CANS is also developing its presence as a Community Learning Center (CLC) by creating a food and clothing pantry for CANS families in need. We accept donations of food, gently used clothing, school supplies, backpacks, hats, gloves, and coats. Interested in more information? Contact our Resource Coordinator Julia Bonfield at jbonfield@costars.org or [513-527-7332](tel:513-527-7332).

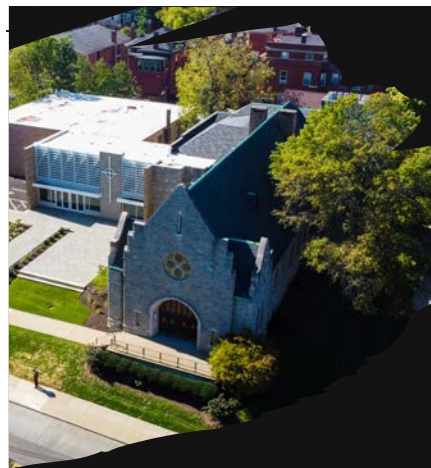
We also will soon complete our school playscape, thanks to generous donations from families and community members. The builder's space, dry creek and amphitheater will be open for play. All community members are welcome to use our playscape during non-school hours, but please remember, no pets are allowed. By the time you receive this newsletter, CANS will finally have a school mascot! In keeping with the tradition of Clifton School that once occupied our building, we have chosen to be the Cougars!

In the upcoming school year, CANS will serve pre-K through fifth grade students from CUF, Clifton and Spring Grove Village. Families interested in enrolling can contact Ms. Upshaw at [513-363-2200](tel:513-363-2200) for details, including tours. In-neighborhood families can enroll now online. If they have questions, they can contact Ms. Upshaw at [513-363-2200](tel:513-363-2200) for an in-person appointment. Out-of-neighborhood families can join our waitlist to be eligible for a limited number of out-of-neighborhood seats; contact our resource coordinator, Mrs. Bonfield, at [513-363-2200](tel:513-363-2200).

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a reconciling congregation

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In Your Clifton Garden

— by Alice Palmer

Ah, June! The weather isn't too hot, the rush of spring lawn and garden work is finished, and early summer flowers are blooming. Go visit a park!

Burnet Woods - Walk on pavement or get off onto the woodland trails. Thanks to the volunteers who have been working for years to reduce the invasive plants so that natives can grow.

Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden - The beautiful plantings draw me to the Zoo, well-labelled with annuals tested each year. Check out their website for programs that encourage us to grow more natives.

Civic Garden Center — Park in the free lot and wander through the herb garden, children's garden and serenity garden, then climb the hill to a beautiful vegetable garden. The Center abuts Hauck Garden near Reading Road and Oak Street.

Northside Parks - Buttercup Nature Valley Preserve, LaBoiteaux Woods and Parker Woods. Volunteers have been working for years here, too, to suppress the invasive plants. Find more information at <http://northsidegreenspace.org/events.html>.

Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum - A wonderful place to walk and enjoy not only small gardens but to see what trees look like when given the space to grow.



Watch Out! Some Plants Can Hurt You

Poison Hemlock - a non-native plant and one of the most deadly on the planet, containing highly toxic piperidine alkaloid compounds that

cause respiratory failure and death when ingested. **Wild Parsnip** burns can be misdiagnosed as poison ivy. In mild cases, the affected skin reddens and feels sunburned. If animals ingest it, the materials held in the plant's seeds and stems enter the bloodstream, and once under the skin will react to sunlight. **Keep both of these away from kids!** To remove them from your property, wear gloves, long sleeves, hats, and pants. When you're done, handle those clothes with care. Read more: <https://bygl.osu.edu/index.php/node/1935>



Poison Hemlock

Wild Parsnip

Two Clifton Gardens Featured in Cincinnati Nature Center 2022 Tour

The "Noteworthy Natives" tour will feature two home gardens located on Warren Avenue. Ticket holders are invited to visit on Saturday, June 25 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. to enjoy these successes which use native plants in landscaping.

George Shober (344 Warren) has been working on his garden for six years to create a low maintenance landscape. Native edibles are planted just outside the kitchen door and more natives are spread throughout his secluded, yet open urban backyard. Serviceberries take advantage of terraces and a sitting bench faces the setting sun, making a great place for late afternoon/early evening reading — a great spot to view the entire garden.

Mary Bishop (345 Warren) has tended her landscape for 21 years and has a Master Gardener certification. Her property includes 130 varieties of perennials, 54 varieties of shrubs, and 10 varieties of trees, mostly chosen and planted by her. Pollinator gardens line both sides of the driveway and include plants that bloom from spring to late fall. Mary enjoys all aspects of gardening and takes daily walks to see what "visitors" are feeding on. She strives to make her yard an urban oasis, offering flowers that serve as pollinator food sources and also red currants, blueberries, paw paws, calycarpa beauty berries, and holly berries for birds and wildlife.

If You Go: The self-guided tour features more than a dozen private gardens located in Columbia Tusculum, Mt. Lookout, Hyde Park, Norwood, Clifton, Avondale, Indian Hill, and Montgomery. Pre-registered guests will receive a Garden Tour booklet to help plan their route to each location. Tickets are \$40 per person and the tour is open to anyone 13 years or older. Ticket information can be found by visiting <https://www.cincynature.org/things-to-do/garden-tour-noteworthy-natives/>. Proceeds help to maintain the Cincinnati Nature Center's award-winning trails, native fields, deciduous forests and historic buildings.

— by Marianne Brunner



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The Clifton & Ludlow Crossroads, 1890s

What could be more iconic to Clifton than the intersection of Clifton and Ludlow avenues? It wasn't always as it appears today. Let's time-travel corner to corner:



Cincinnati Gas and Coke Company, office and agent's home

The Southwest Corner:

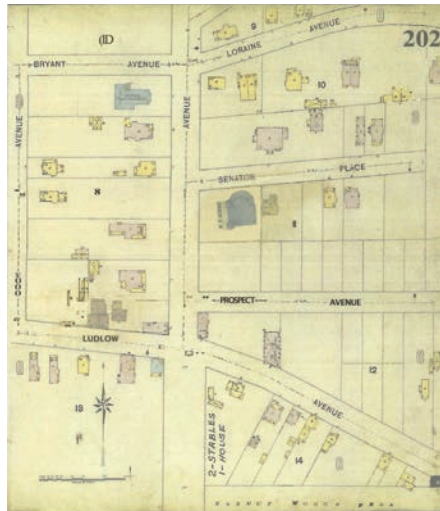
The beautiful Beau Arts Firehouse No. 34 was built in 1906, designed by architect Harry Hake to house the fire vehicles and horses serving Clifton. The earlier firehouse had been included in the town hall/school complex located at Clifton and Central (now McAlpin) avenues. The complex was becoming

so run down that Mr. Balsch – resident of the grand McDonald mansion next door – complained that he wouldn't send his son there. Hence the impetus to build a new school in 1905, and a new firehouse in 1906. To relocate the firehouse to Clifton and Ludlow, an 1883 building designed by famed architect Samuel Hannaford was demolished. The Hannaford structure had been home to the Cincinnati Gas & Coke Company and its district agent George Dury and family.

The Northwest Corner: The three-story commercial red brick building dates to the 1880s, when attorney Joseph Bley's offices were on the first floor. Soon after came Adolf Meyer's grocery store with modifications to the first floor exterior into the commercial appearance of today, with Meyer's initials above a corner front door. The grocery was succeeded for decades by Dow Drugs until Adrian Durban Florist settled into their remarkably colorful shop.

The Northeast Corner: Built in the 1880s as a drug store for Byrne and Company Drugs with apartments above, this handsome Dutch Colonial building later housed Stier Drugs in 1907. Modernizations to the store's exterior are reflected in the recently restored Art Deco logo. Stier thrived into the 1950s before finally transitioning in 1966 to our famed Skyline Chili parlor.

The Southeast Corner: The Diggs Fountain and Burnet Woods trailhead at the foot of the hill were not always



Map of Clifton and Ludlow in 1891

there. Examine the old 1891 property lines map – this area was full of buildings! The home and stables of road contractor Thomas J. Howard were accompanied by at least six additional residences

leading up to the park's entrance on Brookline. One resident of note was Frederick Bissinger, the famous candy manufacturer. Around 1905 to 1907, Cincinnati Parks purchased and rezoned this triangular-shaped four-acre parcel. Down went the buildings and in went the plantings! An 1870s gift of woodlands made to the city from Clifton barons Robert Burnet and William Groesbeck, the parkland honored patriarch and Cincinnati icon Jacob Burnet. Burnet Woods originally covered 170 acres, whittled to about half that by the turn of the century by an ever-expanding University of Cincinnati campus. Today Burnet Woods covers about 90 acres.

— by Geoff Gelke, *The History Buffs*

Cincinnati State Botany Students Grow Their Way

Each year in spring semester, students in Cincinnati State's applied botany classes complete hands-on labs in the college's on-campus greenhouse. They grow flowers that will beautify the Clifton Campus and plants and flowers to be sold at the program's annual May fundraiser. For local home gardeners, it's a great opportunity to purchase high quality plants at competitive prices, including vegetables, herbs, ornamental annuals, perennials, and several types of tropical plants and succulents. The Cincinnati State Landscape Horticulture Fundraiser Plant Sale will be held at the Cincinnati State Greenhouse from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 7 and Saturday, May 14. Afterwards, any remaining plants will be available at the greenhouse each week on Wednesday or Thursday from noon to 6 p.m. until everything is sold. The Cincinnati State Greenhouse has parking available and is located near the easternmost entrance to the college's Clifton Campus on Ludlow Avenue. Landscape horticulture students gain skills in greenhouse management, learning about soil, seeds, transplanting, plant divisions, spacing, pest control, and how plants relate to their environment. "It is a seeds-to-sale experience — and one of their favorite courses," says Heather Augustine, professor in the Cincinnati State landscape horticulture program. All proceeds from the May fundraiser support the landscape horticulture program and are used to send

students to the annual National Collegiate Landscape Competition sponsored by the National Association of Landscape Professionals.

This year's competition in March at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina, hosted more than 800 students who demonstrated their skills in real-world, competitive events. The students represented 43 different two- and four-year colleges. They networked with top companies at the largest annual career fair in the landscape horticulture industry. Our team of 19 students finished fifth overall, outpacing many major university programs including Michigan State, Penn State, Oregon State, and Virginia Tech.



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A Close Shave!
— by Larry Holt



There are about 124 million men over age 18 in the U.S. The most recent data says that 67% of them (83 million) shave about 4.3 times a week – or 50 shaves every three months. The average can of shaving cream delivers about 50 shaves per can which means four cans per shaver per year. For most of my life I fit into this group, which means I was tossing about four empty cans of shaving cream every year. Doesn't sound like much, does it? But that's only me. There are 83 million more of

us so that means 332 million cans of shaving cream per year! And that's just men! (I have nothing against women shavers but that's enough math for me.) Yes, shaving cream cans can be recycled. However, only 32% of Americans recycle. So that means 68% (225 million) of the 332 million cans still end up in landfills. What's a little shaver to do? Well, I still shave 4.3 times a week and I haven't bought a can of shaving cream in over 6 years! And, my face isn't a scraped up bloody mess. How? My trusty shaving brush! I can use just about any soap in a big coffee mug, add a little water plus 15 seconds of brush swirling and I'm shaving ... with

the added bonus that I feel a little like a cowboy gettin' ready to ride into town! Actually, for some reason the whole shaving brush ritual is weirdly relaxing. I have no idea why. Maybe it's because I'm not adding to a landfill somewhere. Ok, maybe I just like feeling a little like Clint Eastwood ... just not the 90-year-old Clint!

P.S. Where can you find a shaving brush? Rooster's downtown on 4th Street, or Tanya's on Erie Avenue, and of course online!

P.P.S. Yes, I could grow a beard but I have been told to never do that again!

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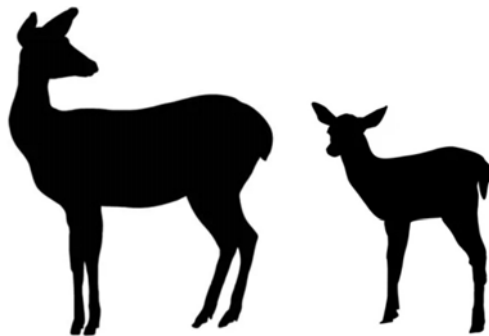
Clifton Deer Program

Another year is in the books for the Clifton Deer Program, and we have more good news to report:

- About 99% of the adult does in the study area (the ~1 sq. mi. bounded by I-75, Ludlow Ave, and Clifton Ave) are sterilized.
- The study area deer population is down 9% in the past year and 36% since the program began.
- Births are down from 16 fawns per 25 adult does to fewer than one fawn per 25 adult does.
- Thanks to our local volunteers and the UCAN Nonprofit Spay and Neuter Clinic, our operating costs for 2021/2022 were less than \$6,500.

Imagine if the herd had been growing all these years instead! Now our primary goal is to allow normal attrition in our aging deer herd to lower the population to what the Clifton community and the Cincinnati Parks decide is a socially acceptable and eco-sustainable level. This means we'll continue to sterilize any immigrants (so far, one or two per

year) who move into the study area. There could come a time when the population is low enough that adding a few fawns to the herd will be welcome!



We'll also continue to sterilize "border deer" (deer whose primary residence are woods adjacent to the study area, but who sometimes make incursions into the study area) as opportunities arise. These deer are frustratingly elusive, so the only truly effective way of reaching them would

be to expand the program to include a larger part of the Clifton neighborhood, which would require state and local approval as well as additional funding.

The Clifton Deer Program thanks all of our generous donors, intrepid volunteers, and the neighbors who volunteer their yards for bait sites and who report deer sightings through the "Report Tagged Deer" portal at cliftondeer.org.



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A visit to my past, this enchanted forest;
a childhood treasure, from simpler times,
fighting to survive, but alive and intact,
tucked in the belly of a town moving on.

Small speckled lizards jump, crawl, and skitter;
flash atop the ramparts, drenched in the sun.
Patrolling the entrance like tiny sentries;
gargoyles at the gates of a secret world.

The old stone slide provides thrilling passage,
worn smooth by innocents, the elements, time.
Alongside it, stairs, for more practical access,
or repeated climbs to unlimited rides.

At the bottom, the tall grass patiently waits;
bracing for old games, myriad new players.
Black rubber swings hang limp on their chains,
still catching their breath from perpetual flights.

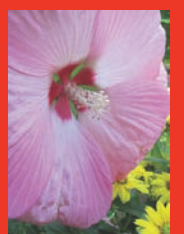
Bowed bench tables, freshly painted grills,
prepare for the sound and the fury of feasts;
shouting, teasing, a riot of hands,
the unbridled laughter of insatiable youth.

On the edge of the wood, with mouths wide open,
lie trails for adventurers, daring the brave.
A gazebo stands vacant, to tempt the creative -
imagination welcome, shared or alone.

The venerable trees look on with affection;
protecting my memories, safe in their shade.
A raft of ducks paddles the pond, in no hurry;
the young, behind mother, lined all in a row.

- **"Sacred Ground" a poem by Christian Scott Green**
from conclusions delusions and musings on time Copyright 2021

About the watercolors at top right and left: "Picnic in the Pines, Burnet Woods" and "Reading in a Garden, Burnet Woods":
These plein air paintings are by Annie Gooding Sykes (1855-1931.) Having begun her formal training at the Lowell Institute and School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, this first-generation impressionist enrolled again in the Art Academy of Cincinnati, studying over 10 years with such noted painters as Frank Duveneck and Thomas Satterwhite Noble. Her works were exhibited at the Cincinnati Art Museum on forty-two occasions.



Appreciation to all of our neighbors who shared beautiful photos from our parks and gardens for this Summer issue. They are: Helen Adams, Trine Bumiller, Jan Brown Checco, Gerald Checco, Jason Franz, Catherine Hamilton Hicks, Joe Kroner, Nestor Melnyk, Carolyn Miller, John Osterman, June Schlipf, Steve Schuckman, Chelsea Sprague, Mary Steele and Jeff Wilson