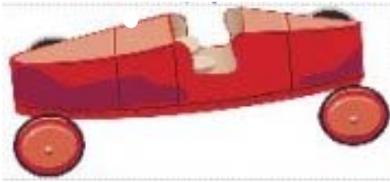




Kennedy Heights News

May 2008

Kennedy Heights Community Council



Community Officers & KHCC Sponsor KH Soapbox Team

A couple of years ago KH resident Doug Newberry revived the Soapbox Derby, with the races held on Gilbert Avenue.

To encourage community involvement in the fun race, Mayor Mallory has pledged a \$5,000 to the community whose kids build & drive the winning car.

Cincinnati police Lt. Joe Williams and Officer George Engleman serving Kennedy Heights have arranged funds to buy the car kit and KHCC will pay the entry fees.

What's needed is 15 kids (age 8-13) for the KH team. All will help build the car and have a chance to test drive it. And one lucky boy or girl will drive in the derby.

Team sign-up is "first come first served."

**Call or email Doug before May 25.
322-5135
doug@eventsfund.com**

June 22

The Soapbox Derby will be on June 22 down Gilbert Ave. in Walnut Hills. Over 50 soapbox cars will be racing for the winner's cup...and the KH car will be competing with other community-sponsored cars for the mayor's \$5,000 bonus.

May 20 Meeting Features Foster Care

KHCC's May 20 agenda will include Foster Care and Foster Care Parents in Hamilton County.

In addition to Foster Care officials, a KH family, John and Tracy Williams, will talk about their experience as foster parents.

Community Council applies for "West Gateway Improvement Initiative"

KHCC is seeking property owners to participate in a competitive grant program administered by the City of Cincinnati and Cincinnati Neighborhood Business Districts United (CNBDU),

The grants are awarded to build on a neighborhood business district's economic vitality through retention and expansion of existing businesses, creation of new businesses, increased business and service mix, improved infrastructure, and increased employment opportunities.

Eligible uses include road improvements, sidewalks, streetscapes, the improvement of public parking lots.

Funds can also be used for private purposes such as facade loans, signage, awnings, building renovation, site acquisition and clearance, and site specific planning.

KHCC has applied for funds to help improve properties along the western portion of our Montgomery Road business district. The proposed "West Gateway Improvement Initiative" would combine facade and landscape enhancements. This would be one of several projects which are aimed at re-positioning the KH Business district from a failing regional commercial corridor to a thriving center of neighborhood-serving business, arts, and cultural activity.

Property owners would only have to match as little as 20% of the improvement cost! The final application must be submitted by June 13th.

Interested business and property owners contact Clete Benken or Josh Swain.

clete@kennedyheights.org
josh@kennedyheights.org

KHCC Next Meets

Tues. May 20 7:30 pm
KH Presbyterian Church

KHCC & LSDMC Back Bigger Woodford

Woodford School will be rebuilt in the next two years. But how big will it be?

Present plans are for a school for 450 students. But is that big enough?

KHCC & the Woodford LSDMC have jointly signed a letter to the school board asking for a school with a capacity for 650 students. Woodford now has 550 students.

A larger school would include more facilities and be a better fit for the number of kids we can expect to enroll in the new school.

Supt, Blackwell has already rejected the proposal, but has agreed that the architect should design the school so that it could be expanded.

*Ernie Barbeau, President
KHCC*

Be a KH Beautifier!

KHCC needs a **CO-CHAIR** for its Beautification committee.

This will divide up the tasks of coordinating volunteers to tend the various community gardens and come up with creative innovations to improve the neighborhood's appearance.

The City supports Beautification with material, flowers, plants, trees, and clean-up funds.

It's time for you to step up and continue our great tradition started by citizens like Mimi Gingold, Joyce Drake, & Joanie Widener.

If you are interested or would like to suggest someone, please contact Ernie Barbeau or Clyde Otis or leave a message on the KHCC Phone (531-4041).

You can certainly give one season of beautification to your community which is working so hard to improve our quality of life and beauty in the neighborhood.

Jim Zarnowiecki



Before

The Arts and a "Can Do" Community Reflections on KHCC's 5th Anniversary Spring...2003

A half dozen Kennedy Heights and Pleasant Ridge residents approached the KHCC with a dream...they wanted to transform a funeral home into a...COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER!

The dreamers envisioned galleries, art on the lawn, seniors taking classes, summer arts camps, winter activities and a community gathering place..."A Big Dream". And they soon recruited more dreamers.

- At the June Council meeting, Charles Clingman made a motion to support the project.
- Kathy Spoon signed on as loan guarantor.
- Fifteen families (and KHCC) backed up the mortgage by pledging deposited Certificates of Deposit.
- The City of Cincinnati grant matched our CD deposits for the purchase
- The Lindner family called with an initial (and substantial) donation
- An army of volunteers descended to clean, chip old paint, tear down the overgrown shrubbery to resurrect the Victorian Mansion.

January...2004

With local Ministers in attendance, the doors opened for the arts on a cold January Sunday in 2004.

1875 Roots

Lewis Kennedy built the original mansion in 1875; there are smaller versions sprinkled throughout Kennedy Heights. He platted our space as an urban escape from the summer humidity. Fortunately, the original simplicity and appointments of the building were preserved by Ted High and Elizabeth Douglas who operated funeral homes.

That stately architecture, the stone pillars, the wide expanse of lawn and huge oaks endeared this property to all of us. Today we have that jewel in the heart of our community.

2008 & Thriving

Those "Dreamers" created an energy for neighborhood vitality and life: Arts in the local library, Art at Hilltop Apartments, Arts in Silverton, Pleasant Ridge and Parker Schools; Summer Concerts; hundreds of Guild artists displaying their work in five Galleries; seniors in photography classes; silent auctions; SUMMERFEST and WINTERFEST and the latest, a Grant from the City and the Lindner family Trust to create a green space...**Kennedy Commons** for community gatherings and performances. Much thanks goes to those dreamers for saving a significant part of the past for our future.

KHCC is for Dreamers

Kennedy Heights is a community which creates dreams like this. Other community change ideas started in Kennedy Heights to transform our city—KEN-SIL sports started with KH Council; Luther Church began Citizens Committee on Youth for the entire city; Lydia Morgan energized "JUNETEENTH" 21 years ago...now an official City event; and most recently Doug Newberry resurrected Cincinnati's Soap Box Derby and Marvel Gentry-Davis has planted ballet Tech Cincinnati at the former Mr. Kelly's!

Dream With Us!

This "Can Do" spirit says to me that there are other dreamers in the Community...**Step forward now!** Kennedy Heights has the history, has the families and has the energy to build on our diversity, our education and religious values.

a message to the "dreamers"
from Jim Zarnowiecki



During

The Doors Are Open Stop In & Look Around!

The mission of the Kennedy Heights Arts Center is to enhance the life of the surrounding communities through the arts.

It is non-profit. There's always an exhibition of some kind. You don't have to buy. Just walk in & look.

There are art classes of all sorts for all ages. Some are free, and where there's a fee it's not very much.

Events in May & June

5/24 Exhibition opens

*Stories of Returning Veterans:
Shattered Myths – Twenty-one Visions
Contemplating the Actual Cost of War*

5/25 Memorial Day Under the Tent

ballet tech cincinnati Wins Scripps Corbet Award



The Arts Center's newest artistic neighbor is *ballet tech* directly across Montgomery Rd.

On April 24 ballet tech received the annual **Innovation** award from the E.W. Scripps Company.

The non-profit organization was singled out for providing diverse and innovative performances with dance programs that feature classical repertoire, contemporary works, and folk and ethnic dancers. Focusing on their core value of diversity, ballet tech Cincinnati's casts include dancers of every skill level, age and ethnicity.

The program "Leaping for Literacy", a series of dialogue reading workshops, held in partnership with Success by Six demonstrated ballet tech's ability to master community outreach with young children.

ballet tech's Producing Artistic Director, Marvel Gentry Davis, said of the award, "We are very honored to have received such a prestigious award and look forward to continuing our mission of arts diversity and innovation in Kennedy Heights and the Greater Cincinnati Community".



Today!

Houses Hit the Auction Block &

Communities Take the Hit

By now the headlines are familiar: We have a foreclosure epidemic. And neither Kennedy Heights nor its neighbors is immune.

Working In Neighborhoods (WIN) began tracking Hamilton Co. foreclosures in 2002 and released its 2007 report this month.

The news is neither surprising nor good. Lenders filed over 6,000 foreclosure suits in 2007--an increase of 130% in just 5 years.

5,182 homes were listed for sheriff's sale, and 3,183 were sold auction.

The hardest hit neighborhoods continue to be on the west side of Cincinnati--East & West Price Hill and Westwood. But in pure numbers of foreclosed homes, Kennedy Heights ranks 14th out of the city's 47 neighborhoods.

Last year KH lost 36 homes to auction, down a bit from 45 sold to the high bidder (usually the bank) in 2006.

The WIN report does not compare foreclosures to the number of homes. Here's a comparison of a few neighborhoods showing the total auction sales in the last two years as a percentage of owner-occupied homes shown in the 2000 census.

Neighborhood	Homes Sold	%
E. Price Hill	2,765	308 11%
Bond Hill	1,883	130 7%
Kennedy Hts	1,449	81 6%
College Hill	3,827	169 4%
Silverton	1,398	38 3%
Pl. Ridge	2,173	35 2%

Data Caveats

These numbers are not gospel. The study doesn't, e.g., distinguish between owner occupied & rental housing. And because these are only the homes that actually sold at sale, they don't account for some 1,999 that were scheduled for auction but for some reason did not sell (those are not broken out by neighborhood).

Facing Foreclosure? Get Help Now!

- Call your lender and talk to "loss mitigation"...**not** "collections"
- Call 211 for referral to a housing counselor
- If you've got court papers already, call Legal Aid: 241-9400
- You may qualify for "rescue" money from the City and /or Ohio.

KHCC and KHURC Seek Role in Development of Surplus School Sites

In April KHCC and the KH Urban Redevelopment Corp. (KHURC) formally asked the City's help in gaining control of the large lot at the corner of Kennedy & Montgomery (formerly Furniture Fair/ Kroger). The lot is now owned by the Cincinnati Schools.

The application proposes that KHURC guide the development of the community's "surplus school sites" in ways that complement neighborhood objectives as identified in KHCC's Community Plan.

We hope this request will raise awareness of the importance of that corner property corner and set the stage for a future collaboration toward redevelopment.

Keep your fingers crossed and stay tuned for future news on this important initiative.

*Clete Benken
KHCC Planning V.P.*

Habitat to Build in KH

Habitat for Humanity is planning to build a two-story, 4-bedroom residence at 3717 Standish.

This will be Habitats first residence to be built in our neighborhood. Construction will start late this year or early next year.

There should be plenty of opportunity for you to get some hands-on construction experience!



Landscape Nomination

Deadline: June 26

Rules: Nominate yourself or a neighbor; beauty must be street-visible.

Judging: First weekend of July

Photos of recent Winners are online

www.kennedyheights.org



St. Mark On the Move

St. Mark AME Zion Church on Montgomery Rd. recently celebrated its 50th anniversary as a congregation.

The Church began in Avondale and has recently announced that it will be relocating to Springdale.

KH Memorial Day Celebration

5/29 6:00 pm

The big tent will be up on the Arts Center lawn for an outdoor concert by the Sycamore Community Band. Join friends and neighbors for an evening of music and dinner on the lawn.

Sycamore Community Band will honor the veterans of all wars with American music selections. The featured selection will be a local premiere of "Purple Heart" composed especially for Afghanistan and Iraqi veterans by David Shaffer, Band Director at Miami University.

We will honor local veterans and families who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. If you or someone you know is a resident of Kennedy Heights, Pleasant Ridge, Silverton, Amberley Village or Columbia Township who has served or is serving in the current war, please contact the Arts Center at 631-4278 or info@kennedyarts.org.

A cookout dinner will be served starting at 6:00 pm. The concert will begin at 7:00 pm.

The event (including dinner) is free, but RSVPs are appreciated. Call 631-4278.

Send nominations by June 26 to
KHCC 6463 Kennedy Ave.
I nominate

(Name) _____

(Address) _____

for the 2006 KH Landscape Award.

Your Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

email _____

Sure.

You can nominate yourself!



Juneteenth...6/14-15 Eden Park

Saturday June 14 12-9

- Family-oriented
- Festival begins at noon
- Two stages of great music all afternoon
- Organized activities for children
- Health screening
- College recruiters
- History exhibits & historical actors
- Sweet Potato Pie bake-off
- Free (except food or other purchases)
- No alcohol

**Sunday June 15 2:30-7:00
June Festival Concert**

- Partnership with May Festival
- Father's Day Concert
- Inspirational performances by choirs, classical musicians, liturgical dancers, and more
- Free

www.juneteenthcincinnati.org
juneteenth@fuse.net 631-7289

**Proud of Your Sweet Potato Pie
Enter the Bake-Off
Cash Prizes**

Community Calendar

- 5/20** KHCC Meets
- 5/24** Returning Vets Exhibit Opens
- 5/26** Memorial Day
- 5/29** Big Tent Concert at Arts Ctr.
- 5/29** School's out (CPS)
- 6/14-15** Juneteenth
- 6/17** KHCC Meets
- 6/22** Soapbox Derby
- 7/10** Everybody's Picnic
- 9/20** Progressive Dinner

In GOD'S Hands Christian Youth Center Quality Programs at Affordable Prices

Our center is a Christ based facility that prepares children spiritually, cognitively and developmentally for their future. Here's what we have to offer:

- Toddler Program (ages 18 mo. – 3 yrs)
- Year-round Preschool (ages 3-5yrs)
- Before & After School Program (K-5th)
- Meals are provided
- Job & Family Services Vouchers are welcomed!

Enroll Now in our Summer Program!!

Our summer program is sure to give your child a summer full of fun. We offer:

- Breakfast, Lunch & Snack
- Skills Enrichment
- Small groups for Safe Fun
- Field Trips include:
- Swimming, Fishing, Freedom Center, Museum Center & MORE!!!
- Seniors & Volunteers Welcomed

Kennedy Heights Community Council

President Ernest Barbeau
 Vice – President Natalie Boyer
 V.P. Community Planning Clete Benken
 Treasurer Kevin Holt
 Secretary Ardell Barkley

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Clyde Otis Michelle Dillingham
 Joshua Swain Mary Ray

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 C-POP Ben Pipkin
 Development... Clete Benken
 Youth Kathy Tyler
 Education Cecelia Holm
 Citizens on Patrol Michele Dragga
 Landscape Judy Barbeau
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 Daniel Drake: Michele Dragga

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**KHCC Calendar Pages
 In Living Color
www.kennedyheights.org**

**Council Next Meets on
 Tuesday 5/20/08**

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