



# NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

**Kennedy Heights  
Community Council (KHCC)**  
P.O. Box 36318  
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**Find KHCC on Facebook and  
Twitter:** @KHCCORG

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NEWS BY, FROM, AND FOR THE KENNEDY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY • JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2013

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2013 KENNEDY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY (KHCC) COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

**PRESIDENT** Michelle Dillingham  
**V.P., COMMUNITY PLANNING** Clete Benken  
**V.P., ADMINISTRATION** Jim Zarnowiecki  
**TREASURER** Sarah Stamper  
**SECRETARY** Jayne Dressing  
**MEMBERS AT-LARGE** Kendra Brown,  
Saundra Graham Jones, Sharifah Tafari,  
Christine Schumacher

## FORMER SCHRODER SCHOOL STATUS MEETING UPDATE & OUTCOMES

KHCC sponsored a special community meeting regarding the future of the Cincinnati Public Schools' property known as "Old Schroder" at 3500 Lumford Place on November 8 in the KH Presbyterian Church. Approximately 20 KH residents attended the meeting along with Cincinnati Police Officer George Engelman and CPS consultant Mike Burson. Clete Benken, KHCC VP of Community Planning, moderated the meeting.

Clete provided background on the property and on how it fits into the neighborhood's current comprehensive plan and Ernie Barbeau gave a background on the role of Kennedy Heights Development Corporation. Mike Burson provided a property status, Officer Engelman gave a report on crime issues associated with the property, and there was an extended time for questions from the meeting attendees. Residents came up (*continued on page 2*)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday 1/15/13**  
KHCC Bikeway  
Open House Meeting  
6:30-7:30 PM  
KH Presbyterian Church

KHCC Meeting  
7:30 PM  
KH Presbyterian Church

**Saturday 2/9/13**  
District A presents  
**The Traveling Jekyll  
and Hyde Show**  
7:00-8:30 PM  
Nativity School  
5936 Ridge Avenue

**Tuesday 2/19/13**  
KHCC Meeting  
7:30 PM  
KH Presbyterian Church

Deadline for  
submitting content  
for the March/April 2013  
newsletter:

**FRIDAY FEB. 8, 2013**

Email submissions to  
Kendra Brown  
([kendra@kennedyheights.org](mailto:kendra@kennedyheights.org))

## 2013 KENNEDY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

### PRESIDENT:

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## FORMER SCHRODER SCHOOL STATUS MEETING UPDATE & OUTCOMES *(continued from page 1)*

with a list of next steps and priorities that addressed their concerns and vision for the future of this property.

Sitting on seven acres in an area between KH Park, Robison Road and Lumford Place, Old Schroder is zoned SF-6 (medium density single family housing) under Cincinnati's building code. Used as a swing site by CPS since the original Schroder school moved to a new site in 2005, the building has been vacant since Woodford School moved to its rebuilt site earlier this year.

Mike Burson reported that per a state-mandated procedure, the property was offered for sale through an online auction after being unsuccessfully offered to charter schools. The highest bid was \$150,000 and CPS subsequently approved the sale. The prospective buyer is Five Korner, LLC and the closing is pending [as of the beginning of December 2012].

Meeting participants listed their priorities for the property including these three potential scenarios:

- 1) Remain an educational facility as a charter or private school;
- 2) become part of the adjacent KH Park; or
- 3) become neighborhood-serving senior/retiree housing. Residents were receptive to the development of low-density senior housing but did not want the property to become a low-income rental property.

Other top concerns focused on the long-term maintenance and security of the property such as: maintaining its fencing; ensuring proper grass cutting, tree trimming, and shrub pruning without the use of chemicals; keeping the service drive to Robison Road chained; and making sure that the property remains lit at night.

In order to address all of these issues, meeting participants decided to create a working group [at the next KHCC meeting] whose purpose would be to collaborate with the

Community Council and decide on a plan of action.

At the November 2012 KHCC meeting, Clete Benken gave a report on the Old Schroder meeting and KHCC unanimously approved a motion to adopt the concerns and priorities listed as the neighborhood's official policy for the future disposition of the property. The Schroder Working Group—also established by the KHCC at this meeting—prepared a white paper that details the community's policy toward the development of this property. This document opens with the following statement:

*Whereas the former Schroder School site has, and will have, a lasting and significant influence on the well-being of the neighborhood, Kennedy Heights Community Council (KHCC) regards the transition of this property as an opportunity and a challenge in our vision for the future development of Kennedy Heights and we will be vigilant in working towards and protecting the best interests of our community.*

If you have questions or concerns, we urge you to attend the next KHCC meeting on **Tuesday Jan. 15 at 7:30 PM** at KH Presbyterian Church. A copy of the Neighborhood's *Policy Statement* will be available at the meeting. You can also view it on the Community Council website: [www.kennedyheights.org](http://www.kennedyheights.org).

If you want to become involved with the Schroder Working Group or if you have questions before the next KHCC meeting, please contact Group members: Kate Kern ([kate@kennedyheights.org](mailto:kate@kennedyheights.org)) or Clete Benken ([clete@kennedyheights.org](mailto:clete@kennedyheights.org)).

## UPDATE ON THE FUNDRAISING FOR THE KENNEDY HEIGHTS CULTURAL CENTER

### New Corporate Foundation Grant Adds to Growing Support for our Community Cultural Center

In early December, an anonymous national investment services company foundation announced a grant of \$100,000 to our neighborhood-based non-profit development corporation, the Kennedy Heights Development Corporation (KHDC), to help pay for the new Kennedy Heights Cultural Center. The Cultural Center will be located in the soon-to-be renovated former Kroger/Furniture Fair building at the corner of Kennedy Avenue and Montgomery Road.

This announcement came on the heels of the announcement from the Procter and Gamble Foundation that it had given KHDC a grant of \$150,000 for the Cultural Center.

The former Kroger/Furniture Fair building and surrounding property was purchased by KHDC in early 2012 using City of Cincinnati development grants that totaled \$675,000. Other private foundations have kicked in grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Several individual residents have already given amounts ranging from \$5 to \$500 and many residents have contributed countless labor hours clearing, cleaning, landscaping, and attending meetings. Others have donated many hours of professional services such as architectural, real

estate, law, bookkeeping, and grant writing.

The Cultural Center project is a partnership between KHDC, the Kennedy Heights Montessori Center, the Cincinnati Art Museum, and the Kennedy Heights Arts Center.

### Cultural Center Campaign Moving Ahead

Our neighbors on the board of the Kennedy Heights Development Corporation (KHDC) are about to launch the individual neighborhood component of the campaign to raise funds for the new Cultural Center. Current and former residents of Kennedy Heights will be asked to contribute according to their means. Contributions may even be pledged over three years. The goal is to maximize local identification and pride in the center, which is expected to draw patrons from throughout southwestern Ohio and the tri-state region.

The Cultural Center is meant to be our welcome mat to the world as a regional destination that highlights the livability and diversity of our community and links people of all backgrounds to the unifying and humanizing world of culture and art.

—Mike Harmon, Chairperson  
Kennedy Heights Development Corporation Fundraising Committee  
[mike@khdevelopment.org](mailto:mike@khdevelopment.org)

### KHCC NEWSLETTER DELIVERY UPDATE

We changed our method of sending newsletters to bulk mail delivery and hopefully (again) you have received the printed copy of this issue, the third one with our new newsletter editor, Kendra Brown.

If you know of someone who has not received the newsletter, please let us know by sending an email to [christine@kennedyheights.org](mailto:christine@kennedyheights.org) or calling 351-8785. And please register to receive the KHCC eNews updates on our website ([www.kennedyheights.org](http://www.kennedyheights.org)). While there, you can also view and download an electronic version of the newsletter as well as learn about events and activities in the neighborhood.

## BEAUTIFICATION & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES IN KENNEDY HEIGHTS

Keep Cincinnati Beautiful is changing how they schedule events. Neighborhoods are now free to set up a date that is convenient for them. We can also apply for a \$10,000 grant to improve our neighborhood.

### Are you the 'someone' to help make that a reality?

There are other opportunities for beautification around the neighborhood so please contact [christine@kennedyheights.org](mailto:christine@kennedyheights.org) or call 351-8785 and let us know if you are willing to offer ideas, plan, organize and/or participate in events.

Coming this fall is the 30<sup>th</sup> annual KHCC Progressive Dinner, a not-to-miss evening of food and fun that celebrates the spirit and diversity of the neighborhood. In future issues we will highlight ways to become involved with the Dinner.

Our Communications Committee continues to welcome new residents as we look for ways to encourage others to be involved in the community.



New neighbors Cassandra and Will Jones of Aikenside Avenue receiving their Welcome Basket at the KHCC November meeting.

## NEIGHBORS CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON AT KENNEDY HEIGHTS WINTERFEST



Winterfest at the Kennedy Heights Arts Center was filled with tasty treats, talented performers, and an excellent turn out of old and new friends, despite a rainy evening. Neighbors enjoyed tasty refreshments while viewing "Cold Hands/Warm Heart", the winter art exhibit, and listening to holiday music by blues pianist Todd Hepburn. There were also performances from Cincinnati Music Academy students and from Bet Stewart, a.k.a. "Mama Spoons", who often accompanied Mr. Hepburn with her magical washboard. The evening was topped off by the Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church gospel choir who stole the show with their amazing voices. Residents also browsed the holiday art boutique for that perfect gift and kids made their own handmade ornaments.



Thanks to everyone who was able to provide or serve refreshments including: Kendra Brown, Sharifah Tafari, Christine Schumacher, Karen Durant Thomas, Jim Zarnowiecki, Sarah Stamper, Jayne Dressing, Jay Korte, B. J Gardner, Suzanne Beckner, and Russ Laycock.

Special thanks also goes to Christine Schumacher who organized Winterfest.

Photos: Mama Spoons and her magical washboard (*top left*); a young Winterfest helper with a platter of cookies (*center*); and the Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church gospel choir (*bottom*). All photos courtesy of the Kennedy Heights Arts Center.



## INSPIRATION RULES AT THE ARTS CENTER



A student working on a painting during the fall session. Photo courtesy of the Kennedy Heights Arts Center.

If the exterior walls of our Kennedy Heights Arts Center could reveal the extent of art-making done inside, then we would have far more than just a colorful door! During the 2012 Fall Session art classes, students let their imaginations run wild within all kinds of different media. From portraiture drawing to botanical painting, mixed-media collage, energetic world drumming, and finger-painting, we kept our artists and talented instructors up to their elbows in creative expression and community-building.

Teens were inspired by the gardens surrounding the Art Center (their fantastic pieces are currently on view in the galleries), while neighbors reconnected and visited over palettes of watercolors and oil pastels.

Committed artists in our Open Studio met weekly to share encouragement and tips for new projects, as well as a hot cup of coffee. A dull moment was hard to find, a dull pencil quickly sharpened.

It's true, we will take a break over the holidays, but that makes us all the more excited for the upcoming 2013 Winter Session! We will be including many of the same great classes, while offering a couple of fun, new choices.

## RED BANK ROAD BIKE LANE INSTALLATION UPDATE

Were you aware that Kennedy Heights was established at the easternmost end of Cincinnati's original streetcar line? Did you know that between 1990 and 2010 automobile usage by Kennedy Heights residents *dropped* by 19% and that walking trips *grew* by 474%?

Findings from the 2010 U.S. Census make it clear that Cincinnati residents are seeking "greener", less expensive options to owning and driving automobiles for their daily transportation needs. Plus, in a survey that was taken at the 2010 Neighborhood Summit, 93 percent of respondents said that "creating a walkable and bikeable city is important to the future of Cincinnati".

In response to the need to expand the range of lower-cost transportation choices and the desire to make Cincinnati a more walkable and bike-friendly community, the City of Cincinnati has established several initiatives aimed at improving the range of transportation options. In June 2010 the City completed—and then Council adopted—a master plan for the phased development of a city-wide system of bikeways. The City's "Bicycle Transportation Plan" lays out a "*comprehensive strategy for making bicycling an integral part of daily life in Cincinnati, so that persons of all ages and abilities utilize bicycles for all types of trips*".

The City's Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOTE) worked

collaboratively with local bicycle advocacy groups, community organizations, local businesses, and multiple city agencies to develop the plan. The planning process included intensive public involvement such as structured public meetings and neighborhood-based bicycle rides. It also included web-based outreach efforts such as an interactive map and online survey. A full copy of the plan is available at: [www.cincinnati-oh.gov/bikes/news](http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/bikes/news)

### Red Bank Road Bikeway

On February 8, 2012 DOTE's bikeway project manager requested that Kennedy Heights Community Council host a presentation for the community and take a resolution of support as a first step before taking the next step toward implementation of bike lanes on Red Bank Road.

Due to limited right-of-way across most of our neighborhood streets, the plan recommended that only three streets in Kennedy Heights receive bike facilities: Red Bank, Woodford, and Kennedy. The proposed path along the north- and south-bound lanes of Red Bank would eventually link with future "sharrow lanes" (also known as "share-the-road lanes") along Woodford and Kennedy. This would complete a bike route between Pleasant Ridge, the core neighborhoods of Kennedy Heights, and Madisonville. The lanes on Red Bank will eventually link to an off-road bike trail along the Red Bank Connector and join the Fairfax and Ohio River

Bike Trail near U.S. Route 50.

During the Community Council presentation held on February 21, DOTE reported that their staff studied traffic and parking on Red Bank for several weeks, at different times of the day, and during different days of the week. Their data showed an average of 2 to 4 cars parked on the street and based on the finding that all properties possessed driveways, DOTE concluded that the inconvenience of removing on-street parking would be outweighed by the benefit of the bicycle lanes to the larger community. After a brief Q&A session, a motion of support was presented and unanimously approved by the full membership.

Based on the City's written request from February, it was Community Council's understanding that DOTE would follow up with Red Bank Road residents to inform them of the plans and to seek their input on these. This past October, DOTE issued a letter to those residents notifying them of the plan to install the Bike Lanes. Initial work to paint lines and bike symbols started approximately two weeks later.

Since that time, DOTE reports that 3 calls were received from individual residents who objected to the loss of on-street parking. A Red Bank resident subsequently circulated a petition opposing the removal of parking. The petition was then forwarded to DOTE and a member of Cincinnati City Council. *(continued on page 6)*

The Kennedy Heights Arts Center (6546 Montgomery Road) offers a wide range of art classes for youth and adults from beginner to advanced artists. Registration is now open for the **Winter 2013 Session (8 weeks from January 21–March 16)**. Class offerings for Teens and Adults include: Digital Photography, Acrylic Painting, Beginner and Color Drawing, World Drumming. Offerings for Youth include: Paint & Play (Pre-K), Master Artists (K-3rd), Intro to Drawing (4th-6th), Studio K on Saturdays (5–12 years) and Saturday Teen Art Studio.

To register, visit [www.kennedyarts.org](http://www.kennedyarts.org) or call 513-631-4278.



## RED BANK ROAD BIKE LANE UPDATE (continued from page 5)

Based on the concerns of these residents, DOTE conducted a supplemental study of Sunday service parking at KH Church of Christ and DOTE staff made a follow-up presentation to Community Council on November 20. They presented revised plans that showed additional parking spaces near the intersection of Woodford Road.

Several Red Bank residents attended the meeting and stated their opposition to the revised plan, citing loss of convenience and flexibility due to parking removal along the remainder of the street.

After a 20-minute discussion, Community Council asked DOTE to consider other possible alternatives and to make a follow-up presentation with their latest findings and recommendations at the January 2013 KHCC meeting. Copies of these alternatives and prior plans can be viewed at: [www.cincinnati-oh.gov/dote](http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/dote)

### Bikeway Open House Meeting

The Community Council Board strongly encourages residents throughout Kennedy Heights to attend a “**Bikeway Open House Meeting**” on **Tuesday January 15 from 6:30–7:30 PM** at Kennedy Heights Presbyterian Church before the regular KHCC meeting. DOTE staff will be there to present the available options, receive feedback on the current plans, and discuss the future of bikeways in Kennedy Heights. Representatives from Queen City Bike Club will also attend to share their perspective on the master plan and to discuss the issues that affect cyclists of all skill and interest levels.

The decisions we ultimately make about bike lanes on Red Bank Road could impact our ability to complete the proposed bikeway network, influence our neighborhood’s “quality of life”, and affect the quality and variety of our local transportation and recreation options.

—Clete Benken  
[clete@kennedyheights.org](mailto:clete@kennedyheights.org)

## LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD FOR PROFESSIONAL THEATRE CLOSE TO HOME



Playhouse Director Mark Lutwak and KHPC Audience. Photo courtesy of *District-A*.

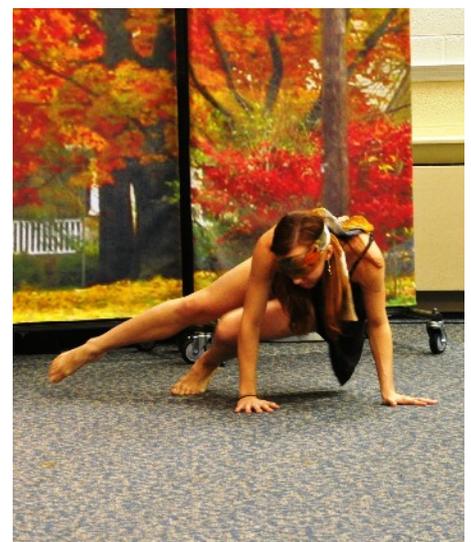
Back on November 3, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park opened our fifth *District A* season at Kennedy Heights Presbyterian Church. That night an audience of more than 90 laughed their way through ***Accidental Friends***, and many of us also became them as we met each other through the experience of the play. That is what *District A* makes possible when we bring new people into new places through new community arts.

Our ‘improbable pairings’ nurture creative connections. Before ***Accidental Friends*** began, a brief and haunting ballet by a member of David Choate’s Kennedy Heights dance troupe introduced everyone to this new local arts studio and to the play’s theme. Conversations began as the curtain went up and then continued. Following the play’s performance, the audience stayed to enjoy the food and good company, to help take down chairs and the set, and to craft their own accidental friendships off-stage.

On **Saturday February 9**, Playhouse Off the Hill returns to *District A*—this time at Nativity School in Pleasant Ridge—to bring us ***The Traveling Jekyll and Hyde Show***. As always, the show time is 7:00–8:30 PM, while the community party lasts as long as

you like. All are welcome, and adults may donate \$5 at the door. You should count on fun, family-friendly professional theatre. You should expect lots of improbable pairings and much more that is unexpected in this hilarious adaptation of a story we all think we know.

Go ahead, make a New Year’s resolution to travel southwest on February 9 to see what you will discover in *District A!*



A dancer from David Choate’s dance troupe performing a ballet solo before ***Accidental Friends***. Photo courtesy of *District-A*.

## KEN-SIL SPRING 2013 SEASON REGISTRATION

### In-Person Registration Dates:

Wednesday January 9, 2013

Tuesday January 15, 2013

### Location:

Pleasant Ridge Recreation Center  
5915 Ridge Avenue

### Time:

6:30-8:00 PM

- Register your players at one of the registration dates or online ([www.kensilsoccer.com](http://www.kensilsoccer.com)) to adhere to SAY Soccer deadlines. You can complete the necessary forms for your player and also pay online.
- Payment alone does not constitute registration. The player must have a completed registration form before he/she is eligible to play.
- Registration forms that are given to coaches will no longer be honored.
- If the minimum number of sign-ups is not received by the deadline, your child may not have a team to play on. So please make sure you register your child as soon as possible!

## OTHER KEN-SIL OPPORTUNITIES

**Ken-Sil Coaches Needed** Coaches are needed at various levels to allow for all interested players to participate. No experience is needed, just a desire to help and some free time. If you are interested, please send an email to [ken.sil.soccer@gmail.com](mailto:ken.sil.soccer@gmail.com) with the subject line: "Fall Coach".

**Girls' Indoor Soccer** We are in the process of forming a girls' indoor soccer team that will be coached by Jason Miller, the coach of the Girls Kickers in Fall 2012. Games will be played at Cincinnati Sports Club on Red Bank Road. For more information, please send an email to [ken.sil.soccer@gmail.com](mailto:ken.sil.soccer@gmail.com) with the subject line: "Indoor Soccer".

**SAY Soccer Board** Ken-Sil needs at least one parent who is willing to volunteer with the area SAY Soccer Board. The following volunteer positions are open: President, Secretary (Fall 2013), Tournament, Fields Assistant, and Schedule Assistant. Paid Adult Referees positions are also available. Visit <http://www.sayeast.org/Portals/1053/docs/SAY%20East%20Vol%20Job%20Descriptions.pdf> for information about these positions. If you want to get involved, please send an email to [ken.sil.soccer@gmail.com](mailto:ken.sil.soccer@gmail.com) with the subject line: "SAY Board".

## PLEASANT RIDGE RECREATION CENTER PROGRAMS FOR KIDS AND ADULTS

Check out a sampling of the many classes and programs that the Pleasant Ridge Recreation Center offers for both kids and adults:

**The After School Day Camp Program** has full- and part-time positions available for children ages 6–12. Registration fees are \$200.00 + \$10.00 for an All-CRC Recreation Center Youth Membership Card and fees are paid monthly.

The **Adventures in Learning Program** is for kids ages 3–5 and runs Monday–Friday from 9:30 AM–12:30 PM, \$40.00/week (charged monthly). Program includes imagination play, shapes, cooking, science, ABCs, fitness and fun!

Please call Kim Lanser at 731-7894 for more information about either of these programs.

The Pleasant Ridge Recreation Center has **Zumba®** classes with Ebony on Thursday nights from 7:30– 8:30 PM for \$6.00/class. A **pottery class** is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30–8:30 PM and the fees are \$151.00 for 12 weeks plus the cost of clay.

The Scrapbooking Club meets on Mondays at 10:00 AM, **movies at Pleasant Ridge** occurs on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM, and the Kennedy **Heights and Pleasant Ridge Seniors** meet on Thursdays from 10:00 AM–3:00 PM.

**BANG Cincinnati** offers **Ballet II** and **So You Wanna Dance classes** on Wednesday nights and **Ballet I** and **Dance Toning** on Tuesday nights. There is a fee for these classes.

Note that the days, times, and availabilities of these classes are subject to change, so please contact the Recreation Center for the most up-to-date information.

To access the full list of classes and programs that are available at the Pleasant Ridge Recreation Center, visit the Cincinnati Recreation Commission's website ([www.cincinnati-oh.gov/recreation](http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/recreation) and search under "Rec Centers, Classes & Camps").



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## Citizen Service Request

**[www.5916000.com](http://www.5916000.com)  
or (513) 591-6000**

**5916000.com** is an interactive tool that highlights the most commonly requested services and is available at your convenience.

Simply choose a category, select a service and fill out the form to send us your request. You can also call **513-591-6000** for a menu of the most requested services such as:

**Trash Pickup • Streets  
Snow Removal • Zoning Issues**

## HOMEOWNER & RENTER RESOURCES

**Home Buyer Training Programs** Contact the Home Ownership Center of Greater Cincinnati at 513-961-2800 or Working In Neighborhoods at 513-541-4109.

**Emergency Mortgage Assistance** Contact the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati at 513-241-9400 or visit [www.lascinti.org](http://www.lascinti.org).

**Homeowner Preservation Initiative to prevent foreclosure** Contact Working In Neighborhoods (WIN) at 513-541-4109.

**Housing repairs for low-income/elderly households** Contact People Working Cooperatively, Inc. at 513-351-7921 or visit [www.pwchomerepairs.org](http://www.pwchomerepairs.org).

**Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)** Contact The Center for Independent Living Options, Inc. at 513-241-2600.

**Tenant Representation Project** (*Legal representation for low-income tenants with tenant-landlord legal issues.*) Contact the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati at 513-241-9400 or visit [www.lascinti.org](http://www.lascinti.org).

**Source:** All housing information is from the City of Cincinnati website ([www.cincinnati-oh.gov](http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov)).