



KENNEDY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
 P.O. BOX 36318
 CINCINNATI, OH 45236

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NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

NEWS BY, FROM, AND FOR THE KENNEDY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY

JUL/AUG 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 22—August 7

KH Arts Center
 Virtual Art Camps
 Weekly

Learn about each week's theme and register at kennedyarts.org

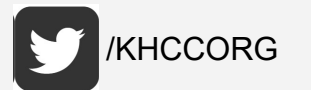
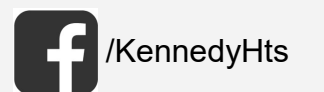
Monday, June 29

Pleasant Ridge Library
 Open for limited services
 Monday - Friday
 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 Call us at 513-369-4488 with any questions

Tuesday, August 18

KH Community Council
 Virtual meeting via GSuites
 6:30 p.m. Board discussion
 7:30 p.m. Public meeting

Planning for the future is difficult in this time of COVID. Stay up-to-date on neighborhood happenings by signing up for our e-news at kennedyheights.org or following us on social media



Sep/Oct newsletter content due
 Aug 1: kelliott@kennedyheights.org

BLACK-EYED SUSANS FOR JUSTICE

WE STAND TOGETHER AGAINST RACISM



Kennedy Heights is proud of its history of intentional integration. We are grateful for the many neighbors who hold us to this. Thanks to their passion, a beautiful and inspiring event was put together within one week.

Thank you to all of our neighbors and friends for coming out on Saturday, June 20, to plant Black-eyed Susans for Justice.

Special thanks to so many, including:

- Suzanne and Dave Kammer for reaching out to the KHCC Board seeking a local social justice outlet.
- Kennedy Heights Art Center for hosting the event.
- Flower kit makers Joanie & Jeffrey Weidner, Mindy Burger, Beth Muething, Bethany Pelle and Mark Haase
- Leesa Haapapuro for her Gardens of Hope inspiration

- Mallory Feltz for artistic direction
- Our terrific teen crew for making signs and canvassing with flyers.
- Jayne Dressing for organizing, lining up special guests and emceeing our event.
- Vivian, our young songbird, for leading us in the Black

“Until justice rolls down like waters...”

National Anthem "Lift Ev'ry Voice And Sing."

- Al Gerhardstein, a true freedom fighter, who brought us up-to-date on the Collaborative Agreement Refresh and the city's proposed budget.
- Will Jones Photo, for the beautiful images of the day.
- The many neighbors who shared personal stories, pains and hopes, even beautiful poetry.

We stand together against inequality and injustice.

BLACK-EYED SUSANS FOR JUSTICE (story on front cover)



Photos by Will Jones Photo, www.willjonesphotography.com/

2020 KENNEDY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

CO-PRESIDENTS: Kate Elliott, kelliott@kennedyheights.org, Sharifah Tafari, sharifah@kennedyheights.org

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Cassandra Jones, cassandra@kennedyheights.org

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The KHCC Neighbor to Neighbor newsletter is published with funds from Friends of Kennedy Heights and City of Cincinnati Neighborhood Support Program.

CONNECT WITH THE KHCC ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENTS

The year has not gotten any easier. We are reckoning with our nation's ongoing struggle with systemic racism, while still enduring a healthcare crisis. And so we are reminded how important it is to support each other.

Thank you for everyone who came together and will continue to stand together for our Black friends, families, and neighbors. Thank you to everyone who is practicing safe behaviors for yourself and for others. Thank you for everyone who has engaged with us in our virtual Council meetings.

This year is moving forward differently than expected, but it is still moving forward. We are here for you.

Kate Elliott and Sharifah Tafari Co-Presidents



COMMUNITY PLANNING, AS BEST WE CAN

The City has postponed official community planning due to COVID, but we would still like to hear from you. If you have thoughts about how we can improve our community, please email mary@kennedyheights.org. It can be big or small, on your street, in our parks, or in our business district. It can be a problem or just a suggestion for something you'd love to see. We'd love to work with you to make Kennedy Heights the best you think it can be.

FRIENDS OF KENNEDY HEIGHTS: APR 1, 2020 - MAY 31, 2020

In these days of social distancing, we encourage you to support the Community Council through our website. Thank you for supporting your community during this time. www.kennedyheights.org

If we have inadvertently omitted your name, please inform us.

- Friends of Kennedy Heights: Adam Kirwen, Bilal Shabazz Muhammad, Kenneth Woods, Bill & Marlene Muse, Dax Farmer, Veosa Ruffin, Edith Thrower, Louise Kilgore, Ann & Bennett Smith

Become a Friend of Kennedy Heights! Your tax-deductible donation supports the bi-monthly newsletter and the events in and around the community.

Donation: Please check amount. Cash or check is accepted.

- \$15.00, \$25.00, \$50.00, \$100.00, Other amount: \$

Name, Address, City/State/ZIP, Email fields

Include my name (only) in the newsletter as a Friend of the Community: Yes No

Please mail this completed form and payment to: P.O. Box 36318, Cincinnati, OH 45236. Other one-time or recurring payment options—including credit card payments—are available at www.kennedyheights.org using PayPal. Kennedy Heights Community Council is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.

GUARDIAN SAVINGS BANK DRIVE-THRU IS OPEN



Drive thru banking is now available in Kennedy Heights via the new Guardian Savings Bank (GSB.) It is the only full service bank in Kennedy Heights. Like all GSB branches, the Kennedy Heights lobby is closed due to the Coronavirus. A community celebration of our newest business will be planned once it's deemed safe to reopen branches.

"We appreciate that the Guardian team has taken the time to listen and gain an understanding of the particular issues area residents face regarding their housing and financial service needs," said

Steve Grieser, chair of the Kennedy Heights Development Corporation's Housing Committee. "We look forward to continuing and growing the partnership."

Guardian is known for its low-cost, low-rate home mortgage loans. In addition to offering traditional banking services, the Kennedy Heights branch will eventually have a mortgage loan officer on site and will offer down payment assistance, home renovation financing and low-cost refinancing. The Kennedy Heights team is led by Branch Manager Janeczka Jones-Watt, Teller Supervisor Cathy Baker and Teller Anita Hisle. Janeczka and Anita are new employees, while Cathy comes from the Cherry Grove branch. Please take time to welcome our new Kennedy Heights team! To learn more, call the Kennedy Heights branch at 513-351-1429.

PLEASANT RIDGE LIBRARY

The Pleasant Ridge Branch will be open for limited services starting June 29th. We will be open Monday through Saturday, from 10AM-6PM. Available services include curbside service, browsing, limited computer access, and assistance with faxing, scanning, copying, and printing. Visitors will be asked to limit their visits to 30 minutes or less. Building capacity will be significantly reduced. Storytime and all programs and events are still cancelled until further notice. Available services may change. Call us at 513-369-4488 with any questions. Check www.cincinnati.library.org to access all our eBranch offerings, and to see the most current information on services offered at all of the branches.

KENNEDY HEIGHTS ARTS CENTER



SUMMER CAMPS AT HOME

After careful consideration for the health and safety of all, we made the difficult decision to not hold in-person camps this summer. Instead, we are bringing KHAC Summer Camp to your home!

Eight unique Summer Camps for students ages 5-13, designed and led by local professional artists. Designing fashion, video games, animation, learning about birds and other animals (and making art for and about animals), and making cool mosaic art!

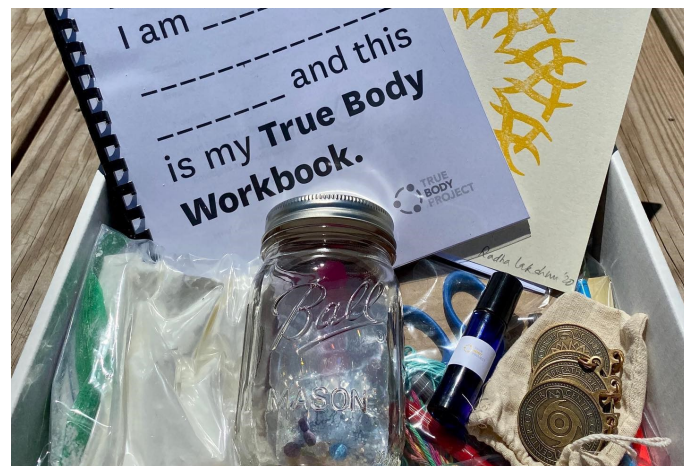
Online sessions are just the launching pad. Each camp includes:

- 5 days immersion into art-making, creative expression, and self-directed imaginative play.
- Indoor/outdoor exploration, observation-based activities, and creative challenges to hone campers' creative problem solving and

- ingenuity with materials.
- A bundle of art supplies.
- Dynamic remote interactions for 45-60 minutes each day with artist-instructors, peers, and teen mentors.

Our amazing arts educators have adapted their curriculum to be delivered in a remote format, but still retain the high quality of instruction, engagement, and fun you've come to expect at Kennedy Heights Arts Center.

Camp tuition is \$100 + \$15 materials fee. As always, sliding scale fees are available for those in financial need. Register at www.kennedyarts.org or call Bethany Pelle at 513-800-4567.



LEND A HELPING HAND AROUND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

IN OUR PARKS

Did you know that the flower beds at the entrances to Kennedy Heights Park and Drake Park have a long history of being maintained by members of our community?

For many years KH Park has participated in the Park's Green Up Day program. This year's Green Up Day was a bit different than usual. The Parks Dept provided annual flowering plants and mulch, but was not able to support us with staff. Instead of gathering in one group to work, we worked individually over several days. **Thank you to community members Pat MacVeigh, Carren Herring, Jeff Day and Margaret Clifford** for weeding, planting and mulching the flower beds on the Kennedy and Robison sides of the KH Park. Drake Park's flowerbeds are maintained by Michele Dragga.

This year more than ever, our parks can use you! The city of Cincinnati's budget is stressed. Cuts to the Parks budget means less staff. We need to step up and help out.

Help is needed maintaining the entrance flowerbeds (weeding and watering), spreading mulch around trees, picking up litter, and planting new trees in KH Park once the Kennedy Ave bridge project is complete.

Contact Kate Kern (kkern@kennedyheights.org) or Michele Dragga (michele@kennedyheights.org) to learn more.

IN OUR GARDENS

The KH community garden has 6 raised beds available and they are FREE this gardening season! We are also looking for volunteers to help weed the beds and maintain the compost bins (green thumbs not required!) To learn more, email sharifah@kennedyheights.org or call (513) 225-2355.

IN OUR LOTS

Help maintain the vacant lot at the old Beverage Cave. Weed however you want, whenever you want, and keep this corner of Kennedy Heights looking its best! **Gloves, bags, and waters available if needed, simply contact mary@kennedyheights.org**



2020 LANDSCAPE AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Landscape Awards Committee is looking for nominations of particularly beautiful, well-maintained landscapes in Kennedy Heights. You may nominate yourself or someone from the neighborhood. If you don't know the name of the homeowner, that's okay. You may submit just the address for your nomination. Judging will take place in late July.

Any landscapes that were winners within the last three years or that are in the Kennedy Heights Landscape Hall of Fame are not eligible.

Submit all nominations to: Michele Dragga Michele@kennedyheights.org or (513) 984-6867

NOTE: Michele is spelled with one "I"
Deadline for nominations: July 22, 2020

AN OLD FASHIONED WEDDING IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Contributed by John Bange

During this challenging time in our country, we are all look for ways to keep up our spirits. One Kennedy Heights couple found the perfect way—they got married. And on their front porch!

Laura and Gordon Thompson had planned to get married at their home in June with family and friends in attendance. When the world began to shut down, and a return to “normal” looking more and more uncertain, they decided to claim their joy in their own way. They were married on Thursday, April 2.

They found a judge willing to come and preside: the Honorable Thomas Beridon. Witnesses were present, and family gathered via Zoom. Laura’s dad even walked her down the aisle via FaceTime!

Laura and Gordon moved into their home on Kennedy Avenue in November of 2019. Laura is a fourth-grade teacher in the Oak Hills School District and Gordon is a Principal Engineer at GE Aviation. They have two children: Michael, age 5, and Emmanuel, age 3. We welcome Laura and Gordon and their beautiful family to the neighborhood!



PLAY IN THE STREETS, RE-IMAGINED

With no Play in the Park, The Kennedy Heights Arts Center has been thinking about re-envisioning a Play in the Streets initiative that was in early planning stages in the winter: **leveraging art + culture to bring residents together in our neighborhoods, but in a safe manner.** We are thinking about safe (and fun) ways to create a street party that connects residents on their street, while remaining

socially distant. Our core idea is to create a Joy Mobile that drives through/visits streets (like an ice cream truck) sharing music, artist-created engagement activities and possibly food. **Interested in developing this? Have a truck? Know of teens who may want to volunteer? Email ellen@kennedyarts.org**

RESOURCES FOR NEIGHBORS IN NEED



PUBLIC LIBRARY OF CINCINNATI AND HAMILTON COUNTY is closed to the public, but curbside meals will be available on weekdays for youth ages 18 and under, at select locations. Children must be present to receive a meal. The meal service locations and serving times are subject to change. *This service is made possible through federal funding, as part of the USDA’s Child and Adult Care Food Program.*

- 12-1 pm: Elmwood Place, Groesbeck, Madisonville, North Central, Reading, Main Library
- 2-3 pm: Avondale, Bond Hill, College Hill, Pleasant Ridge, West End, and Westwood
- 4-5 pm: Corryville, Covedale, Deer Park, St. Bernard, and Walnut Hills

THE CARING PLACE is operating with the health and safety of our neighbors in need and our volunteers as our first priority.

- The pantry is open to distribute food in the parking lot on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am to 2pm. Food and necessities are available **to anyone**. Drive thru for pick-up.
- Teddy’s Closet, our clothing room, is closed. We are not accepting clothes or housewares.
- We are accepting non-perishable, prepackaged food, personal care item, baby diapers and wipes, toilet paper, & household cleaning items. Drive-thru to drop off your donations.

If you are a senior and need goods delivered to your home, or for other information, email caringplc@yahoo.com or call (513) 841-1499. And thank you for helping our neighbors in need!

FREE MEALS, SNACKS & ACTIVITY PACKS (For Students Ages 1 To 18)

Lunch - First Baptist Church of Kennedy Heights 12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
June 1st - August 14th

Breakfast & Lunch - Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Woodford Paideia Academy | 3716 Woodford Rd
John P Parker School | 5051 Anderson Pl

Healthy Snacks & Activity Packs - Monday-Friday 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Pleasant Ridge Recreation Center | 5915 Ridge Ave

Healthy Snacks - Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Pleasant Ridge Branch Library | 6233 Montgomery Rd