



NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Kennedy Heights Community News



Kennedy Heights Residents Eli, Ettie, Edie & Grace



Cecil & Mary Solomon

From Hot Dogs to Ribs

They needed a kitchen as a prep space to sell hot dogs. But it was the coaxing of a City worker who explained that the licensing requirements needed to create the prep kitchen were the same as a full restaurant that prompted them to open C&M BBQ Grille eight years ago. The restaurant near the corner of Kennedy and Montgomery Road is owned by Mary and Cecil Solomon. And if you have not yet been there, you should know that the offerings include not only ribs and other American foods, but also Jamaican fare like jerk chicken.

The first bit of this interview was spent speaking with Cecil while Mary was working in the kitchen. Mary, he said, *is* the business. She is a one man band. While Cecil used to be more active with the restaurant by doing the grilling, a recent illness keeps him away from the smoke and leaves him providing customer service and working as the full time purchaser. Mary is the now the grillmaster, does all the prep work, is the cook, provides customer service and is the liasion with Grub-Hub, Doordash and Uber Eats.

(continued on page 4)

upcoming events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Storytime, Tuesdays, 10:30-Toddlers; 11:15-Preschool, 11-Craftivity, All Ages. Pleasant Ridge Library.

Adult Book Club, 5/12, 6/19, 2pm, PR Library, Pleasant Ridge Library.

Teens Create, 5/12, 6/9, 3:30pm. Pleasant Ridge Library.

KH Community Council Tues., 5/17 & 6/21, 7:30 pm. Join the meeting in person at Kennedy Heights Pres., or virtually via meet.google.com/amo-fjbm-bgq. (See back page for more info.)

Imagine Lab, 5/18, 6/15. 3pm. Ages 6-12. Pleasant Ridge Library.

Final Friday Board Games, 5/27, 3:30pm. Ages 6-12. Pleasant Ridge Library.

Kennedy Heights Cookout, 6/4, 2-5pm. (This is a tentative schedule. Please contact samara@kennedyheights.org for more info.)

Bug Chicks, 6/11, 1pm. Incredible Anthropods! Registration required.

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Kate Elliott



Sharifah Tafari

A LETTER FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS

What a wonderful Spring it has been so far! We love seeing your faces out and about in the neighborhood. Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent events. We appreciated how many came out to March Into Spring to explore community organizations, learn about composting and recycling, sample yoga classes, listen to music, enjoy donuts, and provide final feedback on our Neighborhood Plan! The Sap Run returned after a two-year Covid-related pause. We welcomed nearly 40 runners and raised more than \$1,000.

Events like these are a great opportunity to connect with neighbors, strengthen roots in this community, and build a sense of stability and trust with the people around you. They would not be possible without the time and talent of our wonderful volunteers. Whether they made phone calls to procure food and drink donations, helped distribute flyers, participated in set-up or tear-down, or any number of other valuable tasks, we are grateful for their efforts.

As summer approaches, we look forward to more opportunities to get together! Our Parks will be bustling with volunteer events to keep our treasured green spaces their best, as well as celebrations for all including a cookout in June, and Play in the Park in July and August. Please be sure you receive our emails and follow our Facebook Page, or check our website for the most updated information. If you need any support accessing these communication outlets, call 513-202-4345.

As a final note, we are overjoyed to share that our Neighborhood Plan was unanimously approved by the Council (that means you, our neighborhood) during the March meeting. It then went before the Cincinnati Planning Commission, where it was also unanimously approved. The final steps will be approving an updated version of our by-laws, as well as having the City Council look over and approve our Neighborhood Plan. Thank you so much to everyone who supported this process that puts forward a shared vision for our neighborhood in the coming years. We look forward to working with you to bring it to fruition. Please be sure to join us in our May and June meetings to find out how you can be a part of the future of your neighborhood.

Keep shining,
Kate Elliott and Sharifah Tafari

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GREEN UP DAY

Saturday, May 14 from 9-12

Join your neighbors for this annual spring tradition: Green Up Day in Kennedy Heights Park on With the support of Cincinnati Park's staff we will be weeding, planting annuals and mulching the flower beds at the park's entrances on Kennedy Ave and Robison Road, as well as the circle bed near the shelter. We will continue the renovation of the beds along Robison Road, by replacing the existing shrubs with varieties that are more pollinator friendly in the second bed from the driveway of the old Shroder School property. No special skills are needed for this event. Bring garden gloves and your favorite weeding tool. We will work in light rain. Event will be rescheduled to Saturday, May 21 in case severe weather.

Help is needed before this event to remove existing shrubs and bulbs as well as afterwards with ongoing care of the beds during the growing season. Contact Kate Kern at kkern@kennedyheights.org for more information.

Check for updates on the Friends of KH Park Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofkennedyheightspark>.

The Neighborhood Stabilization Home Repair Program

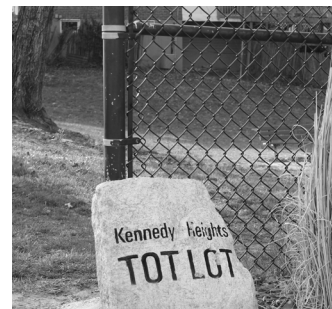
will begin on June 11. During April and May the team will be speaking with those seniors, veterans and people living with disabilities who have requested home repairs to determine which home repair projects we can accomplish. The home repairs will be done starting in June. If you have questions about the Home Repair Program, please call 513-202-4345, or email khcc@kennedyheights.org.



Kennedy Heights Cookout

The Community Council Board is planning a neighborhood cookout in June to celebrate our local graduates! Don't worry about planning your own graduation barbecue—invite friends and family to ours! Tentatively scheduled for June 4th, 2-5pm.

Are you known as the Grillmaster? If so, we need you! We're looking for volunteers to grill up their best hot dogs and burgers to share with the neighborhood. All meats provided, but cooks are encouraged to bring their own grills and tools. Contact Samara for more information at samara@kennedyheights.org.



TOT LOT SERVICE DAY

Clean up and add seasonal beauty to the Tot Lot play area, 3750 Zinsle Ave. Bring gloves and planting tools. Date and time to be determined.



Help with Dog Waste Stations Needed

Have you noticed the Dog Waste Stations in Kennedy Heights Park? Please check out these stations placed near the park entrances at Kennedy Ave. and Robison Road. And please, bring your plastic grocery or newspaper bags to refill them as needed.

Donations Accepted!

Help the Kennedy Heights Community Council continue to provide our residents with events, information and all of the important activities that help our neighborhood thrive. Go to www.kennedyheights.org/donate to make your donation today!



One would think that would be enough to send anyone home in search of a glass of wine and a hot bath. But not Mary. When Mary joined us, she explained that she also owns Mary's Vintage Boutique next door, has a cleaning service and babysits in the evenings. AND, she tells me that Domino's is paying \$20/hr. and she's planning on driving for them! Why so many jobs? Because, as she says in her Jamaican accent, "bills have to be paid!"

The two met at a lighting company. Cecil was a painter of outdoor light fixtures and Mary was an inspector on his line. Apparently, Cecil passed the inspection, because they have been married since. Their union brought together sixteen children—which includes two sets of twins. Cecil refers to their blended family as the *Black Brady Bunch without the maid*. (They recently lost a 41-year old child in Jamaica.)

Cecil has been a resident of Kennedy Heights since 1985. He used to drive for senior services and while

there developed a Cincinnati tour for the seniors so they could always be up on the news of the changes around the Queen City.

Mary has been in the country since she was twelve, originally landing in New York. She came to Cincinnati with her older sister. Mary remembers standing on a barstool as a child helping her mother cook. Her mother also owned her own business.

The early training seems to have been a gift to Mary. The things she learned as a child have provided her the freedom to work as she needs, which gives her the freedom she so desires to take time for her family.

The Solomons wanted to share that they also have vegan offerings. They are open Monday through Saturday from 10am to 7pm. And when you come, please take note of the many paintings on the wall. And if you see one you like, know that they are all for sale.



2022 LANDSCAPE AWARDS NOMINATIONS

May is certainly one of the prettiest months in Kennedy Heights. As you're out and about enjoying it, keep an eye open for any especially striking landscapes. Yes, it's that time of year again when the Landscape Awards Committee is calling 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 early 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 at Michele@kennedyheights.org. (spelled with one "l"), or (513)984-6867. Deadline for nominations is June 30, 2022.

PLEASANT RIDGE RECREATION CENTER



Visit the Rec Center on a Saturday! From 9:00am - 2:00pm enjoy the weight room, shoot hoops in the gym, or play pickleball. The CRC also has rooms that can be reserved for Neighborhood Watch meetings or other community uses. Call (513) 731-7894.



NEIGHBORHOOD BLITZ

Calling all volunteers for our June 11 Clean-up Blitz in Quadrant 3! As part of the Neighborhood Plan, each year we will have a blitz in one of our four quadrants. This year, the blitz will be in Quadrant 3 - the streets between Coleridge and Plainfield, Montgomery and Woodford (Red Bank, Odin, Kirkup, Hedge, Zinsle, Standish, Iona, Dunloe, Iberis and Woodford Court). On June 11, volunteers will meet at the Tot Lot (Red Bank and Zinsle) and will be picking up trash, clearing sidewalks and other projects to make the streets clean and safe. If you have suggestions for clean-up projects, please report them at 513-202-4345, or khcc@kennedyheights.org. We will have Cincinnati Recycling Hub on site to collect re-usable items, and we will schedule a special Large Trash Pickup Truck so you can put large items on the curb (our volunteers can help with that too).

Community Garden

Spring is here!! And that means it's time to get in the garden! The community garden has raised beds to rent for only \$25 for the growing season. And there are always opportunities to volunteer pulling weeds, tending to the compost bins, etc. Contact Sharifah at sharifah@kennedyheights.org, or (513) 225-2355. No green thumbs required!

THINGS TO DO



Play in the Park

returns this summer to celebrate the rich diversity of the Kennedy Heights and Pleasant Ridge neighborhoods with wonderful entertainment for the entire family. Bring a food basket, blanket and/or chairs and enjoy fabulous live music with your friends and neighbors each Wednesday starting June 6 through August 3 from 6:30 to 8pm. This year's schedule includes Play in the Park favorites Roger Klug and Julie Spangler Klug, Mike Wade and the Nasty Nati Brass Band, The UC Community Band, and many more! Kids will enjoy interactive art programs offered by staff from the Kennedy Heights Arts Center and refreshing snacks from local businesses.

Klug and Julie Spangler Klug, Mike Wade and the Nasty Nati Brass Band, The UC Community Band, and many more! Kids will enjoy interactive art programs offered by staff from the Kennedy Heights Arts Center and refreshing snacks from local businesses.

Play in the Park is free and open to all. We actively seek to provide programming that reflects the rich diversity of our community. Our mission is to enrich our community by maximizing the use of parks for the enjoyment of residents of all ages by promoting and reclaiming these natural settings as safe places to connect with family and friends. We focus on creating positive interactions, building relationships of trust, and meeting new friends as neighbors gather to experience the arts in the beautiful natural setting of our neighborhood park.

Bravo to our partners, Cincinnati Parks, Kennedy Heights Arts Center, Kennedy Heights Community Council, Pleasant Ridge Community Council, and ArtsWave for their generosity and support which makes all Play in the Park activities free to everyone.

*No Play in the Park Wednesday, July 6.



KENNEDY HEIGHTS ART CENTER GALLERY

Community Days at KHAC

Saturdays, May 28 and June 25, 11—3pm

We cordially invite everyone to join us for Community Days at Kennedy Heights Arts Center. On the 4th Saturday of the month from April to September, we are throwing a party for the community--and it just wouldn't be the same without YOU! Diverse artists will be creating amazing installations and fun experiences on the lawn of the Arts Center—and there will be FREE music, performances, food, games and activities for all ages.

- May 28: Sit and Stay Awhile with Jennifer Cox.
- June 25: A World of Color with Adoria Maxberry, Ke'Monte Figgs and Brent Billingsley.

More information at kennedyarts.org/communitydays. We hope to see you there!

Textile Workshops with Artist-in-Residence

Jennifer Cox

May 2—11

KHAC's spring artist-in-residence Jennifer Cox invites you to participate in the design and fabrication of a welcoming community hub. Participate in workshops for adults and youth ages 9+ on May 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11 (various times) to create decorative pennants out of Ankara fabric and stencil oil-cloth coverings using motifs from the African diaspora. These textiles will be used to decorate the gazebo and outdoor seating on the grounds of the arts center for all to enjoy! To learn more and register for a free workshop, visit kennedyarts.org, or call 513-631-4278.

Jennifer Cox owns and operates Make.Do., a community-focused creative retail space in Pleasant Ridge offering yarn, fabric and textiles, and providing classes onsite and at the Cincinnati Public Library, Civic Garden Center and Kennedy Heights Arts Center. She has 15+ years' experience as knitter, crocheter, textile artist and quilter, and uses that to deliver engaging and inspiring experiences and drive connections among makers of color in and around the Greater Cincinnati area.



Jennifer Cox

Go to www.kennedyarts.org for a full listing of classes, descriptions and cost.

Eric Brueggemann
Customer Advisor



Mon. thru Sat., 10–6pm

Discover Summer
6/1

Kids and teens are invited to take a summer learning journey with activity booklets, books to keep and an early literacy calendar for preschoolers.

Kindergarten Readiness!
5/21, 1pm

Educators from the Center for Social Emotional Learning will be on hand to help families prepare for the transition to kindergarten. Registration required.

Available services:

- curbside service
- take & make activities
- browsing
- computer access (limited)
- assistance with faxing/copying/scanning & printing

Erik Brueggemann
Library Customer Adviser, Pleasant Ridge
erik.brueggemann@cincinnati-library.org

For branch offerings and questions, call us at 513-369-4488, or go to www.cincinnati-library.org

Summer Art Camps

June 6—August 12

Unleash your creativity and imagination this summer at Kennedy Heights Arts Center! Choose from a variety of one-week camps for youth ages 5-13 exploring visual arts, music, acting, creative writing, animation, design, and more! Each camp runs from 9:00—3:00pm daily. Register online at kennedyarts.org/learn, or call 513-631-4278. We strive to make arts accessible to everyone. Sliding scale fees are available for those with financial need.

Covid-19 Wearable Art Response Project: Photographs by Tina Gutierrez

May 7—July 2, 2022

Selected from over 120 portraits taken over the last two years, Tina Gutierrez has amassed a visual collection of our local community during this historic moment of navigating a pandemic that affects us all. Participants were asked to respond with clothing, costume, or other wearable art to express how they felt about the coronavirus, quarantine, and social distancing. Many displayed personal empowerment, and in many cases, gathered strength through objects, and adornments. For others, objects and garments of beauty helped them feel reconnected to the world. A selection of the participants' original garments and objects will also be on display, alongside the photographs.

Join us for the Opening Reception on Saturday, May 7 from 5-8pm. Free. Light refreshments.



Revealing the Monster costume by Calcagno Cullen, photograph by Tina Gutierrez

Aging Beyond Modernism: Portraits of Modernist Women in Old Age

June 11 - August 20, 2022 (Lindner Gallery)

This is a solo portrait exhibition by local artist Kim Rae Taylor documenting many of the women who

were an integral part of the art and literary avant-garde in Europe and the U.S. during the early decades of the twentieth century. Through the lens of gender and aging, Taylor looks at the longevity of these women, their creative development as they grew older, and their personal attitudes about aging itself.

Join us for a Closing Reception & Artist Talk on Saturday, August 20 from 6-8pm. Free, open to the public, light refreshments.



Portraits of Elizabeth Catlett, Lotte Jacobi, and Pan Yuliang, by Kim Rae Taylor, acrylic paint

Call for 2023 Season Exhibition Proposals

Kennedy Heights Arts Center strives to stimulate dialogue and create social change through the practice of art. We invite artists to submit proposals for exhibitions that speak to social issues or themes and build community. This could be done solely through your own work, an invitational group show, or a curated juried exhibition in all media. We have three gallery spaces for consideration: Kennedy Gallery (mansion), Lindner Gallery (annex), and Outdoor Gallery (grounds of the mansion). Details and Proposal Form can be found on our website: kennedyarts.org/exhibitions/#tab4. Deadline for submission is June 20, 2022.





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Eric Armstrong



Steve Grieser



Anita Hisle



Brandon Nixon



Amber Ziegler

Find us at khcc@kennedyheights.org

COUNCIL MEETING -May 17, 2022

In person at Kennedy Heights Presbyterian Church, 6312 Kennedy Avenue 45213

Join by computer at: meet.google.com/amo-fjbm-bgq

Join by phone: Call +1 574-241-1036 and then follow the prompts. PIN: 453 185 950#

Follow social media to find out about free dinners at 6:30pm before meeting beginning in May.