

# NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Kennedy Heights Community News



**T**oday's world of love often begins on a dating app. You scroll through profile after profile searching for that smile, that look that makes you want to explore. For those who don't make the cut, you swipe left. But for those that may have some potential, you swipe right. And then there's that first awkward date full of butterflies and hope. Then after a few months you two know this is who you want to spend your life with, but what next? There's no directional swiping to help with making it last forever. But lucky you! Some of our Kennedy Heights neighbors have stepped up to share with us the things that have helped them make it "last forever."

**Bob & Mary Kamp  
Married 47 years**

"We've supported each other in whatever we've decided to do. We've both encouraged each other to use our talents."

**Steve & Linda Grieser  
Married 53 years**

Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly. ~Micah 6:8

**Mary Ann and Patrick Romanello  
Married 44 years**

"We both have a very good sense of humor, and we don't

take ourselves too seriously ... We just have a good time together, and I think that's the piece that's kept us going."

**Diane & Patrick Magill  
Married 23 years**

"I think the key to a successful marriage is to put your spouse's needs above your own, at least some of the time. Pat is better at that than I am, but we both do it at least some of the time!" ~Diane

"I think it's important to swallow one's pride, be ready to apologize, and treat each other with respect. Letting go of things that annoy goes along with the pride issue...is that thing that is bugging you really such a big deal?" ~Patrick

Find more of your community news at [www.kennedyheights.org](http://www.kennedyheights.org). Things you'll find there this month: Financial assistance options for your water bill and ways to make a difference in your community.

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!**

**Daily Snacks**, All ages, 3:30-4pm, Norwood & 4-5pm, Bond Hill libraries.

**Homework Help**, Deer Park library, 3-6pm.

**Storytime**, Tuesdays, 10:30-Toddlers; 11:15-Preschool, 11-Craftivity, All Ages. Community Happens Here, 6238 Montgomery Rd.

**Adult Book Club**, 1/12 & 2/9, 2pm, "The Maid," by Nita Prose. The Coffee Exchange, 6041 Montgomery Rd.

**KH Community Council** 1/17, 2/21, 7:30-8:30pm, In person and virtual at [meet.google.com/amo-fjbm-bgg](https://meet.google.com/amo-fjbm-bgg)

**KH Art Center**, 2/4-4/1, Ebb and Flow juried exhibition.

**KH Art Center**, 2/25-5/27, Juneteenth Voices of Freedom

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## The Origin of the Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Partnership

by Amber Ziegler

Many of us know by now that Cincinnati and the city of Kharkiv in Ukraine are sister cities. But what is a sister city partnership? And how did the Cincinnati-Kharkiv one start? Kennedy Heights resident Bob Herring, who is also the current President of the Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Partnership, explains.

The sister city movement was the vision of President Eisenhower in the 1950s, and Sister Cities International was founded in 1956 to create partnerships between US cities and cities in other countries, and to encourage citizen diplomacy. “People had a vision to build relationships across political differences,” says Mr. Herring.

Partnerships were established between cities that were similar. In the case of Cincinnati and Kharkiv, both were inland river cities as well as manufacturing hubs, with similar artistic and medical communities. The mayors of each city have to agree to the partnership and sign the legal documents, after which point the partnership is turned over to citizens. The Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City was established in 1989 under Mayor Charles Luken, while Ukraine (and therefore Kharkiv) was still part of the USSR.

Cincinnati and Kharkiv have “a history of collaboration and support,” Mr. Herring says. There have been delegations between the two cities to help each learn about how the other faces challenges. For example, the Russian invasion of Crimea in 2014 displaced many people, and a lot of them ended up in Kharkiv, Mr. Herring explains. Kharkiv connected with social services in Cincinnati to learn how to deal with the resulting homelessness and unemployment. There have also been student exchanges and art exchanges over the years.

Ever since the Russian invasion of Ukraine nearly a year ago, the Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Partnership has become even more important, as Kharkiv looks to Cincinnati for help facing its biggest challenge yet during the 33-year partnership.

To learn even more about this partnership, or to donate or get involved, visit us at <https://cincy-kharkiv.org>.



Bob Herring

*Swiping "right"* (cont'd)

**Jane & Charles Patty**

**Married 22 years**

“Charlie and I are both retired now and have found that walking is something that gets us dressed and out the door most mornings. Walking provides the space to notice all the little changes in the natural world and to share this with each other. We're grateful for the chance to reaffirm our care for each other every morning!”

**Michele & Chuck Dragga**

**Married 42 years**

“One thing that helps make our marriage successful is that we both have separate interests that we are passionate about, but we share a love of nature and the outdoors and enjoy each other's company as we spend time together hiking, birding, canoeing, and even walking the dog in our neighborhood parks.”

**Fran and Mike Harmon**

**Married 53 years**

“We are two strong personalities and we had to learn how to discuss things and not tell each other how to live. We became accepting and adaptive. We realized that our kids needed two parents who work together. And we learned to ask ourselves if an issue is worth arguing about or let it go.”

**Ariel and Huxley Miller**

**Married 46 years**

“To support each other's growth and curiosity, to laugh a lot, and be delightfully surprised by each other. Have the same values and goals such as peace and human rights and economic development.”

**Peg and John Bruggeman**

**Married 30 years**

“Having similar family backgrounds has been helpful. Also having similar interests such as sports, camping and theater, all shared experiences. We are longtime Xavier basketball fans and enjoy the art museum. Marriage is not as easy as you might expect. If you need help, get it and find better ways to communicate, better ways to do things.”

So there you have it. Testimonials from your neighbors that we hope will encourage you while you're standing in line this February with flowers in one hand and a card in the other and butterflies in your stomach. Sometimes love really is forever.

*BECOME A FRIEND OF KENNEDY HEIGHTS! YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION SUPPORTS THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AND THE EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE COMMUNITY.*

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*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.*





## DO SOME OF SANTA'S ELVES WORK IN KENNEDY HEIGHTS? by John Bange

**D**o you have a nook in your home perfect for a special cabinet for your sound system? Or do you need unique shelves to display your collectibles? And you have

not been able to find a design or size to meet your needs? Maybe Brian can help.

Brian Stevenson operates DADOWOOD LLC here in Kennedy Heights. He is located in the old beverage drive-through at the corner of Montgomery Road and Kennedy Avenue, across from the Arts Center. Brian works with interior designers and fabricates special cabinets and fixtures for their customers. He also works for private customers and will provide design and fabrication. He will also do the installation if needed.

Brian is a Cincinnati native, growing up in the Turpin area. He attended Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio and earned a degree in Fine Art. His desire to work "hands on" lead him to be a carpenter's apprentice right after graduation. After nine years doing home construction, he decided his heart was really in woodworking. In his basement and garage he developed his own workshop and specialized in custom cabinetry, vanities, built-ins, fireplace surrounds, medicine cabinets, and anything else within his abilities. Moving into the former beverage drive-thru in October 2021 has given him much more space in which to work. He has a very nice shop with great equipment.

Brian will visit your home or office, take field dimensions, and provide design ideas. Or he can work from

your design. And business is good . . . his backlog of work is about eight months. But it is not true that Santa's elves work through the night in Brian's workshop!

What does Brian like about his career? "I like being creative through wood. I get satisfaction seeing the final product in someone's home. I enjoy working for myself and being my own boss. I love satisfied customers and repeat business."

## Iris Inspirations by Laura Lennon

**W**inter might not seem like the best time for gardening, but it's a great time to plan for next year. On a cold winter day, websites and seed catalogs are a fun way to learn about plants. Another winter gardening activity is to start your own plants from seed. Seed packs are inexpensive compared to buying fully grown plants at a nursery. And it's rewarding to grow healthy plants.

Seed starting begins with thinking about your wants and needs. Ask yourself questions about what you want from your garden. Do you like to cook? Do you want to garden with children? Do you want your garden to provide flowers? Is creating a refuge for wildlife or a personal sanctuary important to you? Then choose your seeds based on your answers. It's also useful to decide how much time and energy you intend to commit to your garden. This should be fun. If you are having trouble deciding, you can look up planting lists and seed starting schedules online or at the local library.

Starting plants from seed doesn't need to be



## 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.

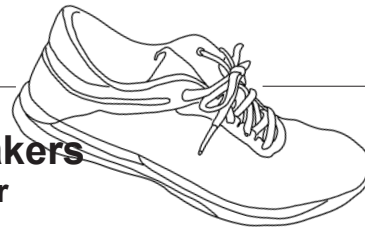


costly or complex. All you need is a warm, sunny window ledge or shelf and a few basic supplies. You'll need seeds, clean containers with drainage holes in the bottom, a tray to put under the containers and a basic seed starting soil mix. This light weight mix helps the seedling roots spread. If you plan to grow more than one type of plant you will want a labeling system. Masking tape or popsicle sticks are classic inexpensive options that help you remember what you've planted and when. You will also need a way to water your new plants. A simple spray bottle or indoor watering can work well. But a cup or glass can work too. If you have pets, you might want to consider how you will limit their access to your new plants.

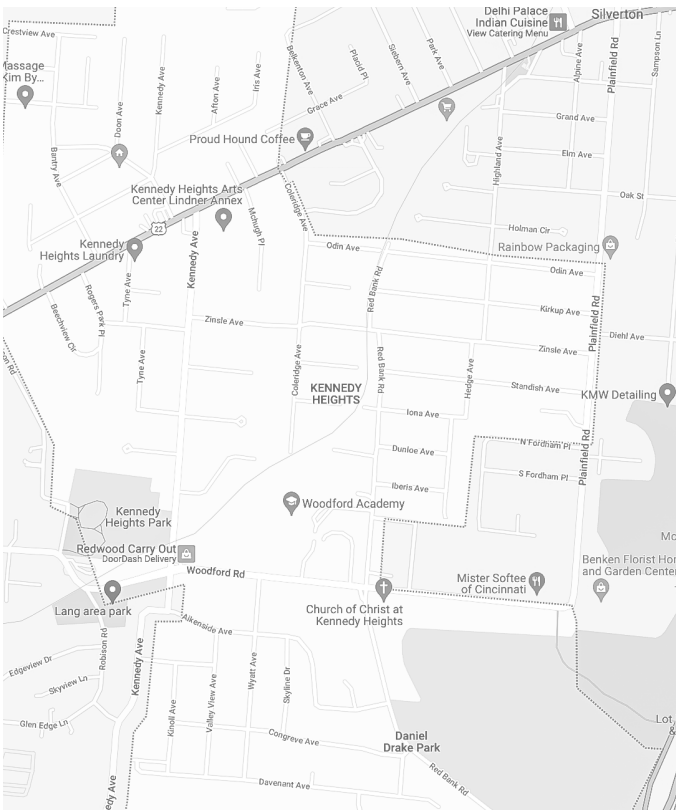
Most of the information you will need to start your seeds can be found on the seed packet. The package will tell you how deep and when to plant the seeds, how long it takes for the seeds to germinate, when the seedlings should be planted outside, the plant's size, plant spacing and habitat requirements. A few things you will need to remember: Cincinnati is growing Zone 6A and our average last frost date is April 20th.

You will need to acclimate your new plants to outdoor conditions in the Spring before you plant them into your garden. Set your seedlings outside on warm days in a shaded, protected spot and then bring them back inside at night. Each day you should increase their exposure to sunlight. But don't put them out on windy days or when the temperature drops below 45 degrees.

A final warning, seed starting can be addictive fun.



## Lace Up Those Sneakers by Eric Ziegler



**W**hat better way to burn those holiday calories than to start walking? Explore our walkable neighborhood with these four routes. (One tip before jumping in: you're encouraged to explore side streets and offshoot dead ends!)

**NORTHWEST (0.75-1.75 mi.):** Beginning at Or-

chard and Montgomery, head up Orchard. Turn right on Crestview, and take another right on Bantry. Follow Bantry until you reach Pace, and take one more right. You'll end up back at Orchard, which you can follow back down to your starting point.

**SOUTHWEST (0.69-1.18 mi.):** Starting at the Lang Park pickleball courts, head south on Robison. Take a left on Edgewood and follow it/Glen Edge around until you meet back up with Robison. Follow Robison back around (left) towards the pickleball courts. Bonus points if you take a detour down Skyview on your way back.

**SOUTHEAST (1.28-1.59 mi.):** Across from the entrance to Drake Park, follow Congreve to Skyline. Head up Skyline and turn left on Aikenside. Make your way to Valley View, and follow it all the way to Davenant. Take a left on Davenant and continue until you reach Onondago. Follow Onondago back to Congreve, and you should end up back near Drake.

**CENTRAL (0.76-1.23 mi.):** Starting at the Tot Lot on Zinsle and Red Bank, follow the train tracks along Red Bank up to Odin. Turn right on Odin towards Hedge. Take another right on Hedge back towards Zinsle. Cross Zinsle, following Hedge. Take a left on Standish towards Red Bank. A right on Red Bank will return you to the train tracks.

Hopefully one of these routes suits you. The only way to find out is to lace those sneakers and get moving! Fun fact: if you walked every street in Kennedy Heights, you'd have walked 24 miles.



Ellen Muse-Lindeman  
KHAC Executive Director

**KENNEDY HEIGHTS ART CENTER**

6546 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati, OH 45213

**Gallery Hours:**

Tues., Fri. 10am – 5pm

Sat., 11am – 4pm



Mallory Feltz,  
Dir. Exhibition &  
Public Art

**Ebb and Flow**

**February 4 – April 1, 2023**

**Kennedy Heights Arts Center, Kennedy Gallery**

Ebb and Flow is a juried exhibition of ceramic-based artworks created by local artists that explores the inevitable cycle of life and death, and pulls inspiration from the past life of Kennedy Heights Arts Center’s physical building as a funeral home. Our building has a rich history; one of the many reasons why our community rallied behind saving the building from demolition. With its past life as a funeral home, many residents still connect to our space on a personal and emotional level. Currently, the building has another life as the Arts Center, and the arts can play such a strong role in processing, coping, and expressing all of our thoughts, feelings, and emotions as we traverse through different life events – including death. This exhibition features artwork that examines these themes.



Gallery hours: Tuesday – Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 11am – 4pm

**Juneteenth Cincinnati Presents Voices of Freedom  
Visual art exhibition**

**February 25 – May 27, 2023**

**Kennedy Heights Arts Center, Lindner Gallery**

We are excited to once again partner with Juneteenth Cincinnati on a visual and performing arts series that examines Black history from a

contemporary perspective and celebrates Black art and expression. Voices of Freedom includes a visual art exhibition of commissioned new works by 10 local artists, along with a series of performances in March, all taking place at Kennedy Heights Arts Center’s Lindner Annex. Guests are encouraged to come early to view the Voices of Freedom exhibit in the gallery prior to the shows.

Gallery hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12-5pm, and by appointment

***All events are free and open to the public.***

**Winter Classes 2023**

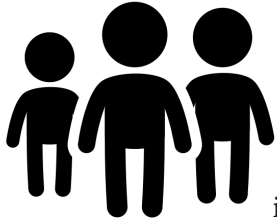
**February 4 – April 1, 2023**

**Kennedy Heights Arts Center**

Beat the winter blues with some fun-filled art making! Kennedy Heights Arts Center offers an array of classes for adults, teens, and youth. Adult classes (ages 13+) range from watercolor to a virtual book club. Teen Artists for Change is a program for diverse young artists to express themselves and build their creative skills. Each eight week session teens work with professional artists, creating a project that positively impacts the community. This season’s session will be led by artist and art educator Asha White, [asha-theartist.com](http://asha-theartist.com). This program is free of charge thanks to support from the Charles H. Dater Foundation. Young at Art is a series of youth classes held on Saturday mornings for student’s ages 5-8 and ages 9-12. Each week students are led through creative art making with a teaching artist, exploring a variety of techniques from painting to paper making! To learn more and register for classes check out [kennedyarts.org](http://kennedyarts.org)!

*Go to [www.kennedyarts.org](http://www.kennedyarts.org) for a full list of events and classes.*





## KH Youth Council

The Kennedy Heights Youth Council (KHYC)

is an opportunity for our youths' voices to be heard. The

Youth Council meets on the third Saturday of the month from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm at Community Happens Here located at 6238 Montgomery Road. Ages 11-17. For more information, please contact the KHYC Advisor Brandon Nixon at [Brandon@kennedyheights.org](mailto:Brandon@kennedyheights.org) or text or call 440-453-2712.

The Deer Park Branch is available for homework help (3-6pm).

Afterschool snacks are available at the Bond Hill branch (4-5 pm).

Storytimes will continue at Community Happens Here (6238 Montgomery Rd.) every Tuesday at 10:30 (toddler) and 11:15 (preschool), craftivity at 11 (all ages).

Adult Book Club will be held at The Coffee Exchange (6041 Montgomery Rd.) on Thursday, 1/12 and 2/9 at 2pm. January's title is The Maid by Nita Prose. February's title is The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray.

## Your Public Library

Building repair continues at The Pleasant Ridge Branch of the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library. We will remain closed for all of January and most (if not all) of February. We do not have a reopen date but are expecting it to be early 2023. The Pleasant Ridge book drop will remain available while we are closed.

All branches of CHPL will be closed for New Years on 1/1/23 and 1/2/23 and Martin Luther King Jr. Day on 1/16/23.

We will have pop up events in the neighborhood while we are closed. Check our website at [www.chpl.org](http://www.chpl.org) or call 513-369-4488 to learn about more pop up events.

In preparation for the backyard bird count in February, we will host a winter bird walk in the neighborhood and surrounding parks. Come out and learn the birds that hang around all winter and the few who travel south to our area and spend their winters here. More details to come. Check the website in early January for details.

## All branches of Cincinnati-Hamilton Public Library will be closed

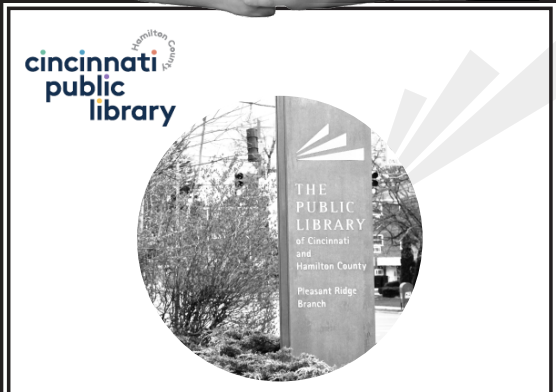
**1/1/23**

**1/2/23**

**1/16/23**



Erik Brueggemann  
Customer Advisor



**cincinnati public library**

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY of Cincinnati and Hamilton County  
Pleasant Ridge Branch

Erik Brueggemann  
Library Customer Adviser, Pleasant Ridge  
[erik.brueggemann@chpl.org](mailto:erik.brueggemann@chpl.org)

For branch questions, call us at  
513-369-4488, or go to  
[www.chpl.org](http://www.chpl.org)



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 VP of Planning

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Steve Grieser



Anita Hisle



Brandon Nixon



Amber Ziegler

**COUNCIL MEETINGS RETURN SEPTEMBER 20**

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

Join by computer at: [meet.google.com/amo-fjbm-bgq](https://meet.google.com/amo-fjbm-bgq)

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

**Find us at [kennedyheights.org](http://kennedyheights.org) or,  
 check us out at the Kennedy Heights Facebook page.**