

# 60 YEARS

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### The History of Kennedy Heights Community Council

(This is the first part of a series)

by John Bange

During World War II, many African Americans migrated to northern and western cities to fill industrial jobs. New coalitions of liberal, labor and civil rights groups emerged to battle racism and to fight the war against segregation. Racial tensions led city governments around the country to establish commissions to promote fairness in race relations and to alleviate racial tensions before they became widespread.

At the federal level numerous decisions helped with the recognition of individual rights. Not all programs were totally fair, but were a move in the right direction. The GI Bill of Rights (1944) financed education for black and white veterans, helping to open the professions and trades to many who were previously shut out of them. The availability of low interest and guaranteed loans provided opportunities for home ownership. Although racial zoning laws were invalidated by the courts in 1917, segregated housing patterns continued to dominate the housing market.

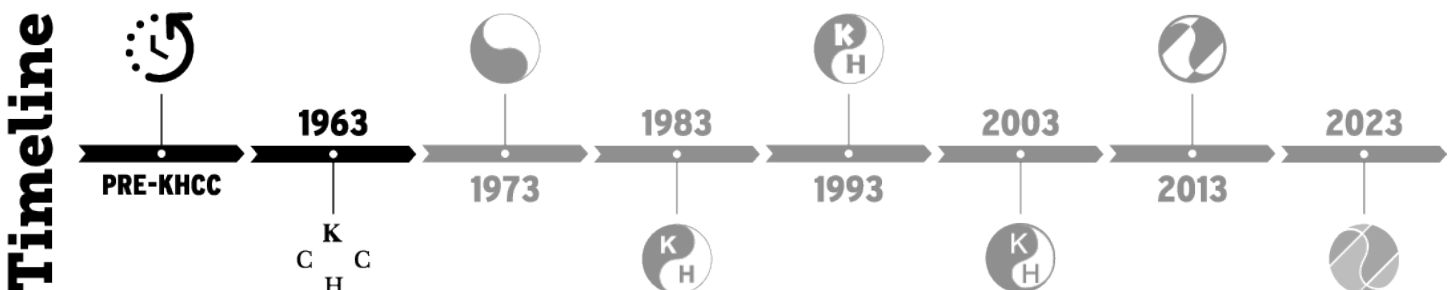
With the growing civil rights movement, President Truman's Commission on Civil Rights focused national attention on racial discrimination in the workplace and in housing. The Supreme Court reflected the new awareness when it outlawed restrictive housing covenants in *Shelley v. Kramer* (1948) and de jure educational segregation in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954).

In Cincinnati the shift was worked out in numerous ways. The city established the Mayor's Friendly Relations Committee (MFRC) to serve as a facilitator to defuse potential crises stemming from racial and cultural conflicts. In anticipation of post-war housing shortages, city planners proposed new public housing and put together a regional master plan which called for increased private sector housing and industrial development beyond the periphery of the city. In housing, the planners anticipated a perpetuation of racially segregated communities. But local civil rights groups pressed for equal access to the new opportunities and worked to break down the barriers of segregation.

Teaching staffs in the public schools were integrated. Hiring of minorities in various economic sectors gained attention after one local study demonstrated the negative effects of discrimination in the workplace. Gradually, African Americans found housing in areas outside of the city's overwhelmingly black West End neighborhood. While the city reached its population apex in 1950, the metropolitan area continued to grow in the decades that followed as the population and institutions spread out from the core city.

The Cincinnati housing market was segregated. In 1960 African Americans lived in fourteen specific areas, nine of them in the city. Outside of those areas, African American families could effectively neither buy nor rent a home. In addition, a 1960 study reported that African Americans seeking housing found it in areas adjacent to places already settled by non-whites. The pattern was driven by the housing and real estate industries, reflected and governed

(continued on page 4)



**PRESIDENT**

Sharifah Tafari  
sharifah@kennedyheights.org

**V.P. COMMUNITY PLANNING**

Caitlin Siegel-Hartzler  
caitlin@kennedyheights.org

**V.P. ADMINISTRATION**

Samara Ramudit  
samara@kennedyheights.org

**SECRETARY**

Peggy Brown  
peggy@kennedyheights.org

**TREASURER**

Mary Ray  
mary@kennedyheights.org

**TRUSTEES-AT-LARGE**

Steve Grieser  
steve@kennedyheights.org

Anita Hisle  
anita@kennedyheights.org

Brandon Nixon  
brandon@kennedyheights.org

Amber Ziegler  
amber@kennedyheights.org

**EDITOR, KHCC NEWSLETTER**

Christina Miller

**WEB ADMINISTRATOR**

Eric Ziegler  
webadmin@kennedyheights.org

**CONTACT US**

Kennedy Heights Community Council  
PO Box 36318  
Cincinnati, OH 45236  
kennedyheights.org  
Board@kennedyheights.org

Kennedy Heights Development Corp.  
PO Box 36337  
Cincinnati, OH 45236  
www.kennedyheightsdc.org  
Kennedyheightsdc1@gmail.com



@KennedyHts

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

**A Letter  
From Our President**



Sharifah Tafari

Greetings neighbors,

We are March-*ing* into this year looking forward to collaborating with new community partners, fun and engaging events, home improvements for a number of our elder neighbors, support and enhancement to our neighborhood small businesses, a new development on the old Shroder site and so much more!

We will achieve these great feats with your help, input and presence. You ask, “What does that mean? What does that look like? What can I do?” It’s as easy as attending the monthly community council meetings (in person or virtually) to stay in touch with what’s going on in your neighborhood, joining a committee, attending and/or volunteering for an hour or two at a community event, participating in feedback surveys to let your voice be heard.

In March, look forward to KHCC nominations for board positions and a special presentation from the developer of the Shroder site at our monthly council meeting. In April, look forward to KHCC board elections at our monthly council meeting and our annual SAP RUN on Saturday, April 15th at the Kennedy Heights Presbyterian Church.

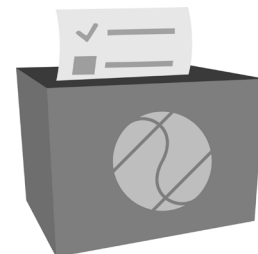
We’ll see you in the Heights!  
Sharifah Tafari

**KHCC BOARD ELECTION TIME IS COMING!**

KHCC is accepting nominations for board positions in March. Elections will be held in April.

Open board positions include:

- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Member-at-Large
- Member-at-Large



Please email [steve@kennedyheight.org](mailto:steve@kennedyheight.org) if you would like to nominate yourself or someone that you know in Kennedy Heights.

## A Spring Tradition: The Sap Run & Breakfast

by Eric Ziegler

We're heading into spring, and that means the Sap Run event is right around the corner. As we celebrate KHCC's 60th anniversary, let's take a look back at the event's history.

Our community held its first Sap Run in 1989 – predating the Flying Pig Marathon by a decade! It typically takes place in early April, but has been held as late as mid-May. The event is traditionally twofold: running/biking/walking the 3.1 mile route, and enjoying a hearty pancake breakfast with neighbors afterwards. This has been one of KHCC's only annual fundraiser events.

Why is it called the Sap Run? When temperatures drop below freezing, sap is sucked up a tree's trunk from its roots. As temperatures rise, the sap begins to fall back down the tree. When a trunk is tapped with a spout, the falling sap will "run" out into buckets. Springtime is best for these "sap runs", as it's common for temperatures to drop below freezing at night, and rise above during the day. While we don't tap maple trees in Kennedy Heights, we honor the running sap by pouring maple syrup all over our pancakes.



Over the years, the Sap Run has taken on various forms. Some years actually did NOT include a run. In the late 2000s, the event transformed into a brunch-only affair. Other years included a run, but no biking. Additional activities during breakfast at the church have ranged from raffles to aerobics. While the first event took place 34 years ago, this will only be the 31st time it was held. The event took a hiatus in the early 2010's and again during the height of the COVID pandemic. Despite everything, the Sap Run returned last year, providing participants with a to-go snack in lieu of breakfast.

This year, the Sap Run returns to its traditional format on Saturday, April 15. The 5K/10K/15K walk/run/bike will kick off the morning's events, followed promptly by breakfast at KH Presbyterian Church. For more information on how to sign up, buy breakfast tickets, or volunteer, visit [kennedyheights.org/saprun](http://kennedyheights.org/saprun). We look forward to seeing you there!

### Underground Railroad Freedom Center Documentary Screening

On the first Friday of every month in 2023 from 2:00 - 3:20pm, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center will be screening the documentary film America's Truth: Cincinnati, which is included with the cost of admission. This film "explores how structural racism produced inequitable outcomes in four Black neighborhoods in Cincinnati: Avondale, West End, Lincoln Heights and Kennedy Heights" ([freedomcenter.org](http://freedomcenter.org)). The film was produced by the Center for Community Resilience (CCR), part of the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University in Washington, DC.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### Free Afterschool Meals

Youth, M-F 4-5pm, Bond Hill library.

### Homework Help

Deer Park library, 3-6 pm.

### Storytime

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

### Adult Book Club

3/9 @ 2pm, "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot.  
4/13 @ 2pm, title TBD. The Coffee Exchange, 6041 Montgomery Rd.

### KH Community Council

3/21, 4/18, 7:30-8:30pm, in person at KH Presbyterian Church, 6312 Kennedy Ave and virtual at [kennedyheights.org](http://kennedyheights.org)

### KH Art Center

3/4 @ 7:30pm. Dayton Contemporary Dance presents Black History Mosaic

### KH Art Center

3/11 @ 7:30pm. Poetry Cafe

### KH Art Center

3/18 @ 7:30pm. The Quest for Freedom throughout the Diaspora

Find more community news at:  
[kennedyheights.org](http://kennedyheights.org)

Things you'll find this month:  
2023 Garbage & Recycling Pickup Calendars

## KHCC History (cont'd)

by community sentiment.

In the decade of the 1950s Cincinnati's black population grew by 40 percent, an increase of thirty-one thousand people. At the same time the city's urban renewal and highway construction program (I-75) destroyed ten thousand housing units, almost five thousand of which were occupied by African Americans. As these displaced black residents and new families sought housing they were confronted by numerous obstacles. There were separate white and black real estate organizations. Banks redlined neighborhoods and only approved loans for blacks in predominantly black or racially changing neighborhoods. Newspaper real estate listings were segregated. Federal home loan programs contained restrictive guidelines based on race. These conditions combined with the goals of the 1948 Master Plan to perpetuate existing community patterns in new areas meant that blacks seeking new

housing were steered into segregated neighborhoods or those that would be changed from predominantly white to predominantly black.

As Cincinnati's African American population spread from the city core, the neighborhood of Kennedy Heights began to expand in the 1950s. At that time we had a small but stable African American community. Annexed in 1914, it was the last independent village incorporated into the city. In 1950, some 4,858 people lived here, overwhelmingly in single-family homes. Just 3% were African American. In 1960 as Cincinnati's demographic profile changed, 18% of the neighborhood's 5,603 residents were black. The new residents were part of the growing black middle class whose rising affluence allowed them to purchase single family residences.

*Part 2 will tell the story of how the activists in Kennedy Heights worked together to build stability and preserve peace*

## From Kennedy Heights to Kharkiv to Kilimanjaro

by Amber Ziegler

For the last several newsletters, we have been receiving updates on the situation in Ukraine, and Kharkiv specifically, from Bob Herring, President of the Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Partnership and Kennedy Heights resident. But who is Bob Herring?

Bob Herring was born and raised in Kennedy Heights. He moved away for a time after college but stayed in Cincinnati, living in Walnut Hills and Bond Hill. Once he got married, and he and his wife were ready to buy their first home, he returned to Kennedy Heights, buying a home two houses up from his parents and next door to his aunt and uncle.

Mr. Herring spent his career as an educator, teaching junior high for several years before serving as a principal. He spent most of his career at Nativity School in Pleasant Ridge, where he served as principal for 31 years before retiring in 2015. "It's been an incredible opportunity to watch families grow," said Mr. Herring.

The Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Partnership (CKSCP) was formed in 1989, and in the mid-90s, a delegation from Kharkiv came to Cincinnati and spoke to the students of Nativity. Talks of starting a student exchange



Bob in Northern Spain, 2017.

## 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.

MEMORIES & TRADITIONS ♦ MAR/APR 2023

program began. As principal, Mr. Herring made multiple trips to Kharkiv and was eventually asked to join the board of CKSCP, becoming President in 2015. “When I retired in 2015, it was my turn to take over as Chair,” said Mr. Herring. In addition to Ukraine, the student exchange program at Nativity took Mr. Herring to Australia, China, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Finland, Germany, France, Kenya, and other countries.

Mr. Herring has an impressive personal travel resume as well. In 2014, he and a group from Nativity climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest freestanding mountain in the world. As part of the trip, they raised over \$23,000 for

scholarships for the student exchange program at Nativity. The group called the trip a “bucket list adventure” and decided to repeat it every three years. In 2017, they hiked the Camino in northern Spain. The 2020 trip, delayed until 2022 due to the pandemic, was hiking and kayaking on the east coast of Canada. 2024’s trip will be hiking the fjords of Norway. The group continues to raise money for scholarships and welcomes any interested participants.

“The world is a fundamentally good place, and there are good people,” said Mr. Herring. “See what’s out there. You’ll be richly rewarded.”

---

## Dreaming and Planning the Vegetable Garden

By Michele Dragga

Yesterday was one of those rare days where temperatures in the mid 50’s are accompanied by clear blue skies, the kind of day that makes you believe that spring can’t be far away. My mind turns to thoughts of vegetable gardening, especially homegrown tomatoes and sweet peppers. By the time you read this in March, spring will be closer, but the garden will still be too wet and cold for working. However, dreaming of how you want this season’s garden to look and planning on how you can make that happen will help pass the time until conditions are finally right to get your hands in the dirt and get the vegetable season underway.

I’ve been growing vegetables for a lot of years, but I always enjoy perusing the seed catalogs to look for better varieties of my favorite vegetables or for something new that I can’t resist trying. If you don’t have access to catalogs, check out the seed company websites, i.e. Johnny’s Seeds at [www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com) and Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds at [www.rareseeds.com](http://www.rareseeds.com).

Before things get too hectic in the garden, this is a good time to brush up on techniques. Thanks to the internet, information is close to hand on YouTube videos and blogs. I find the blog [awaytogarden.com](http://awaytogarden.com) to be very helpful with how-tos for growing specific vegetables, preparing beds, etc.

Finally, as you plan, if you realize that you don’t have enough space to grow what you’d like, or you don’t have enough sun (vegetables need about 8 hours of sun to do well), consider renting a bed in a community garden. Kennedy Heights is very fortunate to have two community

gardens with beds available for rent. One is on the grounds of Woodford Paideia School, and the other is The Giving Garden, located on the corner of Tyne and Montgomery. For more information about the gardens and how to reserve a bed, contact:

Community Garden at Woodford Paideia  
Sharifah Tafari  
[sharifah@kennedyheights.org](mailto:sharifah@kennedyheights.org)

The Giving Garden  
Theresa Cohen  
[tcohen40@gmail.com](mailto:tcohen40@gmail.com)



Community Garden @ Woodford Paideia Academy.



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

## Juneteenth Presents *Voices of Freedom* February 25 – May 27, 2023

For the third year, Juneteenth Cincinnati and Kennedy Heights Arts Center are teaming up to present *Voices of Freedom*, a visual and performing arts series examining Black history from a contemporary perspective and celebrating Black art and expression. This exciting series includes an art exhibition and three public performances at KHAC's Lindner Annex, 6620 Montgomery Road.

## Dayton Contemporary Dance Company presents *Black History Mosaic* Saturday, March 4 at 7:30 PM

*Black History Mosaic* pieces together work from Dayton Contemporary Dance Company's repertory that intersects our place in black history and opens the door to dancing the African diaspora. Tickets required.

## Poetry Cafe – Saturday, March 11 at 7:30 PM

Taking inspiration from the Nuyorican Poets Café in NYC, this immersive event will feature spoken word performances by ten diverse poets interspersed with live musical performances in an artful setting. Curated by Regal Rhythms Poetry, LLC. Tickets required.

## The Quest for Freedom throughout the Diaspora – Saturday, March 18 at 7:30 PM

This performance will feature dance, music and food representing Brazil, Cuba and Jamaica, ending with a Carnival

inspired experience with audience participation. Tickets required. Tickets and more information can be found at [kennedyarts.org](http://kennedyarts.org) or call 513-631-4278.

## Summer Camps at KHAC Registration Opens March 1

Unleash your creativity and imagination at Kennedy Heights Arts Center this summer! KHAC offers a variety of one-week camps for kids ages 5-13 exploring art, music, design, theatre, creative writing and more. Camps run Monday-Friday from 9am to 3pm from June 5 – August 11. Come one week or several! Sliding scale fees for those with financial need.

Registration opens on March 1st – and spots fill fast! Register online at [kennedyarts.org/learn](http://kennedyarts.org/learn) or call Sarah Rodriguez at 513-631-4278 for more information.

## Summer Camp Teen Volunteers Needed

Apply to be a Summer Camp Volunteer at Kennedy Heights Arts Center! Student volunteers build leadership skills, earn community service hours, and have fun assisting in visual and performing art activities. Applications due by April 4.

## Afterschool Reading Volunteers Needed

KHAC and iAmEffective are seeking adult volunteers to assist with an after-school literacy program for students in grades K-6 at John P. Parker School. To volunteer, contact Shawndale Thomas at [shawndale@kennedyarts.org](mailto:shawndale@kennedyarts.org)

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



## A Spring Renewal for the Pleasant Ridge Library

by Amber Ziegler

Our local library branch on Montgomery Road is nearly 100 years old. It first opened in 1929 and was built specifically as a library. Unfortunately, a building that old needs maintenance sooner or later. The Pleasant Ridge library branch closed on October 16 for renovations and is expected to reopen in mid- to late March. As of this writing, an exact reopen date has not been set.

But what exactly has been going on during the renovation? “Most of the work is structural work,” says Jennifer Korn, the Pleasant Ridge Library branch manager. “It’s not going to look much different.” The roof and cupola (the small structure on top of the roof that looks like a mini-tower) are being reinforced because water was leaking in. Much of the plaster inside the building needed to be repaired and repainted due to water damage. Plaster was falling, and the ceiling and an entire wall in the office had to come down, per Korn.

The front steps also needed to be repaired because they were leaking water into the basement.

“It’s going to look very similar,” Korn says. But there will be a few visible differences. The front desk is being reconfigured to make it easier for patrons to get into the reading room, which will also be repainted. The book drop previously located on the side of the front desk will now be on the front to make it easier to use. The library will also have the new CHPL branding, including a new sign.

Keep an eye out in early March for the exact reopening date, as well as special activities and events for patrons. In the meantime, you can catch the Pleasant Ridge library staff filling in at other branches in the area.

## Almost Ready to Reopen!

While seeing you all at our neighboring branches these last few months has been nice, there is no place like home. We can’t wait to see everyone back in the branch in March. The Library continues to offer a robust and increasing selection of virtual programs. We are partnering with The United Way for free tax assistance. Visit [www.chpl.org/services/tax-help/](http://www.chpl.org/services/tax-help/) for locations and registration information. Also, the Deer Park and Norwood Branches are available for Homework Help (3-6pm).

We have an exciting list of returning programs and events that we will resume soon after reopening. Check them out:

- Afterschool snacks.
- Storytimes will resume in the branch every Tuesday at 10:30 (toddler) and 11:15 (preschool), craftivity at 11 (all ages).
- Adult Book Club.
- My Librarian appointment for scheduled help to answer all your technology or research questions.

We are also developing new programs and events for when we reopen:

- A second Adult Book Club with more sinister selections.
- New and improved Children and Teen programs.
- Gardening and other outdoor programs.
- Regularly scheduled times for drop-in tech help – we’ll be ready for any and all questions.
- A more neighborhood friendly meeting area in the basement that will be open regularly to use for collaborative or independent work.

We’ve got an exciting year planned! Check our website at [chpl.org](http://chpl.org), call 513-369-4488, or email [pls@chpl.org](mailto:pls@chpl.org) to stay informed about reopening dates and available programs.

**Welcome back!**



Erik Brueggemann  
Customer Advisor





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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 CINCINNATI, OH  
 PERMIT NO. 1481



**YOUR KENNEDY HEIGHTS COUNCIL**



Peggy Brown  
 Secretary



Mary Ray  
 Treasurer



Sharifah Tafari  
 President



Samara Ramudit  
 VP of Admin



Caitlin  
 Siegel-Hartzler  
 VP of Planning

**Members-at-Large**



Steve Grieser



Anita Hisle



Brandon Nixon



Amber Ziegler

**COUNCIL MEETINGS**

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  
 on the Kennedy Heights Community Council Facebook page.**