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Clifton Town Meeting
P.O. Box 20042
Cincinnati, OH 45220-0042



President's Message

— by Ben Pantoja

Neighborhood Safety

Safety has been a huge priority in 2025. For the last two years, on weekends when the weather gets warm and it isn't raining, crowds have gathered on Ludlow Avenue between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. for Bohemian Hookah Café "After Hours" parties. The crowds violate noise ordinances, block traffic, purchase liquor illegally from the backs of vehicles, block emergency vehicles, litter, and sometimes start fights. Videos have captured individuals brandishing firearms. The party on July 7 was especially bad, when there were 13 arrests, including one for assault of a police officer. CTM has worked with the Clifton Business Association (CBA) to send letters and have meetings with City government and to use social media, television, and radio to encourage the city to act. Potential city actions include creating an ordinance for hookah bars to close at 11 p.m. or midnight, filing nuisance lawsuits against Bohemian Hookah Café, and providing greater police presence.

Creative Clifton

On a more positive note, Clifton's arts and culture continue to thrive. There are classes and galleries at the Clifton Cultural Art Center (CCAC) and Manifest Drawing Center, and exhibits at

CTM's Off Ludlow Gallery on Ormond. During the summer, CBA sponsors weekly concerts on Clifton Plaza, and CCAC has rooftop concerts on Thursdays. The Ludlow Garage features a steady stream of top musical acts. The Esquire features current and classic films. Cliftonfest—featuring music, crafts, and a sidewalk chalk art gallery—is returning Saturday, September 13, 10 a.m.—10 p.m. on Ludlow Avenue, from Clifton Avenue to a main stage at Ormond. Without a doubt, Clifton has more arts and music attractions than any other Cincinnati neighborhood. September is always an exciting time as programming relaunches after a summer break in the action.

November CTM Election

The election for new CTM Trustees will be Monday, November 10, at the Clifton Recreation Center on McAlpin. If interested in joining a Board that is committed to protecting and improving the quality of life in your neighborhood, please send your email address and a bio of 150 words or less to contactctm@cliftoncommunity.org. Voting for candidates will be from 6-7 p.m. and the CTM annual members meeting from 7-9 p.m. will include the vote on bylaws changes and announcement of the election results.

CTM Board of Trustees 2025

Ben Pantoja (President), Jan Brown Checco, (Vice President 1), Mindi Rich (Vice President 2), Gerald Checco (Treasurer), Owen Waller (Secretary), Robert DiMarco, Patrick Etter, Steve Goodin, Kevin Leahy, Kevin Mohan, Justin Ogilby, Genet Singh, Bridget Waller-Kent, John Whedon

Liaisons

Clifton Business Association-
Jan Brown Checco, Genet Singh
Clifton Community Fund- Barry Gee
Golf Outing- John Whedon
Invest in Neighborhoods- Barry Gee
Neighborhoods of Uptown- Ben Pantoja
Parks- Patrick Etter

Committee Chairs

Executive- Ben Pantoja (President)
Caretaking/Beautification- Gerald Checco
Chronicle- Jan Brown Checco
Clifton Community LLC- Ben Pantoja,
Gerald Checco
Clifton Plan- Gerald Checco
Clifton Soccer- Patty Klein
Communication- Ben Pantoja
Events- Mindi Rich
Finance- Gerald Checco
Governance- Ben Pantoja
Housing and Zoning- Owen Waller
Membership/Nominating- Barry Gee
Public Safety- Steve Goodin
Transportation- Justin Ogilby
Welcome and Connect- Mindi Rich

Clifton Chronicle Committee

Chair and Managing Editor — Jan Checco (2021-25)

Bookkeeping — Gerald Checco

Copy Editing and Distribution — Linda Fatherree

Design and Layout — Josie Angel

Columnists — Leah Mogadam, Mark Jeffreys, Geoff Gelke, Dora Schield, Bonnie Speeg, Larry Holt, CCAC, Eric Davis, The New School, Manifest, Gerald Checco, Jan Checco, Linda Fatherree, Tom Lohre

It's Your Clifton Chronicle

The Clifton Chronicle Committee invites your participation in the creation, production, and distribution of this important community newsletter. We have been publishing a quarterly newsletter for over two decades, and recent increases in costs and labor demands have us recalculating and reconsidering how we can make this work of love more sustainable. When we sell advertising contracts this winter for the 2026 issues, we'll offer new prices and dimensions for production of three newsletters a year, delivered on April 1, August 1, and December 1. We're also researching different formats including magazine-style and affordable local printing sources to help reduce production and shipping costs. Our committee members will put together a proposal that we'll present at the annual meeting on November 10 at Clifton Rec Center, 7-9 pm.

Our newsletter is only as good as the content that you—our faithful writers and readers—provide, so please remember our deadline for the Winter issue — October 24, for delivery on December 1. Stories can be up to 500 words in length; images to accompany texts should be 300 dpi/high resolution and saved as jpgs or pdfs, all sent to ctm.chronicle@gmail.com. We love to publish poems, human interest observations, reports, announcements, interviews, historical pieces, promotion of local events, and of course, the always essential messages from our local advertisers.

We need production partners! If you have experience in editing, proofreading, interviewing, photography, graphic design of announcements and/or advertisements and would like to help with the creation and distribution of hundreds of newspapers in our business district and neighboring communities, we'd love to hear from you.

Thanks for supporting the Chronicle's ongoing legacy. Please contact us at ctm.chronicle@gmail.com to tell us how you'd like to help!

CTM Annual Meeting and Elections 2025

Established in 1961, Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) is the official representative of the neighborhood of Clifton. CTM publishes the Clifton Chronicle, produces the Off Ludlow Gallery project, and works on problem-solving for local transportation, safety, zoning and beautification. CTM is also Clifton's interlocutor for the City of Cincinnati, coordinating with the Clifton Business Association, the Clifton Community Fund, and other civic-oriented Clifton-centric organizations. CTM organizes and supports community events like the Memorial Day Parade and Picnic, Holidays on Ludlow, CTM Golf Outing, quarterly flower planting on Ludlow, and neighborhood cleanups.

The Board of CTM is made of 15 trustees who are

elected for 3-year terms on a rotating basis. Some trustees need to run again – those who wish to serve for an additional term, and those who were board-appointed in the course of a year to fill vacated trustees' positions. Any CTM member who is interested in running for a spot on the board is invited to send their name, address, and a bio of 150 words or less to contactctm@cliftoncommunity.org.

What is expected from a CTM trustee? Attendance at the monthly board meetings (first Mondays), participation in the work of at least one committee of their choice (see the full list on the Chronicle's page 2), and participation in events organized by CTM. Candidates must be CTM members

which is easy to achieve by signing up at www.cliftoncommunity.org/membership/. If you are interested in becoming a candidate, please contact CTM Nominating Chair Barry Gee at barry.gee@cliftoncommunity.org

Watch the CTM webpage at www.cliftoncommunity.org for detailed information about how to vote at our annual meeting on November 10, from 6-7 p.m. at the Clifton Rec Center on McAlpin Avenue. All related links will be posted on the webpage for voters' use.

The 2025 Nominating Committee: Barry Gee/ Chair, Kevin Leahy, Patrick Etter, Tom Lienhart, Andrea Rosenthal.

You Matter. Become a Member of CTM

Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) is your community council, advocating on behalf of the Clifton community. We sponsor many initiatives and activities throughout the year. To continue this important work, we need your input. Membership is open to all neighborhood residents age 18 or older. Membership dues—our second largest means of support—cover 12 months and are tax deductible. CTM also accepts donations.

To join, go to cliftoncommunity.org/membership or scan the QR code. You can also fill out this form with a check or money order payable to: **Clifton Town Meeting, P.O. Box 20042, Cincinnati, OH 45220-0042.**



Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____

Email(s): _____

Committees or activities of interest: _____

Membership Categories:

___ Single (1 vote)	\$20
___ Household (2 votes)	\$20
___ Full-time college student (1 vote)	\$10
___ Business (1 vote)	\$40
___ Senior citizen, 65+ (1 vote)	\$10
___ Senior household, 65+ (2 votes)	\$14
___ Life membership (2 votes)	\$180
___ Donation of \$ _____	

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Clifton Soccer

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for boys & girls ages 4-18

Great soccer in a great neighborhood!

SAY East League

sign up at cliftonsoccer.org

Free Autumn Community Events in Clifton



Clifton Plaza Summer Music Series -
Fridays through end of September, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
on Clifton Plaza, 329 Ludlow Avenue



PUPP at Clifton Plaza – on the fourth Monday of every month from 6- 8 p.m. Pop Up Puppy Party/PUPP is for dog owners and dog lovers. Remaining seasonal gatherings are on 9/22 and the Halloween PUPP on 10/27 – get ready to celebrate in style! Events are weather dependent, so check the PUPP Facebook page for possible cancellations.



Clifton Plaza Gardeners and Makers Market – on Thursdays from September 4 – October 30, 4 – 7 p.m. Shop for art, craft, and homegrown goods in a festive setting!



Ludloween – Friday, October 31, 4:30 – 7 p.m. on Ludlow Avenue, at businesses that show the event poster in their window. Wear your costume and join in the pageantry!



International Children's Day – Saturday, September 20, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cincinnati's 5th annual International Children's Day celebration will take place at Trailside Nature Center in Burnet Woods, 3251 Brookline Drive. This event celebrates the children of the world, their cultures and the heritages of our neighbors and friends. Activities for the day include canoe rides on the lake, Musical Storytime with Mr. Eric of the Clifton Branch Library, and various arts and crafts. Cincinnati USA Sister City Association (CINUSCA), and several Sister City representatives will staff booths, sharing information and customs of our partner cities around the world.



Free Community Yoga – hosted by World Peace Yoga in Burnet Woods, sponsored by Cincinnati Parks Foundation's Stewards of Burnet Woods. Find the schedule with details on Facebook. Yoga at the Burnet Woods Bandstand on Saturdays 11- 11:45 a.m. low intensity, all levels
www.facebook.com/events/610718381953983/610718435287311/

Community Meditation on first Sundays 11-11:30 a.m. at Diggs Plaza www.facebook.com/events/1609239919725184/1609239933058516?event_time_id=1609239943058515

Also to note: World Peace Yoga offers three different options for class participation- in the studio, online live stream, or outdoors at Burnet Woods. For those new to World Peace Yoga, your first month of unlimited classes (both in the studio or online) is FREE! Go to their "reserve your class" page at www.worldpeaceyoga.com for the details.



Time to get crafty with that stuff in your drawer full of scraps and glitter! The Clifton Plaza holiday tree wants to wear your ornaments on November 29 at **Holidays on Ludlow 2025!** Come for the tree lighting at 6:15 and enjoy neighborhood cheer!



Holidays on Ludlow
Saturday, November 29, 6 – 8 p.m. on Clifton Plaza and throughout the business district. Come for the lighting of the community tree at 6:15, bring your handmade ornaments to add to the decorations! Shop our local businesses and the Off Ludlow Gallery Holiday Boutique for beautiful craft gifts. Enjoy Santa, music, festive beverages and more!

Fall Art Exhibitions in Clifton

Off Ludlow Gallery www.offludlowgallery.com

— Susan Byrnes Solo Show:

Closing September 10, 6-8 p.m.

— The Puppet Show:

Opening Friday, October 3, 6-8 p.m.

Artist Talk Sunday, October 19, 1-3 p.m.

Closing Wednesday, November 5, 6-8 p.m.

The Holiday Gift Boutique: Watch online for the opening and closing dates for this highly popular holiday gift giving exhibition!

Clifton Cultural Arts Center

www.cliftonculturalarts.org

— Tending Stems by Devan Horton:

August 22-September 19

— Life Blossoms by Nathan Currier-Groh:

September 26-October 24

— Golden Ticket 2025: November 14-December 12

Manifest Drawing Center

Manifest's Visiting Artist Workshop Series brings nationally recognized artists to Cincinnati to lead immersive, weekend-long workshops at the Drawing Center. Designed for intermediate to advanced artists, these workshops offer intensive, hands-on instruction across a variety of media and disciplines. Each session is shaped by the unique expertise of the visiting artist, providing participants with a rare opportunity to deepen their practice, gain new insights, and engage directly with a working professional in an intimate studio setting. Season 22 Artist lineup coming soon. Visit www.manifestdrawingcenter.org for more information.



DAAP UC: Ann Hamilton
— Artist Behind WTC
Subway Mosaic

Join the College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning (DAAP) for a free public lecture by internationally renowned artist Ann Hamilton on Wednesday, October 22

at 5:00 p.m. at DAAP, Aronoff 4400. A reception will follow with complimentary parking provided. Best known for her 2017 *CHORUS* installation at the World Trade Center subway station, Hamilton creates large-scale works that blend textiles, architecture, and language. Her talk, "Recent Public Projects," will explore how art shapes our public spaces and personal attention in a distracted world. Part of the *Jay Chatterjee Global Lecture Series*, this is a rare opportunity to hear from one of today's most celebrated artists, right here in Cincinnati. Scan the QR code or visit the website below to RSVP, get directions and parking info, and explore other exciting DAAP events.

www.daap.uc.edu/community/engagement

Manifest Drawing Center Update

— by Kevin Leigh-Manuell, Program Coordinator



This summer, Manifest Drawing Center broke ground on *Manifest Emerges*, a transformative \$3.2 million expansion of its historic Clifton home at 3464 Central Parkway. The June 7 event marked the beginning of Phase One of a long-planned project to preserve, improve, and expand the 93-year-old facility that has housed the Drawing Center since 2022. Phase One includes roof repairs, masonry restoration, expanded parking, improved accessibility, and a new second-floor exit. The renovation will also bring a rooftop studio terrace. The brand-new Printmaking Wing converts the former garage into a space for etching, woodcut, and a publicly accessible stone lithography studio.

Manifest's existing programs in drawing, painting, and photography, along with its nationally recognized Artist Residency program, constitute the first step in a two-phase plan to establish Manifest as a permanent and nationally significant Center for the Visual Arts, serving artists, students, and the public while preserving traditional methods and promoting contemporary excellence.

Manifest's Ongoing Programs

Open Figure Sessions offer uninstructed life-drawing

sessions for professionals, students, educators, and beginners to work from nude and clothed models in a shared studio environment. Each session is moderated by trained Manifest Associates, who are accomplished artists and educators.

Drawing as Mindfulness is a two-hour weekly class that blends observational drawing with mindful practice, emphasizing presence, self-reflection, and drawing as a meditative practice. Open to all levels, the course uses natural objects and structured exercises to explore balance, proportion, and harmony.

Study Hall invites artists to bring their personal or academic work into our studios every Friday and Sunday. Participants have access to nearly 13,000 square feet of studio space, professional equipment, and our collection of over 40 classical casts alongside a growing natural specimen archive. With guidance from a trained moderator, this is an opportunity to refine fundamental skills and explore classical proportion and form.

Learn more about our plans and programs at

www.manifest-emerges.org.

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Gaslight
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Award-winning Improv Cincinnati has generated laughter in Clifton since 2018. The awning at 404 Ludlow leads to their 50-seat venue where quick-thinking comedians perform improv and sketch comedy shows every Friday and Saturday night. They're so good that CityBeat has named them Cincinnati's "Best Local Improv/Sketch Comedy Group" for the past four years. In addition to their weekly shows, Improv Cincinnati offers a surprising variety of classes and workshops.

- Team building and training: P&G, Fifth Third,

- **ComedySportz shows and camps:** Teams compete in hilarious family-friendly games. Summer camps for ages 8 to 12, teach improv basics to build confidence and creativity, concluding with stage performances for family and friends.



Kentucky University and trained at Chicago improv schools. Both have studied under and continue learning from improv legends. They started Improv Cincinnati in 2009 and subsequently moved to Clifton to be in our creative, diverse neighborhood.

Visit www.improvincincinnati.com for a performance schedule and more information.

Dora Schield took the Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum tram tour hosted by the co-authors last Spring and said, “Amanda Frietsch, the cemetery’s Certified Docent and the books’ designer, chauffeured our shuttle, narrating throughout a lovely two-hour tour. Clifton Historical Society’s Director, Geoff Gelke, sat next me, sharing historical morsels

Clifton's National Treasure introduces Clifton's most valuable, yet seldom seen art treasure: the stained-glass windows in the sanctuary of Clifton United Methodist Church on Clifton Avenue. Now listed on the National Historic Register, Cincinnati photographer Robert Flischel has captured their essence and rare details as appreciated from the church's interior. Learn the history of their origins, the church's founding, the windows' patronage, and about the extraordinary artists who created them. Both books are available for purchase at the Clifton Cultural Arts Center. Prices: Spring Grove book: \$12. CUMC Art Windows book: \$19.

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Finding a Second Act

— by Pama Mitchell



I've been a Clifton resident for almost 30 years and wouldn't want to live anywhere else. In 2020 I retired from a professorship in journalism and mass media at the University of Cincinnati. That coincided with the COVID lockdown

and followed the death of my husband by a mere six months. We were all blindsided by the pandemic, and my experience included those complications. After the Covid restrictions eased, I began to ask, what am I going to do now? When a friend suggested, "write a novel," I shrugged it off. Sure, I spent my career as a writer. But journalism and academic writing are different from fiction, or "making things up," as I thought of it.

But soon I remembered stories my late mother told me about her childhood and young adult years during the Great Depression and World War II. Colorful stories about a failed romance, a struggling family farm in rural Georgia, relocating to the booming port city of Savannah as war clouds loomed, the sacrifices and losses that war brought even to those thousands of miles away from combat. Although I had never written fiction, I was an undergraduate literature major and had read thousands of novels in my lifetime. So off I went on a whole new journey, and this spring, my novel *Home Front* saw the light of day. The steps to get

there were many and often arduous. I took a course in creative writing at UC, joined an online writing group, found a generous and wonderful mentor, joined an intensive in-person writing group, hired helpers (an editor, formatter, cover designer) and went through revision after revision.

I'm still active with our writing group that we call Upside Fiction Writers, which meets at the Upside Brew on Ludlow on Tuesday nights. My next novel, tentatively titled *They Left Us* is set 25 years in the future and imagines the struggles of a multi-generational family after environmental and political deterioration caused by relentless climate change. While *Home Front* required extensive and enjoyable historical research, the new story stretches my powers of invention in completely different ways.

My point is to encourage you to not fear change in your own life, or worry that if you don't have "hobbies," you won't know what to do in retirement. That's assuming, of course, that your health holds up. (My husband used to quote Gandhi: "Health is the true wealth.") Consider opening your heart and mind to something you couldn't accomplish during your working years. You might be as surprised as I have been by where it can take you.

"Home Front" by Pama Mitchell is available for sale on Amazon in paperback and e-book, and the Cincinnati/Hamilton County Public Library has copies of the paperback for borrowers. Later this year it also may be stocked in some area bookstores.



Open House
Sunday, October 19
2:00-4:00

- Preprimary to grade 6
- Embracing all definitions of family
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a reconciling congregation

Online Worship Sundays at 9:15 AM, In Person at 9:15 AM and 11 AM

CliftonUMC.com



"We welcome all people: all genders, gender identities, gender expressions, races, ages, cultures, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, economic circumstances, family configurations, or differences of faith perspective. We celebrate the worth, dignity, and gifts of every person as a child of God." - Our Reconciling Statement

Fall Kick Off
Sunday Sept 7



Join us after church for a picnic on our front lawn!

Alternate Expressions of Church Include



Sundays at 5 PM
Progressive Christian community where stories intersect.
IG/FB: @ChaptersNorthside



Fourth Saturday Mornings
Spirituality without boundaries experienced outdoors.
IG/FB: @WildChurchCinci



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Third Wednesday Evenings
@ City Limits Laundry
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3416 Clifton Ave, 45220

(513) 961-2998

Facebook.com/CliftonUMC

CliftonUMC.com

City Hall Corner - The Urgent Attention to Public Safety in Clifton

— by City Councilman Mark Jeffreys

The recent public safety issues in Clifton, particularly around the Bohemian Hookah Café, but also some break-ins, merit urgent action on the part of local elected leaders. Without public safety, everything else falls apart.

From a macro perspective, as a city, we are about 160 police officers shy of having the full complement of officers. In the past four budgets, over 400 new officers have been authorized by City Council, twice as many as the previous four budgets. But we're still catching up from years of under investment and a tough environment to recruit police around the country. In the budget passed in June, we authorized three new police classes including an experienced group of officers, which will get us closer to full strength next year. This year, City Council also approved the largest raise for the Cincinnati Police Department (CPD) officers in 40 years so we can attract and retain the best. Police are by no means the only tool for public safety, but having enough officers both for a rapid response when crime does occur and for proactive foot patrols is critical. Importantly, CPD is now also deploying drones to act as first responders and proactively manage issues. This will improve how officers are deployed.

Here in Clifton, the issues around public safety—especially with unrest after people left the Hookah Café on July 4th weekend, followed a few days later with a young man brandishing an automatic weapon at 3 a.m. on Ludlow Avenue near the café—are deeply disturbing and cannot stand. Having establishments open until 4 a.m. attracting this type of nefarious activity is a core part of the problem. I have met with the Hookah Café owner, city administration, CPD, neighbors, and CTM to explore solutions. There are two types of urgent action—potential legal nuisance claims, which the city has made against three other Hookah cafes in the city, and additional regulation in terms of licensing and how these businesses operate. My office is leading work to urgently advance solutions to prevent this type of behavior in the core of our neighborhood. More to come.

As always, please reach out to me at Mark.Jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov if you have questions or comments. I appreciate the opportunity to hear from residents and to serve the people of Cincinnati.



Livin' La Vida Ludlow

— by Linda Fatherree

One of the many things I love about Clifton is its abundance of art. From murals and sidewalk sculptures to art galleries and curated exhibits, it's easy to find something beautiful, interesting, and/or educational nearby.

You can even see some original Clifton art without leaving home. A unique collection recently appeared on the *All About Clifton Gaslight* Facebook page. Clifton resident Lisa Govan wrote, "With urban challenges on our minds, I thought I'd post something positive about our neighborhood." So she posted 25 sketches of people she had encountered in her Ludlow Avenue walks. I wish we could show all of them!

Lisa also wrote and illustrated an entertaining and well-researched book about the history of her Bryant Avenue home. You can reserve or check out *Notions: The History of Cincinnati's Moses Goldsmith Building* from the Clifton library. We have many talented neighbors!



Who You Gonna Call?



When you have witnessed a drug deal—
When you are awakened by a noise disturbance —
When an unknown person is lurking in your yard —
When a panhandler is aggressive—

Clifton Town Meeting and Clifton Business Association have been working closely together with District 4 for two years. Our neighborhood liaison police Officer Shawn Dent reminds us that **we need to leave contact information whenever we call 911 or 311**. Residents can do that with confidence if we help them to understand the protocol that makes it easiest for District 4 to respond in support of us all.

You notice something that doesn't seem right. Is it something that a call to Public Services can fix?
The Basics: Go to the app **311Cincy**, scroll down the list, and follow the prompts for information. Go to <https://apps.apple.com/app/id1018342151> to upload the app. Or you can call by phone: **513-765-1212**.

Is it a police, fire or medical problem? **The Basics:** **Call 911:** Follow the call-taker's questions to provide the information that allows dispatch of the right

responders to the right location.

Be ready to provide:

- the phone number you are calling from
- street address, room/apartment number
- state the nature of the emergency
- Give details about the emergency — physical description of a person who may have committed a crime, description of injuries or symptoms of someone in a medical emergency. Many 911 centers can tell you exactly what to do until help arrives, such as providing step-by-step instructions to aid someone who is choking or needs first aid or CPR. **Do not hang up until the call-taker instructs you to do so.**

And remember, to have the incident recorded, you must leave your contact information.

To speak to someone at District 4, call **513-569-8600** to report break-ins, robbery, drug deals or any other malfeasance that cannot be observed by officers who might arrive on scene. Photos are helpful. And you can register your home security cameras with CPD at <https://connectcincinnati.org/>

Ludlow Avenue Overnight Disturbances: A Problem Searching for a Solution

The photos accompanying this article illustrate serious public safety problems that have escalated over the past two years. The nuisance has grown out of promotions by a third-party producer of adult entertainment and parties which are hosted at the Bohemian Hookah Café on Ludlow Avenue. These weekend disruptions persist until 5 a.m. and are repeatedly reported to the Cincinnati police, specifically for excessive noise, fights breaking out, streets blocked to through traffic, sales of alcohol out of car trunks, broken bottles and food litter that remain in the morning for other business owners to clean up. Documentation from Clifton's security camera verify the topics, and dates/times of these persistent complaints. Here's what some of your neighbors have said:

A business owner: "Our neighbors and fellow business owners recognize that the café is a public nuisance. We live with it, we see it, and we feel the deleterious effects of the café's presence in our community. I strongly encourage you to take action to shut down this business before someone gets shot—and I would really hate to think that that is what it would take for you to act."

Another business owner: "In the early morning hours of July 6, Clifton firefighters called 911

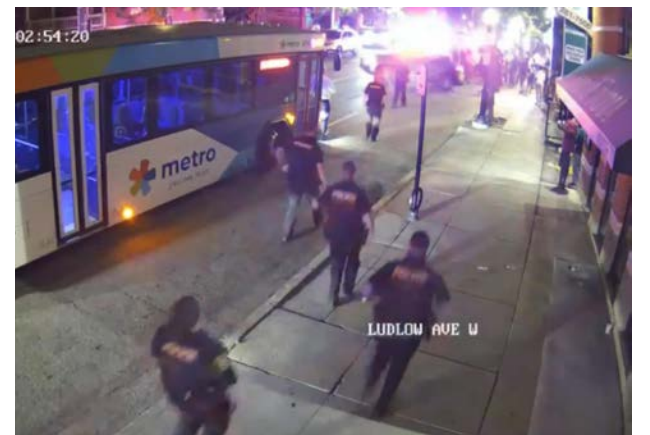
because their fire engine was blocked from leaving the firehouse for an emergency run by a crowd in the street. Police arrived and called for backup and deployed pepper balls and tasers. Eleven known arrests were made including one for felonious assault of an officer. We know the activities at the café drew that crowd here. What more does the city need to file a nuisance action against them?"

A resident: "My sense of safety has diminished, and my quality of life has been significantly impacted. Every Friday and Saturday night between approximately 2:45 a.m. and 3:15 a.m. I am repeatedly awakened by loud disturbances outside - people yelling, screaming, playing music at high volumes from cars, loitering, and slamming doors."

Another resident: "We appreciate our police officers and understand they're stretched thin, dealing with shootings and safety concerns throughout the city. But these hazardous takeovers on Ludlow happen regularly, and before a deadly tragedy occurs, there needs to be a solution. Closing the café? Or police presence ongoing during weekend hours when this disturbance takes place."

Meetings with City officials, Clifton business owners,

CTM neighborhood safety committee members, and the police have taken place in Clifton since August 2023. We've aired our concerns and have asked for solutions. We are still waiting...



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Artfully Crafted Cocktails
Creative Cuisine
Comfortable
Inviting
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& Rooftop Dining
GaslightBar&Grill.com

Clifton’s Candidates for the Municipal Elections on November 4, 2025

The city of Cincinnati is holding general elections for Mayor and City Council on November 4, 2025. Four candidates are residents of Clifton. You may know them as your neighbors! Here are their submitted bios, in brief. The last day to register to vote in Ohio was August 5. We hope that you are ready and able to participate in this democratic privilege!



Mark Jeffreys is currently serving his second term of City Council. His focus is on making Cincinnati Safer, Cleaner & Greener. Specific to Clifton, he has been focused on public safety in our business district and spearheaded work to secure \$500,000 for the Clifton Cultural Arts Center, which finished their fundraising. He also led work to expand recreational opportunities near Clifton, specifically a Northside-College Hill 3.5 mile trail that would connect to the Mill Creek Trail and expansion of the Mill Creek Trail for 5 miles to the Ohio River all improving the quality of life in Clifton.



Aaron Weiner is a longtime Clifton resident, a 25-year professional in Cincinnati residential real estate. He co-chaired the 2024 Clifton House Tour, will co-chair the 2026 event, and participates in planning CliftonFest 2025. He serves on the boards of the College Hill Urban Redevelopment Corporation, Clifton Meadows Swim Club, the Jewish Community Center, and the Jewish Federation. Aaron wants to bring to Cincinnati City Council practical, people-focused leadership, prioritizing public safety, reliable city services, and thoughtful housing and development, strengthening neighborhoods for all city residents without compromising architectural character and charm.
weinerforcincinnati.com



Aftab Pureval is currently the Mayor of Cincinnati. He assumed office on January 4, 2022. His current term ends on January 5, 2026. Pureval is running for re-election for Mayor of Cincinnati. He is on the ballot as a non-partisan candidate and he advanced from the primary on May 6, 2025. Pureval was the Hamilton County Clerk of Courts from 2017 to 2021 and is a member of the Democratic Party. Pureval's career experience includes working as a counseling attorney with Procter & Gamble, an attorney with White & Case LLP, and a special assistant United States attorney.



Steve Goodin (55) a former member of Cincinnati City Council, he’s served as Clifton Town Meeting’s president. He is active in calling attention to public safety issues in his neighborhood and across the city. Steve served in the Peace Corps and U.S. Army Reserve, including a period of active duty as an Army JAG officer. Endorsed by the Charter Committee of Greater Cincinnati, he is a partner at Porter Wright and has served on numerous boards, including the Southern Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA), the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission, the Center for Addiction Treatment, and the King Records Legacy Foundation.

June 14, 2025 on Clifton Avenue





Navigating Challenges: Today's Immigrant Life in Clifton

— by Gerald Checco

Clifton is recognized to be Cincinnati's most culturally diverse community. From our notable architecture to lively avenues dotted with kitchens cooking up international cuisine, foreign films on screens, and artworks on gallery walls, and many faith communities, Clifton's living tapestry is woven with global threads. Our community life is shaped by people whose lives began beyond boundaries, each one contributing to an ever-evolving, progressive spirit. In Clifton's early days, it already was diverse, with 50% of its 1856 residents born outside of America. In 2020 the percentage was at 22%, and Clifton remains the most international community in the region.

This diversity manifests as a living mosaic, a visible, tangible reality for residents. On my daily walk, I meet neighbors from Japan, Germany, England, Italy, Canada, France, Mexico, Ukraine, and Australia, each one making me feel very much at home. In the heart of Clifton on Ludlow Avenue, our merchants hail from Italy, Ethiopia, India, France, Argentina, Mexico, Sweden, Bangladesh, China, Kenya, Spain, Japan, Nepal, Greece, plus a Maya from Guatemala.

Clifton has been a welcoming haven for newcomers. Many arrive here for professional opportunities. Some join the faculty, staff, or students at the University of Cincinnati; others work for large international companies like Procter & Gamble, General Electric, Accor, Givaudan, or one of the city's major hospitals. Others may arrive through the U.S. Diversity Visa Lottery, which grants people from under-represented countries a chance at the American dream. CTM's board reflects this rich mix: several Board members are not native born, and others hold dual nationalities. It's a group that stands as a testament to the neighborhood's inclusiveness and cosmopolitan spirit.

Friday afternoon prayers at Clifton Mosque introduce a visible harmony and sense of congregation along our streets and sidewalks. The Clifton Branch Library is an important hub for immigrants, offering language immersion programs and the annual "Welcome and Connect" event. Co-produced with Clifton Town Meeting, it provides social interaction and practical advice. Our local hospitals are filled with gifted physicians from

around the world. My family's GP is from Cameroon, and we've had the good fortune to be treated by a myriad of great doctors from "elsewhere"!

Yet, for all its warmth and vibrancy, immigrants in Clifton, and more broadly in the United States, face increasing challenges. Repression takes many forms: tightening of visa restrictions, the fostering of fear of "the other," erratic official rhetoric, and policy changes make daily life uncertain. The fear of sudden policy shifts can mean living in a state of limbo, where one is never able to fully relax or to plan for the future. Threats of "de-naturalization" are a real burden for our essential and integrated immigrant community and can't be taken as hollow intimidations.

We can ensure that Clifton remains a welcoming destination, a positive microcosm of America's ideal of an immigrant's experience. That story grew from a belief that cultural diversity, the greatest hopes of people, and the meeting of challenges do not weaken us, but make us stronger.

IF YOU KNOW,
YOU KNOW
WE KNOW
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fall 2025



Two new books from the

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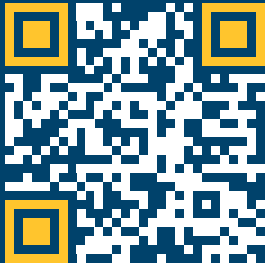
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Clifton Plan Update

— by Gerald Checco, CTM Clifton Plan Chair and Kyle Gibbs, City of Cincinnati Planner

The Clifton Plan is progressing steadily, thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of neighbors and volunteers. At a public engagement during the Memorial Day Picnic, City Planner Kyle Gibbs had the pleasure of chatting with more than 40 community members, gathering ideas and feedback through a survey that will help shape Clifton's future. Our hardworking subcommittees have been meeting regularly, diving into some of the most important questions that will define the Clifton Plan. Here's a look at each group's focus:

- **Historic Subcommittee:** How can we celebrate and protect what makes Clifton's history special, while also ensuring our neighborhood remains inclusive and affordable for everyone?
- **Community Subcommittee:** In a rapidly changing world, how do we preserve our strong sense of

community? The group is exploring ways to keep Clifton clean, safe, welcoming, and supportive of our schools, while maintaining Clifton as a vibrant creative hub.

- **Development Subcommittee:** Which parts of Clifton should be encouraged to develop or redevelop, and how can we build on past plans? The team is also thinking about what spaces we should preserve and why.
- **Environment Subcommittee:** As climate change becomes more pressing, this group seeks ways to safeguard and improve Clifton's environment, planning how our neighborhood can contribute to Cincinnati's broader sustainability goals.
- **Transportation Subcommittee:** What does a safe and well-managed neighborhood look like,

whether you're walking, biking, driving, or riding a bus? This team is brainstorming ways to increase and improve public transportation options while making our streets safer.

We're grateful to everyone who has already shared their voice and insights. And there's still much work to be done. We welcome your participation as we move forward together, creating a bright future for Clifton!

Next public engagement:
September 13, 2025
in the setting of
CliftonFest on Ludlow

Scan this QR code to review the work realized to date.



Good Samaritan Construction Progress

The West Tower at Good Samaritan Hospital continues to take shape as we look ahead to an estimated opening date of 2028. Construction progress includes building of the sixth story and the 168,000-square-foot West Tower, witnessed as visible changes to the structure continued throughout the spring and early summer of 2025.

The West Tower's concrete structure and exterior framing will be completed in late 2025 which will allow work to begin on the interior. The tower will contain enhanced and expanded Operating Rooms, TriHealth Cancer and Blood Institute (TCBI), a new Emergency Department, TriHealth Heart and Vascular Institute (THVI), diagnostics, and more.

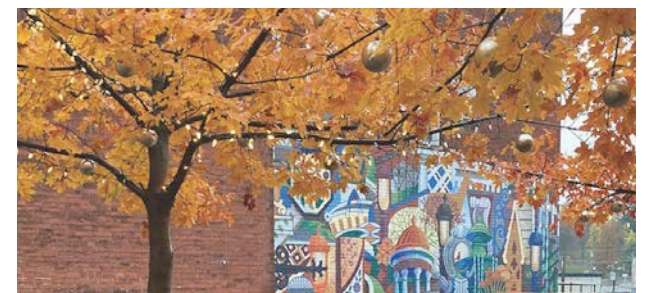




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Best Brunch in Clifton!

Clifton's Tree Canopy: A Community Legacy

— by Gerald Checco

CTM Trustee and Urban Forestry Board President

The history of Clifton is one of leaf-shaded avenues born of residents' deep love of trees. Since its 19th-century founding, Clifton has stood apart as a green refuge, offering a calm, cool escape from the hot crowding of city life. Our sidewalks, parks, cemeteries, homes, and gardens all bear witness to generations of residents who have treasured and nurtured a natural landscape. Visionaries like John Warder (creator of the American Forestry Association) and landscape architect Adolf Strauch (designer of private gardens, public parks, and Spring Grove Cemetery) helped to shape our identity, ensuring a green legacy.

Today Clifton enjoys over 50% of tree canopy, comprised of about 55,000 trees! That's significantly more than other nearby neighborhoods, thanks to Clifton's unique commitment to environmental stewardship. Mature healthy trees increase a property's value by up to 20%, making the greenery here both an economic and ecological asset. And in summer we know it's true: trees reduce the urban heat island effect, making Clifton significantly cooler and more comfortable than those places with less shade.

Protection of Clifton's canopy is, in fact, the work of the entire "village." The majority of our trees are in private yards and gardens, so each of us plays an essential role in preservation. As many of our oldest trees reach the end of their lives, it's imperative to plant new trees even as we care for the ones we have. Future generations will be able to enjoy Clifton's welcoming, shady lanes, as we do today, and we'll keep our neighborhood cool and beautiful!

What we all can do:

- Plant native trees on your property (<https://cincinnatizoo.org/gardens/plants>).
- Help new trees get established by watering them regularly for at least the first year. This is also beneficial to trees planted by the streets along our properties.
- Unrelentingly remove invasive species like Honeysuckle and Tree-of-Heaven. (They're "Wanted Dead – NOT Alive.")
- Advocate for street trees to be planted, especially where there are few or no trees.
- Consider asking a professional arborist to periodically assess the health of your trees. Trees need periodic pruning to remove dead wood which promotes healthy growth and longevity.



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The Many Forms of Volunteering for Clifton

— by Tom Lohre

What's a community without volunteers? Funny thing—my partner started me volunteering but didn't really mean for me to make it a full-time job! During the years that I managed the Chronicle at 12 pages of content, it was fun and right-sized to match my endurance.

But sometimes, we are keenly spurred to respond as volunteers. The shock of seeing a closing sign on the front door of Keller's IGA on a cold January day 15 years ago sent shock waves through the Gaslight. Too many residents had moved on to shopping at the big box and specialty grocery stores.

Clifton Market is once again up against this trend.

The collapse of distributors—the companies that supply stock to independent grocery stores—is threatening these stores in ways never seen before. My interviews of customers and update posts on social media have kept the rumor mill at

a low rumble for a decade. The interview videos show an earnest grocer and Cliftonites who have put their hearts and souls into helping the market see rewards and stay in business.

What can help? Shoppers who feel and show loyalty. The tougher the industry becomes, the more hunkering down is required. Our household currently shops the whole business district, like they do in Europe. Getting soda at CVS, tofu at Clifton Natural Foods, bread at Two Seven Two Bakery, ice cream at Graeter's, wine from Ludlow Wines, cleaning supplies at ACE. If a vegetable we sought is not available at the market, we'll substitute.

Can Clifton keep its market? Not without a tidal wave of support. Clifton Market is dressed up for success. The store design, modern equipment, and cheerful signage make shopping a joy. No crowds, wide aisles, great lighting, a cafe, free Wi-Fi, and a glorious view of the Esquire Theater. A steady

stream of international customers makes this store go round, and Mr. Singh works on problem solving to maintain this independent grocery store.

Please do your part by making Clifton Market one of your daily stops on Ludlow.



Shurdell at Clifton Market is feeling the Halloween and autumnal spirit. Photo by Jeff Wilson

Dogs Walking People — by Dora Schield

The true attractions along Ludlow and environs are not so much our citizens, but their dogs. Those lovable pets not only take center stage at home, but charm others who walk their way along our shopping district. Consider dogs: one species, over 400 purebreds and a number of designer dogs. There are also mixed breeds (please don't call them mutts) just as beloved by their owners.

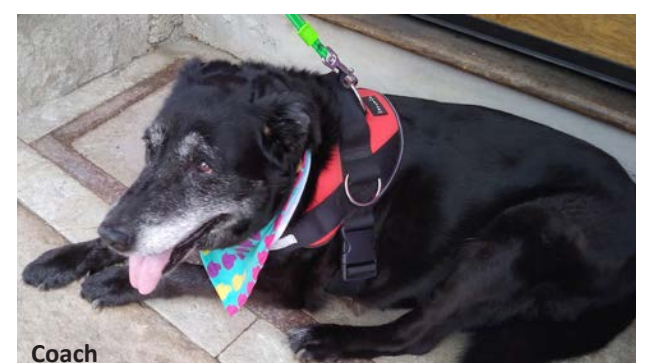
References claim that dog breeding derives from wolves domesticated by settlers 10,000 years ago. Their intelligence and innate need for human contact made them suitable for selective breeding, i.e., initially bred for specific occupations such as hunting, herding, and guarding. Further along they were trained as military warriors, medical service guides, and a myriad of other useful and entertaining vocations. It didn't take long for us to adopt dogs as pets. Owners of dogs mentioned here had no problem giving their pets "top dog" status in the household hierarchy.

The appearances and traits of dogs are products of the country that bred them. For instance, Buster (age 10) our Bassett Hound's ancestors originated in England and were bred to scout out small game, thus explaining a strong sense of smell and stout legs that keep them close to the ground. Other dogs featured are those I ran into most often. I chose them because of their friendly disposition and the fact that their owners did not hesitate to grant my request that they be cropped out of the photo, thus making it all about their canines. I should add that experts believe that, no matter how domesticated, dogs never lose the original traits for which they were bred in the first place.

Who can deny that all dogs go to heaven when they meet up with Tonkatsu (age 7), often seen in one of Ludlow's coffee houses. He's a Shiba Inu and a product of Japan. His guardian tells me that the dog's name means Fried Pork. (Okay.) I've already told her that my only reason for not kidnapping Tonkatsu is my fear of retribution.

A more recent attempt to establish a new breed, the Labradoodle, occurred in the 1990s when an Australian crossed a poodle with a Labrador Retriever. Called Labradoodles, they are classified as designer dogs since they lack the distinctive traits required for kennel club inclusion. But Zoe (age 7) holds her own with her abundant curls, noble pose, and pet-me demeanor.

Finally, space allows tribute to just one more dog. Coach (age 14) is a Labrador Retriever, a breed much desired for their fondness of humans, making them easily trainable. Retrievers adapt readily to households with children or families who like outdoor activities. I believe Coach may be telling me that his days of fun and games are pretty much over and he'd like nothing better than to rest on his laurels. However, his owner did mention that on occasion he might frisk up when meeting with another dog.



Ludlow Garage at One-Hundred-and-One

— by Bonnie Holliday Speeg

The Ludlow Garage is 101 years old! Constructed in 1924 per architectural historian Walter Langsam, it was originally an auto care business servicing 125 cars and included an “Auto Laundry.” The Chicago Commercial Style architecture with steel frames, patterned masonry, and large bands of windows suggests design by architect Harry Hake or U.C. modernist F. W. Garber. The building’s concrete construction was able to support the weight of several automobiles.

In 1924, the Cincinnati Directory listed 200 auto businesses. Two were in Clifton: Allen’s Garage at 276 Ludlow Avenue, and Clifton Garage and Livery at the northwest corner of Clifton Avenue and Dixmyth. A 1950 advertisement lists Bob O’Neill’s car sales of Packards and Buicks at 344 Ludlow Garage.

In 1966 the car business closed, and the building was bought by the Calhoun Street Mug Club who applied for an alcohol permit. Clifton Town Meeting opposed it and won. But Jim Tarbell’s proposed no-alcohol menu won over the opposition, and Ludlow Garage opened as a music venue on September 19, 1969. Opening acts were Lonnie Mack and Grand Funk Railroad, followed by scores of legendary musicians who performed through January 1971 including Santana, Allman Brothers, Mother Earth, Boz Scaggs, Staple Singers....That iteration of Ludlow Garage had no seats, no bar, and was very industrial with pseudo-oriental rugs carpeting the floors. Tarbell’s vision of an “Alice in Wonderland” vibe

attracted Pat and Jan Carroll’s giant rocking chairs. Hand-scribed on a masonry wall in Brian Cain’s office is the Crosby, Stills and Nash 1969 line: “If you smile at me, I will understand.”

Tarbell kept the two interior auto ramps at the front entrance. One ramp—located to the left of ACE Hardware’s present entrance—went down, beneath the main concert area (now ACE’s sales floor.) In the lower level was a ticket-taking station, concession area with macrobiotic food, and a dressing room. Patrons took the stairs back up to see shows on the main floor. To exit, the audience passed through the wide front doors, now ACE’s entrance. This writer bought \$3.50 tickets at Kidd’s Booksellers to the 1970 Johnny Winter show. He filled the stage, tossing round his white mane of hair as the building took in every note.

The last Ludlow Garage shows were in January 1971, with Captain Beefheart and Ry Cooder. A progression of businesses followed, including Uno’s pizzeria. ACE Hardware opened in 2009 and in 2015, Scott and Maria Crawford opened Olive’s restaurant paired with Live at the Ludlow Garage. Current owner Dave Taylor’s passion-turned-business took hold in 2018, when he and his wife Claudia opened the present Ludlow Garage. Dave used to watch his older siblings go to the Garage while he, too young, was left at home. Still, he could hear the music from his front porch. Thanks to the Taylors, the music plays on!



1970 Johnny Winter at Ludlow Garage



Ludlow Avenue in 1920's with the Garage next to a filling station



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“Boss” Cox’s Bridge Too Far

— by Jan Brown Checco, part 3 of 5 stories

William Howard Taft disliked everything about George B. Cox, and allegations that Cox had facilitated Taft’s rise to the American presidency were untrue. As U.S. Secretary of War in 1905, Taft denounced Cox’s hold on Cincinnati as “local despotism” and “despicable.” Cox did support Taft’s presidential campaign in 1908, but the two were never friendly. Still, as a kingmaker, Cox’s influence spread widely across Ohio. His successful passage of the Lillard Law in the Ohio State Assembly (1893) had enabled annexation of five hilltop villages—Clifton, Westwood, Avondale, Linwood and Riverside—to the city of Cincinnati in 1896. This certainly did not endear Parkview Manor’s new residents to the Clifton establishment.

Cox’s successful annexation of several middle-class communities was intended to increase his own political realm, but the citizens resisted. In opposition to obvious political corruption, their votes became impossible to control. One-time supporters began to abandon him, and his power faltered despite his earlier provision of efficient civil services, increased municipal projects, safer streets, and strong economic growth. Despite heavy immigration and a population boom, Cox initiatives had kept streets cleaned and paved, sewer lines built, and taxes low. He’d planned and begun the subway system that failed after his death due to poor coordination and unauthorized spending, all abetted by the rise of his political enemies.

Cox was indicted in 1911 for perjury. He’d declared in court that he had not received any money sent as “gratuities” to a couple of county treasurers by various banks, in return for county funds being deposited in their institutions. The Grand Jury did find that he’d received interest money from those treasurers, totaling over \$50,000. But the charge was later thrown out by a Cox-sympathizing judge on a technicality. Cox thereby proclaimed himself vindicated and retired from politics. His candidate for mayor—Louis Schwab—was defeated by reformist Henry Thomas Hunt. A peak in voter participation to 88% in the election was a clear protest regarding how the perjury case had been handled.

However, Cox’s political machine continued to win seats in 1913. His former lieutenant Rudolph (Rud) Hynicka continued and escalated the practice of graft, further tarnishing Cox’s reputation for corrupt acts in which he had no hand.



George B. Cox - political boss and resident of Clifton in Parkview Manor, now our public library



Henry Thomas Hunt - Mayor of Cincinnati 1912-1913

Front Page Cincinnati Post Newspaper 1905

Weather: PARTLY CLOUDY TONIGHT; FINE TUESDAY

Ramsey, Full of Fight, Arrives in Cincinnati. Don't Miss Page 10.

NIGHT EDITION

THE CINCINNATI POST

10 Pages

Cox's Plot to Steal Election Is Revealed in Detail on Page 3.

Vol. 50, No. 100, CINCINNATI, MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1905. PRICE ONE CENT

SECRETARY W. H. TAFT DENOUNCES COX; BLOW MAKES SYSTEM TOTTER

Secretary of War Hurls Thunderbolt Into the Ranks of Cox Followers by Attack on Boss in Speech at Akron, Ohio.

TAFT WOULD VOTE AGAINST COX

(From Secretary Taft's Speech at Akron, O., Saturday Night.)

"If I were able, as I fear I shall not be, because public duty calls me elsewhere, to cast my vote in Cincinnati in the coming election, I should vote against the municipal ticket nominated by the Republican organization, and for the State ticket."

(By Special Staff Correspondent.)

AKRON, O., Oct. 22.—Wm. H. Taft, Secretary of War, has come and gone. The one speech he promised Chairman Dick in the Ohio campaign has been delivered.

Geo. B. Cox, the Cincinnati gangster who aspires to the United States Senate, has never been so bitterly denounced in this campaign. Defended on the State stump for the past month by Governor Herrick, and in open letters from Chairman Dick, Cox was directly attacked by Roosevelt's big Secretary of War.

"Cox's overthrow is devoutly to be wished," said Taft. "If I were able to vote in Cincinnati this fall I should vote against Cox's ticket."

His audience, which had expected either no reference to Cox or the polite defense of him made by other party speakers, gasped. Charles Dick, State Chairman, and partner in the Cox-Herrick-Dick machine combination, sat close by on the stage while Taft delivered his grumbling blows on Coxism. He was white and motionless, his face in set lines.

It was the same Dick who has said in his "open letters" in this campaign: "No Republican with Geo. B. Cox's power has shown less disposition to assume to be a boss," and, again, "Home rule prevails in Cincinnati."

One could almost pity him as he sat huddled on the stage chair, while the big man in front, who had been sent by Roosevelt to rebuke the Philippine Islanders and again to bring to time those responsible for rotten conditions in Panama, now came to rebuke Coxism in Ohio and to expose political corruption in Hamilton County.

Full details of the colossal plot of George B. Cox to steal the coming election by padded lists and wholesale fraud has been found and is published today in full on Page 1. In the silver show alone 400 men can be found any night, distributed among the double-deck iron cows. They hail from Kentucky, Indiana, Tennessee, Virginia and other States and are imported by Cox in a vain hope of swinging the election.

PEOPLE OF CINCINNATI MUST DEFEAT COX

(FROM SECRETARY TAFT'S SPEECH AT AKRON.)

"The condition is one of absolute helplessness on the part of any independent Republican seeking to take part in politics who is not independent of the machine, and the disastrous effect is now seen upon all the young men ambitious politically, as if they were driven then out of politics and deprived the public of their probably valuable services, or if they go into politics they must subordinate themselves to the tyranny of the boss. It is a condition of affairs—a local despotism—much to be deplored, and I say this now that it is speaking and it should be done."

GOVERNOR HERRICK TONIGHT I SHOULD BE DOING ANYTHING BUT THE SUPPLICATION OF THE POWER OF THE COX MACHINE IN CINCINNATI, or if I thought that Geo. B. Cox had entered into the corrupt bargain with Cox.

10 DIE IN CHILEAN DINTO

MILITARY FOLK DIRECTS

WHERE AND HOW DID THEY GET IT?

(From Secretary Taft's Speech at Akron.)

The power secured by the boss and his assistants under the machine has undoubtedly inured to their pecuniary benefit, and it is seen in the large fortunes which they now have. How their money was made has not been disclosed.



Cartoon 1905: William Howard Taft questions Boss Cox and his lieutenants Rudolph (Rud) Hynicka (a newspaper reporter turned politician, police clerk, chief clerk, Hamilton County treasurer, and chairman of the Republican party, also theatre tycoon with 40 burlesque and legitimate theatres) and August "Garry" Herrmann (head of waterworks, also president of the Cincinnati Reds 1902-1927, baseball's first commissioner in 1905, and so-called "Father of the World Series").

Cars in the Park at Mt. Storm

— by Larry Holt

The Clifton Community Fund in conjunction with the Mt. Storm Advisory Council staged its third annual Cars in the Park on Sunday, June 15, from noon to 2 p.m. in Mt. Storm Park. Cars and trucks from every era and style were represented at this casual event that included a food truck, courtesy of Cincinnati Parks! Stay tuned to find out when and what will happen next year!



Clifton's Forrest Gump!

— by Larry Holt

If you remember the movie Forrest Gump, you'll remember that he was always around when famous people were doing famous things. Well, Clifton has its own Forrest Gump- Ardy Wander- and he's been just outside the lens focused on famous people his entire life!

How famous? Well, in Cincinnati, you can't get more famous than Pete Rose. How is Ardy Wander, retired professor of ophthalmology at U.C. connected to The Hit King? Did he sharpen Pete's eyesight? No. Ardy played baseball and football with Pete in both elementary and high school. In baseball, Ardy was the catcher. In football, at Western Hills High School, he was the linebacker for the defense. More importantly, on offense, at center and guard, Ardy was one of the blockers who provided the holes for star running back Pete Rose. Ardy says, "Pete was a great football player! No one could bring him down."

But wait! While Ardy was making Pete Rose a hero, he was also hanging out with a future Nobel Prize

winner- Stanley Prusiner, who won the 1997 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine. Ardy and Stan were at Sunday school together at Rockdale Temple throughout grade school and high school.

When Pete went off to start his baseball career and Stan manned his microscope, Ardy went to college at the University of Michigan to major in Zoology/Pre-Medicine. He went on to graduate from UC's Med School in 1967 and got his pilot's license. In 1968-1969, he was in Vietnam as a flight surgeon for the 101st Airborne Division. Ardy also treated 6,000 Vietnamese children as part of a U.S. to Vietnam outreach program. At the end of his time in Vietnam, the villagers honored him with a banquet.

After his return home, Ardy did his residency in ophthalmology at U.C. and joined the faculty to teach ophthalmology. He also began his private ophthalmology practice where he continued to hang with the famous, treating celebrities including most of the Clooney family.

Since retirement, Ardy- now 83- lives in Clifton with his lovely wife Irene, who went to John Carroll University with Tim Russert of Meet the Press! He can be seen tooling around Clifton in his 1985 Toyota MR2 convertible or jogging with his walker. Stop in at Ludlow Wines on Fridays after 5:00 and Ardy will tell you more stories from his "rich & famous" file, like the time he double-dated with yet another Nobel Prize winner!



Above: Ardy Wander



Left: Ardy is #70, Pete is #55

Garden of Joy Fall Update



Garden of Joy Culinary Academy had a wonderful summer full of new programs, in partnership with GRAD Cincinnati and the House of Joy Church. These programs emphasized food education, gardening, sustainability, the arts, and social emotional learning. We celebrated the summer program wrap-up with a fundraiser/cookout to share student highlights, delicious food, and future plans. A huge shoutout to TriMark for their abundant donation of kitchen supplies which we'll put to use as we launch our fall programs. We're especially grateful to **Michael Heroux**, Regional Sales Manager at TriMark. His generosity and belief in our dream have made a tangible difference—and we can't wait to show our students what's possible because of it. Big thanks also to **Baron Engraving** for our beautiful new sign. Now all of Cincinnati can see what's growing at Garden of Joy when they drive by our blooming location on Central Parkway!

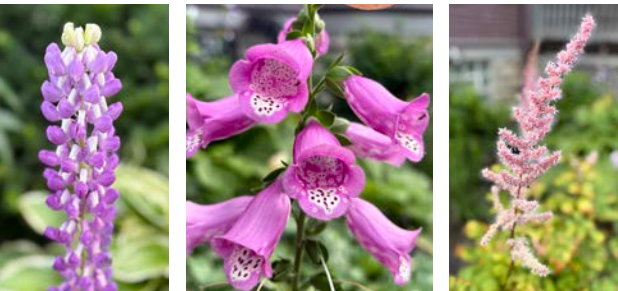
Want to add your support? By becoming a monthly sponsor, you directly support students in our new afterschool program. Launching this fall, the program includes meals, transportation, and kitchen supplies to ensure that young people can fully participate in an education rooted in culinary

arts, gardening, restorative practices, mental health support, and nonviolence education. If monthly sponsorship isn't right for you, please consider making a one-time donation. Please visit www.gardenofjoyculinary.org and choose Sponsor a Student or Donate from the menu.

For more news about Garden of Joy, read our newsletter at www.gardenofjoyculinary.org/news.



Please, adopt a storm drain near your home. Removing the debris keeps our ground water moving into the system as intended and keeps pedestrian pathways clear. Thank you!



Gaslight Gardening — by Leah Kottyan, Thrall Street

The gardens of Clifton are part of our neighborhood's identity. We use our sidewalks, love being outdoors, and enjoy each other. This column celebrates the flora of Clifton. Common names for plants are used to make the articles accessible to everyone.

"Until we can comprehend the beguiling beauty of a single flower, we are woefully unable to grasp the meaning and potential of life itself."—Virginia Woolf

In 1928, Virginia Woolf gave a set of famous lectures at the University of Cambridge imploring her audiences of bright female students to develop "a room of one's own." Virginia argued that creators must be given the freedom and space to create, break rules, and develop their own voices. As a gardener, I often think about Virginia.

It is easy to get sucked into the world of instructional articles, 20-second internet videos, books written by acclaimed gardeners. Everyone has an opinion about what you should plant, how you should plant

it, when you should groom it, and where you should source it. Many articles are emphatic about what should be done, what will work, and what cannot work.

Let me share a secret: when you let yourself have a garden of your own, you do not have to follow the rules. You can plant tall plants in the front of a garden bed, put your plants too close together, allow plants to naturally come up (that some might call weeds), go wild. There is an energizing defiance when you make decisions to create your own space. The act of walking through my garden is a remedy for the buzzy numbness of screentime. Sitting next to running water and smelling my sweet peas can cure the tightness in my chest after a stressful day. Joy comes from snipping and pruning my flowers, pulling out plants that have stopped making me smile, and adding plants even when my husband tells me there's no space for more.

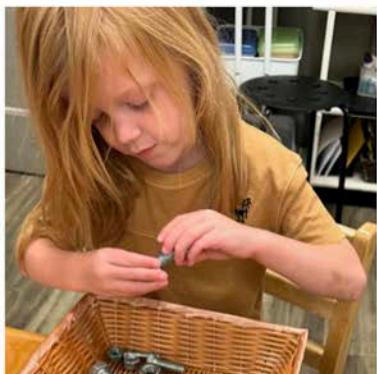
My garden is a room of my own and as long as I grow what I wish to, that is all that matters.

Life in The New School Montessori 3rd-6th Classrooms

— by Ann Baumgardner



Counting beads, sounding out words, working with puzzles, threading nuts onto bolts, sewing, writing, and painting the world—these students are busy! In our 3-6 program, Montessori activities change regularly to provide numerous opportunities for students to develop fine motor strength, a deep understanding of math, various degrees of sorting objects and solving problems. Students not only learn the shapes of countries and where they are located on a map, but they also learn about the flora, fauna, exports, customs, and culture.



Each day, children spend a significant amount of time exploring the outdoors. They learn practical properties of physics by climbing small trees, running in the preprimary woods and using the playground equipment and the sandbox to bring their imaginings to life. Learn more about our program at our Open House on October 19, 2025 from 2 to 4 p.m. Please stop by North Avondale's New School Montessori at 3 Burton Woods Lane.

Clifton Soccer, a “Goal-Oriented” Organization

— by Patty Klein, Clifton Soccer Treasurer

Clifton Soccer has been bringing together our community for fun and competitive soccer for almost 50 years! Run entirely by volunteers, Clifton Soccer is a great place for parents and youth to make new friends and get active outdoors. Each Spring and Fall season, we organize teams for approximately 350 youth from Clifton and surrounding neighborhoods. Our youngest players, 4-5 years old, learn the basics in Lollipop soccer. Our older youth, 6-18 years old, practice teamwork and skill-building on one of our 18 teams. Our teams practice at Salway Park on Spring Grove Avenue, Sacred Heart Soccer Field next to Mt. Storm Park, and West Fork Recreation Area in Northside. Last season, our Girls' Strikers (U12) team and Boys' Wings (U10) team finished the season undefeated! Clifton Soccer is a member of Cincinnati SAY East Soccer and is one of the largest districts in the entire Cincinnati SAY area. The National SAY Soccer program was founded in 1967 right here in Cincinnati and is still headquartered here. The National SAY program currently offers recreational soccer in 30+ states for over 100,000 youth every year. If you're interested in volunteering on the Board, for painting lines on the field, or coaching a team, please contact us at info@cliftonsoccer.org. If you want to show your support with Clifton Soccer apparel, visit <https://clifton-soccer.printify.me/>. Find us at cliftonsoccer.org and come see us at the soccer fields—that's where we'll be kickin' it!



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Co-Founder of Vivify
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Hidden History Everywhere – by Geoff Gelke, Director, Clifton Historical Society

Driving north on Clifton Avenue toward Mill Creek, you'll notice the new display of an old relic at the corner of Amazon. It's the third of Clifton's discovered mounting blocks that were so common at the turn of the 20th century. Essential for folks who "mounted" tall horses, they were especially needed by women who rode side saddle. This block lay hidden under shrubs at 4003 Clifton Avenue until historically-equine-aware Gerald Checco spotted it. The homeowner is Mrs. Carolyn Senter. When I explained the block's significance, she enthusiastically agreed to give it visual prominence in a new, specially designed planting bed.

By all accounts, Mrs. Senter's block was a fixture of the Gassam Gano homestead located just behind her home, which was built on Gano's front yard c. 1931. The Gano house, a majestic French Second Empire jewel, was built in the 1860s by insurance magnate Gassam Gano. His father G.W. Gano had established his own homestead in 1838 across the street (location of today's Clifton Ridge Subdivision.) When the small lots that line Clifton Avenue were sold c.1930, Mrs. Senter's home was moved there, and the Gano house was modified and assigned an Amazon Street address. That orientation and the Amazon address both remain to this day.

The Clifton Historical Society donated a decorative hitching post to accompany the block, providing a clue about what was once common in old Clifton. Another block is displayed at Diggs Plaza, with signage describing the equine hub that Clifton was back in the 1890s.





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Children's Day in Burnet Woods

— by Eric Davis

Cincinnati's fifth annual International Children's Day will take place on Saturday, September 20, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Trillside Nature Center in Burnet Woods. Celebrate the children of the world and the cultural heritages of our neighbors and friends! Activities include canoe rides on the lake, Musical Storytime with Mr. Eric of the Clifton Branch Library, and various arts and crafts.

Cincinnati USA Sister City Association (CINUSCA) and several Sister City committees will staff booths with fun, hands-on activities that explore our collective, international community. FC Cincinnati's Street Team, the CSO Music Lab, and Cincinnati Art Museum's Cruiser (an interactive art studio) and Namaste India food truck will be there.

Entertainment includes River City Puppets, Cincinnati Circus, Cincinnati Dayton Taiko Japanese Drums, Chinese Guzheng musical performance, and music with Miss Joanie Whitaker. Cincinnati's International Children's Day is a collaboration of the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, Cincinnati Parks, Cincinnati USA Sister City Association, Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library's Clifton Branch, the Camping & Education Foundation (CEF), and USA Balloonatics.



Clifton Branch Library — Come Inside!

— by Eric Davis

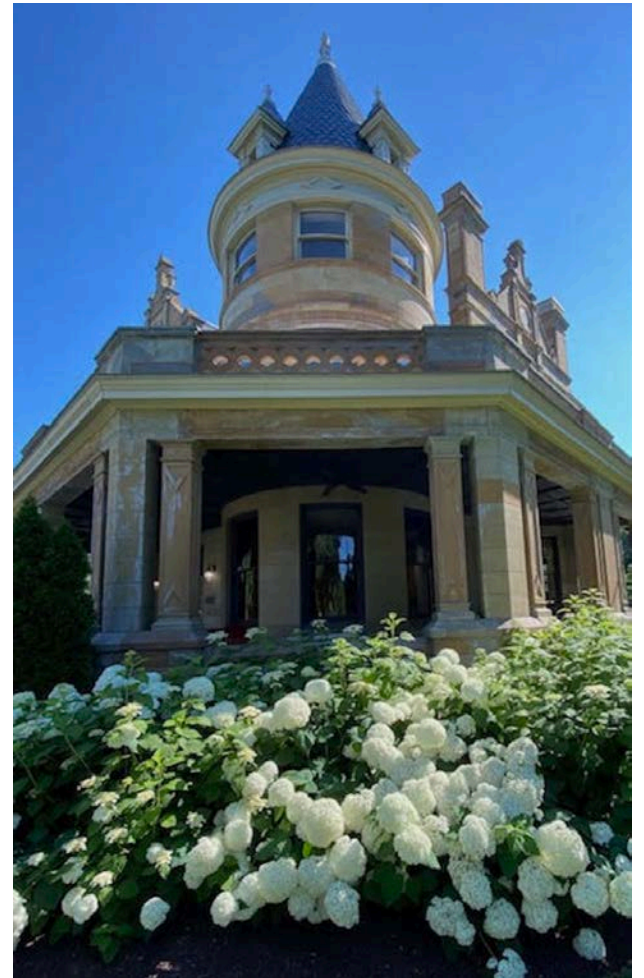
Public libraries, along with many civic institutions, rely upon public funding to optimally function and best serve our communities. Stable and secure state funding is essential to the Cincinnati Public Library. This is my opportunity to say "Thank You!" to our wonderful community for expressing your concerns and making your voices heard in support of public libraries to our Ohio legislators. To show how much we appreciate you, we're inviting you to a party on Saturday, November 15, 2-4 p.m. for games, refreshments, and fun activities as we celebrate YOU on our Customer Appreciation Day!

The library offers access to technology to help you work, create, learn, and explore; we also create opportunities for you to unplug. Here are fun events you can attend this fall...no screens required!

Game Night! — Second Tuesday of Each Month, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Meet up with friends and make new ones during a low-key game night at the library! Board games, card games, and more will be provided. Bring a favorite to play or learn a new game. Fall dates: September 9, October 14, November 11.

"Every Leaf is a Flower" Poetry — Tuesday, October 21, 6 — 8 p.m. *"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."* - *Albert Camus*. Come join us for a "second spring" celebration and an evening of poetry readings and open mic. Check online for which local poets will be reading.

Crafternoon! Join us for crafting and socializing with friends and neighbors. Details and registration are available a few weeks prior to each month's program. Previous crafts include: Sewing 101, Stained Glass Tissue Paper Flowers, Magazine Collage, and Reclaimed Wire Sculpture. We'll meet on Saturdays from 1:30-3:30 p.m. on September 27, October 25, and November 22.



For a complete listing of events here and at all our library locations, please scan the QR code.



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Clifton Businesses • Services • Civic Organizations

Art/ Entertainment

Esquire Theater	320 Ludlow	5132818750	esquiretheatre.com/
Ludlow Garage	342 Ludlow	5138617625	ludlowgaragecincinnati.com/
Improv Cincinnati	404 Ludlow	5139001110	improvcincinnati.com/
Off Ludlow Gallery	3408 Ormond		offludlowgallery.com
Clifton Cultural Arts Center	3412 Clifton	5134972860	cliftonculturalarts.org
Manifest Drawing Center	3464 Central Pkw	5138613638	manifestdrawingcenter.org
Vada Gallery	3408 Telford	5132597446	vada-gallery.com

Parks/ Public Spaces/ Cemeteries

Burnet Woods	3251 Brookline		
Diggs Plaza	289 Ludlow		
Mt. Storm	600 Lafayette		
Rawson Bird Preserve	424 McAlpin		
Edgewood Grove	745 Lafayette		
Bowdle Park	698 Ludlow		
Dunore Park	727 Ludlow		
Bishop Triangle	3275 Bishop		
Telford Plaza	3400 Telford		
Clifton Plaza	333 Ludlow		
Clifton United Jewish Cemetery	730 Old Ludlow		
Vine Street Hill Cemetery	3701 Vine	5132811035	vinestreethillcemetery.net/

Churches

Immanuel Presbyterian	3445 Clifton	5137510312	immanuelpresby.org/
Clifton United Methodist	3416 Clifton	5139612998	cliftonumc.com/
Clifton Mosque	3668 Clifton	5132214003	cliftonmosque.org/
Every Nations	3722 Clifton	5139750554	everynationcincinnati.org/
Annunciation	3747 Clifton	5133816400	uptowncatholic.org/
St. John's Unitarian Universalist	320 Resor	5139611938	stjohnsuu.org/
Calvary Episcopal	3766 Clifton	5138614437	calvaryclifton.org/
Seventh Day Adventist	3800 Clifton	5132211221	cincinnatiadventists.org/
Church of Christ	695 Berkshire	5132812872	
House of Joy	3220 Central Pkw	5135414600	

Schools

Clifton Area Neighborhood	3711 Clifton	5133632200	cliftonarea.cps-k12.org/
Fairview Clifton German Language	3689 Clifton	5133632100	airview.cps-k12.org/
Romero at Annunciation	3545 Clifton	5133011448	romeroacademies.org/
DePaul Cristo Rey	1133 Clifton Hills	5138610600	depaulcristorey.org/

Universities

Cincinnati State College	3250 Central Pkw	5135691500	cincinnati.state.edu/
Hebrew Union	3101 Clifton	5132211875	huc.edu/campus-life/cincinnati
University of Cincinnati	2600 Clifton	5135566000	uc.edu

Restaurants/ Bars

Two Seven Two Bakery	272 Ludlow	5132187584	instagram.com/two.seven.two
J. Gumbo	286 Ludlow	5134076930	gumbos.com/
Skyline Chili	290 Ludlow	5132212142	
Arlin's	307 Ludlow	5137516566	facebook.com/arlinsbar
Biagio's Bistro	308 Ludlow	5138614777	
Los Potrillos	316 Ludlow	5132210313	los-potrillos.wix.com/home
Sitwell's Act 2	324 Ludlow	5132817487	sitwellsact2.com/
Upside Brew	329 Ludlow	5138823610	upsidebrew.com/
Graeter's Ice Cream	332 Ludlow	5132814749	graeters.com/
Bohemian Hookah	340 Ludlow	5132210291	
Ajeet India	341 Ludlow	5139613600	ajeetcincinnati.com/
Ludlow Garage	342 Ludlow	5138617625	ludlowgaragecincinnati.com/
Proud Rooster	345 Ludlow	5132814965	
Ambar India	350 Ludlow	5132817000	ambarindia.net/
Gaslight Bar & Grill	351 Ludlow	5138613663	gaslightbarandgrillclifton.com/
Kiki on Ludlow	358 Ludlow	5137068902	kikicincinnati.com
Clifton's Bubble Tea	328 Ludlow	5132679519	
The Whole Bowl	364 Ludlow	5137512695	thewholebowl.com
Dusmesh India	944 Ludlow	5132218900	dusmeshcincy.com/
Bruegger's Bagel	3317 Clifton	5132212243	brueggers.com/
Baladi	3307 Clifton	5132217222	99designs-598257699aa82.jimdo.com/
Dewey's Pizza	265 Hosea	5132210400	deweypizza.com/
Richie's	110 Woolper	5135591878	richieschicken.com/
White Castle	3400 Central Pkw	6142285781	whitecastle.com/

Groceries/ Supermarket

Clifton Market	319 Ludlow	5138613000	cliftonmarket.com/
Clifton Natural Food	336 Ludlow	5139616111	cliftonnaturalfoods.com/
UDF	3325 Clifton	5137515132	
Jagdeep's Indian	270 Ludlow	5154998875	
CVS	371 Ludlow	5132814475	

Recreation/ Fitness

Clifton Recreation Center	320 McAlpin	5139615681	cincyrec.org/search/facility.aspx?id=43
Clifton Branch Library	3400 Brookline	5133694447	cincinnati.library.org/
Trailside Nature Center	3251 Brookline	5137513679	cincinnati.parks.com/
World Peace Yoga	268 Ludlow	5133009642	worldpeaceyoga.com/
It's Yoga	346 Ludlow	5139619642	yogagarage.com/
Clifton Meadows Swim/ Tennis	4045 Egbert	5139613793	cliftonmeadows.com/

Delivery/ Postal Services

Clifton Post Office	362 Ludlow	8002758777	tools.usps.com
Going Postal	3239 Jefferson	5133766587	goingpostal.com/store/GP382

Banks

Superior Credit Union	411 Ludlow	5132819988	superiorcu.com/
PNC Bank	415 Ludlow	5132211122	
US Bank	425 Ludlow	5134756061	
MoneyGram @ CVS	371 Ludlow	5132814475	
Western Union @ Clifton Market	319 Ludlow	5134737913	

Beauty/ Hair/ Nail

Elora Spa and Beauty Bar	274 Ludlow	5134392189	eloraspa.beautybar.com
University Nail	3307 Clifton	5137514111	
Personalities by Leona	312 Ludlow	5137515100	
Makin Heads Turn	3307 Clifton	5134073911	makinheadsturn.com/
M&M Eyebrows & Lashes	366 Ludlow	5132230516	
Clifton Barbers	337 Ludlow	5132813163	cliftonbarbers.com/

Jewelry

Paolo	278 Ludlow	5137512171	paolousa.com/
Maya	323 Ludlow	5136679299	jewelrymaya.com/

Health/ Dental

Good Samaritan Hospital	375 Dixmyth	5138621400	trihealth.com/
Group Health Assoc.	379 Dixmyth	5132467000	cgha.com/locations/Clifton.aspx
Sustainable Smiles	3406 Ormond	5132818800	sustainablesmilesdentistry.com/
Emergency Dental	3349 Whitfield	5139604611	emergencydentalofcincinnati.com/
Clifton Dental Care	3308 Jefferson	5137515200	cincinnati.cliftdentalcare.com/

Pet

Petey's Pet Stop	311 Howell	5132217387	peteyspetstop.com/
Howell Pet Hospital	317 Howell	5132213404	howellavenuepethospital.com/

Apparel/ Novelties

Toko Baru	325 Ludlow	5137513338	iluvthatstore.com/
Wonderland	314 Ludlow	5134073233	wonderlandsmokeshop.net/
Lentz & Company	339 Ludlow	5137390193	lentzandcompany.com/
Feel It Records	356 Ludlow	5132913322	feelitrecordshop.com/
Semesters	313 Ludlow	5139783597	
Pangaea Trading	326 Ludlow	5137513330	iluvthatstore.com/
Hansa Guild	369 Ludlow	5132214002	hansaonline.com/

Special

Adrian Durban Flowers	302 Ludlow	5132217673	adriandurban.com/
ACE Hardware	344 Ludlow	5132819600	
Ludlow Wines	343 Ludlow	5137513727	
Brown's Travel	3410 Ormond		brownstoursandtravel.com/
Rosette Tattoo	311 Ludlow		

Pharmacies

CVS	371 Ludlow	5132814475	
Walgreens 24 Hours	3 W. Corry	5137513444	walgreens.com/
Walgreens	9 W. Mitchell	5136412426	walgreens.com/

Bed & Breakfast

Gaslight B&B	3652 Middleton	5138615222	gaslightbb.com/
Clifton House	500 Terrace	5132217600	thecliftonhouse.com/

Civic / Clubs / Gardens

Clifton Town Meeting			cliftoncommunity.org
Clifton Business Association			cliftonbusiness.com
Clifton Community Fund			cliftoncommunityfund.org
Civic Garden Center	3301 Clifton		
Cincinnati Woman's Club	330 Lafayette	5139616535	cincinnati.womansclub.com/
Clifton Child Study Group			facebook.com/groups/501315546639798

Transportation

Metro Bus Line 17, 19,20,37, 38, 51, 78			go-metro.com/mapsandschedules
Bike Lane			East side of Clifton Avenue from Ludlow to Calhoun
Red Bike (rental)	321 Howell	5136212453	cincyredbike.org/
Red Bike (rental)	3402 Brookline	5136212453	cincyredbike.org/
Shell Gas Station	3337 Clifton	5132810031	
AAA Carwash	3330 Central Parkwy	5135591733	cluballiance.aaa.com/about/

Safety

Fire House 34	301 Ludlow	911	
Police District 4	4150 Reading	911	