



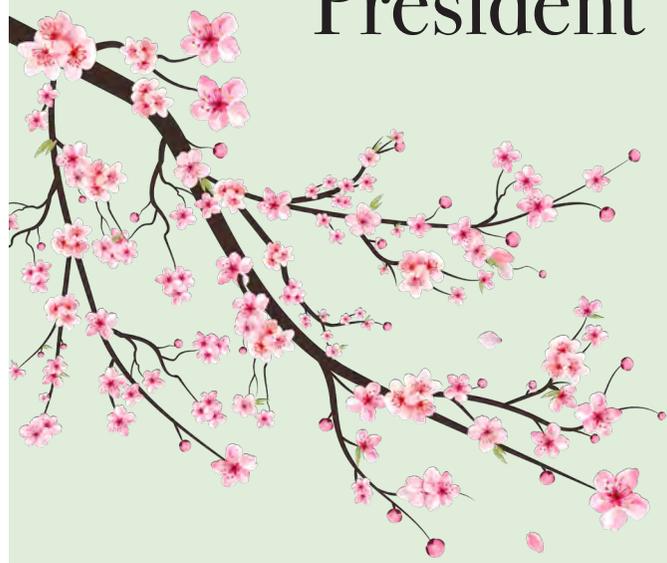
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Clifton Town Meeting
 P.O. Box 20042
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President's Message — by Ben Pantoja



The Esquire Needs You — The recent financial challenges at the Mariemont Theater are a reminder that independent theaters don't survive on nostalgia alone. They survive because people walk through the doors, buy tickets, grab popcorn, and enjoy the show! The Esquire Theatre has been a cornerstone of Cincinnati's film community for generations. It's where date nights, family outings, and spontaneous "let's catch a movie" evenings still feel special. Streaming is easy and staying home is convenient. But independent theaters depend on our entertainment habits. Let's make a habit of supporting our beloved Esquire Theater!

The following are some of the key upcoming priorities

for Clifton Town Meeting:

— Upgrade of security cameras on Ludlow — CTM will spend \$3,000 to upgrade the video cameras located on Clifton Plaza. These cameras and those in six other locations along Ludlow Avenue allow the community to help our police address crime in Clifton. When something occurs, members of the CTM/CBA Public Safety Committee review the video recorded at the time of the crime and send pertinent videos to the Cincinnati Police Department. This cooperation has led to an arrest for arson, an arrest for kidnapping, restraining orders for assaults, identification of vehicles involved in hit-and-run accidents, information that helped stop illegal activity at the Bohemian Hookah Café, and support for the investigation of seven break-ins on Ludlow Avenue in December 2025. Our goal is to upgrade all security cameras as quickly as possible with other funding sources being sought.

— Clifton Avenue Bike Lane Extension — The bike lane that exists on the east side of Clifton Avenue from McMillan Street to Ludlow will be extended north from Ludlow to Bryant Avenue. Data from a 2021 study by the Cincinnati Department of Transportation and Engineering about the impact of the original Clifton bike lane shows that speeding was reduced when northbound traffic changed from two lanes to one lane. Overall speeding was reduced by 28% and speeding over 40 mph was reduced by 43%. See the story from our Transportation Committee on Page 5.

— Clifton Station Location for the Metro Bus Rapid Transit Line — On February 24, CTM hosted a meeting to compare two options for the location of a new Metro Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) station for Clifton. This station will be built in 2027 and operate in 2028. This new BRT bus route will have limited stops, moving passengers quickly along the project's western corridor that includes Hamilton Avenue, Ludlow Avenue, MLK and Vine Street into downtown. With buses arriving every 10 minutes, some motorists may skip driving a car! Read more about it in the BRT story on Page 4.

— Seasonal Events — The Clifton Mother's Day Home and Garden Tour happening on Sunday, May 10, is produced by the Clifton Cultural Arts Center and supported by CTM volunteers. CTM's annual Memorial Day Parade and Picnic in Mt. Storm Park on May 25 always provides a great day of fun and neighborhood socializing, strengthening our community and relationships.

— The Clifton Plan is being updated by the City of Cincinnati for the first time in over 40 years. This document informs the City's decision-making for at least the next 10 years by expressing our community's preferences for a myriad of issues and projects. The well-populated CTM ad hoc Clifton Plan committee has collected essential input for more than a year and will issue a draft of the plan for community review before finalizing.

Clifton Town Meeting Is Your Community Council.

Established in 1961 and officially recognized by the City of Cincinnati, our objective is to preserve and develop the community, recognizing that Clifton is one of the city's first suburbs and possesses a traditional charm and unique creative character.

Clifton Town Meeting Monthly Board Meetings:

The public is invited to attend and participate in our meetings on the first Monday of every month, 7-9 p.m. at the Clifton Recreation Center, 320 McAlpin Avenue. Every meeting is an opportunity for community engagement, and attendees can request two minutes on the agenda to present information on the topic of their choice. Send requests to speak, including the topic to connectctm@cliftoncommunity.org where you can also send all inquiries and suggestions. CTM members receive the pre-meeting agenda and announcements by email via MailChimp. To become a CTM member visit www.cliftoncommunity.org/membership/

2026 CTM Board of Trustees

Ben Pantoja/President, Jan Checco/Vice President 1, Patrick Etter/Vice President 2, Owen Waller Secretary, Bridget Waller Kent/Treasurer, Robert DiMartino, Barry Gee, Kevin Leahy, Kevin Mohan, Bob Siegel, Genet Singh, Aaron Weiner, Lindsay Wile

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The Clifton Chronicle is CTM's free-to-the-public newsletter, delivered three times annually to over 10,000 readers in print and electronically. Members receive the print edition in their postal mailboxes unless they request to only read electronically. CTM has an archive of the present and past Chronicles at www.cliftoncommunity.org/clifton-town-meeting/clifton-chronicle Production of this newsletter is supported by our members, our advertisers and the City of Cincinnati's Neighborhood Support Program and Neighborhood Activation Funds. Our newsletter is only as good as the content that our faithful writers and readers provide, so please remember: stories can be up to 400 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 publish poems, observations, reports, announcements, interviews, historical pieces, promotion of local events and the essential messages from our local advertisers.

Clifton Chronicle Committee:

Chair and Managing Editor — Jan Checco (2021-26)
Bookkeeping — Gérald Checco
Copy Editing and Distribution — Linda Fatherree
Design and Layout — Josie Angel
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The Chronicle's 2026 schedule has a new 4-month distribution cycle:

Spring Issue – Delivery date is April 1, with a February 24 deadline for content contributions and advertiser artwork.

Fall Issue – Delivery date is August 1, with a June 24 deadline for content contributions and advertiser artwork.

Winter Issue - Delivery date is December 1, with an October 24 deadline for content contributions and advertiser artwork.

Advertising contracts that are established in early winter enjoy a 10% reduction for those purchasing ads for the entire year. Ads can also be purchased at full price at any time in the year.

For information about ad sizes and prices, please direct inquiries to ctm.chronicle@gmail.com

Who You Gonna Call?

Have something to report, or a safety concern?
 To call Cincinnati Police District 4, use the main non-emergency line **(513) 569-8600** for general inquiries or to reach the front desk for specific officers. Remember to always call 911 for emergencies, while for drug activity specifically, you can call **(513)765-1212**.

Contacting Cincinnati Police District 4:
For General & In-Depth Info: (513) 569-8600 (Front Desk)
For Drug Activity: (513) 765-1212
For Emergencies (Police, Fire, Medical): 911

When you have contacted our law enforcement officers to report something, Clifton Town Meeting would like to know about it, too. You can share dates, times and the subjects of your calls with CTM's Neighborhood Safety Committee members by an email to contactctm@cliftoncommunity.org

Thanks for helping to keep our neighborhood safe!




CAMERA REGISTRATION PROGRAM

Working together to keep Cincinnati Safe!

- Free of cost
- Agency does not have access to real-time feeds with the Cincinnati Police Department.
- For doorbell cams in residential areas

Please register the location of your security cameras with the Cincinnati Police Department.

For more information, visit: cincinnati.d.fususregistry.com



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Clifton HOME & GARDEN TOUR 2026

Tour a diverse sampling of Clifton's most unique homes and gardens

Mother's Day, May 10
cliftonculturalarts.org/hometour





YOU are Essential



Still a CTM Member? Check your status by scanning the QR Code and join us again as we work to support our community, advocating on your behalf!

Become a Member of Clifton Town Meeting – Here's how...

Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) is your community council, advocating on behalf of the Clifton community. We sponsor many activities and festivals throughout the year, but to continue this important community work, we need YOUR INPUT. Membership is open to all neighborhood residents aged 18 or older, property and business owners. **Membership dues cover 12 months, are our second largest means of support, and are tax deductible.** CTM also accepts donations.

**Sign up online or send this form with a check or money order payable to:
 Clifton Town Meeting, P.O. Box 20042, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220-0042**

Name(s) _____ Address _____
 Phone(s) _____ Email(s) _____
 Committees that interest you _____

Membership Categories

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

Clifton's Future Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Stations

What is Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) aka Metro Rapid?

A new public transportation project is coming to our city in 2027-28. The BRT consists of two future bus routes running out of downtown — north and south — along the Hamilton Avenue corridor and along Reading Road. Ludlow Avenue and Clifton Avenue are segments of the Hamilton Avenue route where buses will arrive every 10 minutes with limited time stops, enabling rapid transportation to and from Clifton's popular destinations and events. Raised platforms and features in the bus will facilitate rapid loading and unloading in 20 seconds or less. To date, three stops are designated in Clifton: a Clifton/Good Samaritan Hospital station located on Clifton Avenue at Dixmyth, a second station located on both sides of Ludlow Avenue near Middleton Avenue, and a third pair of stations on both sides of Ludlow Avenue at Cincinnati State.

The Development of Station Locations

Metro has been planning their BRT line for several years. In early 2025, CTM's Transportation Committee formed a special Clifton BRT Subcommittee comprised of residents and business owners who have worked to define the best location for a station within our business district. Conferring with Metro on multiple design concepts, the BRT Subcommittee settled on a station location in the center lane on Clifton Avenue near Howell as an alternative to Metro's proposal for two stations on both sides of Ludlow Avenue within the business district. Clifton Business Association (CBA) provided Metro with a petition supporting this choice, signed by 35 business owners. Metro indicated that either of these solutions could be feasible.

CTM Hosts a Special Public Meeting for Information and Discussion

On February 24, CTM invited the public, Metro and the Cincinnati Department of Traffic and Engineering (DOTE) to meet at the Clifton Rec Center for the gathering of community feedback about BRT station locations. Metro explained the entire BRT project including the options for Clifton stations. CBA President Mike Anagnostou and members of the Clifton BRT Subcommittee shared the reasons for their preferences, followed by questions and opinions from the audience of ~70 people.

The audience largely favored the Ludlow Avenue station location in the business district, citing greater proximity to top destinations. The Clifton Avenue/Howell Avenue location was deemed too close to the Clifton/Good Samaritan station. After two hours, a motion was presented to the CTM board, the passage of which would allow immediate mailing of a letter to Metro affirming CTM's support of CBA's preference for the Clifton Avenue/Howell location. However, in consideration of the audience's feedback during the meeting, the board voted down the motion 8 to 1. Trustees felt that issues raised by the audience merited more study, so the topic was added to the agenda of the monthly CTM Board meeting scheduled for the following week.

The March 2 board meeting was again attended by Metro and DOTE representatives and an audience of ~70. Individuals were recognized to speak and everyone was asked to submit their viewpoints and suggestions on index cards for CTM to record. Trustees compiled a record of all input, to be shared via email and on the www.cliftoncommunity.org webpage.

Next Steps

At the time of this writing, the Clifton BRT Subcommittee is developing a motion for consideration by CTM Board, with the understanding that the ultimate decision of station location will rest with Metro. Probable support of a BRT station located on Ludlow Avenue is expected, to be accompanied by a list of other concerns which grew out of the community's feedback. The following requests are meant to insure operation of the new BRT line with maximum efficiency and safety:

- application of electronic intelligent traffic lights that favor emergency vehicles and override actual traffic flow,
- application of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles and historic preservation sensitivity for design of the stations,
- creation of a comprehensive plan for traffic, parking and delivery activities within the business district,
- establishment of landscaped and maintained medians to create a gateway along Clifton Avenue, beginning at the Clifton/Good Sam BRT station at Dixmyth, and concluding at the Clifton/Ludlow intersection with breaks that allow turns on Howell,
- establishment of plans for a similar green median gateway for the Clifton/Cincinnati State BRT station,
- provision of signage and plan that facilitates transfers between the BRT and other local bus routes,
- reconsideration of a planned reduction of bus route #17 stops by 66%, which will impact riders because they'll lose access to locations on the entire west side of the University of Cincinnati campus.

Additional discussion and updates on these topics will occur at CTM's monthly board meetings held on first Mondays from

7-9 p.m. at the Clifton Recreation Center. Your opinion matters and can also be shared by emailing contactctm@cliftoncommunity.org



A Clifton Bike Lane Extension – by Bob Siegel

Exciting news for cyclists: this spring, the Clifton Avenue protected bike lane will be extended from Ludlow Avenue to Bryant Avenue. The current two-way lane which runs from Straight Street to Ludlow Avenue along the east side of Clifton Ave. opened in 2021 as a collaboration among Clifton Town Meeting (CTM), the City of Cincinnati, the Devou Good Foundation, Tri-State Trails, Metro and the University of Cincinnati. The project created a much safer route between UC and Ludlow while also improving traffic safety along this busy corridor.

Before that lane was installed, 55% of drivers on Clifton

Ave. were speeding with documented speeds over 70 miles per hour in the 35-mph zone. After construction, traffic studies showed that both speeding and crashes fell by more than 40%, and bicycle ridership on the route has doubled. Clifton resident and avid cyclist Mel Bedree notes that the lane could be even better if kept consistently clear of debris, but says still, the ride between campus and Ludlow is noticeably safer and more comfortable.

The upcoming extension is part of Cincinnati's Bicycle Transportation Plan which aims to build more than 400 miles of on-and-off-street bikeways across the city.

The plan will make cycling safer for commuting and recreation and make our city greener and healthier. The Clifton Avenue bike lane extension will include three additional blocks northward from Ludlow Avenue, repurposing the east edge of Clifton Avenue's northbound travel lane. Clifton Business Association President Mike Anagnostou has called the corner of Ludlow and Clifton "particularly dangerous" for people walking. The extended bike lane is expected to calm traffic, shorten crossing distances, and act as a buffer from turning vehicles.

Justin Ogilby, former chair of the CTM Transportation Committee, says extending the lane will boost bicycle ridership by tying the existing path to bike-friendly feeder streets like Bryant and Middleton, bringing the protected route deeper into the heart of Clifton. The project was approved by CTM in March 2025 and is being funded by the City of Cincinnati's Department of Transportation and Engineering.

More information about the bike lane extension can be found on the City of Cincinnati website at: www.cincinnati-oh.gov/bikes/bike-projects/clifton-ave-two-way-protected-bike-lane



Ludlow Avenue 2026

The Origins of Clifton's Boulevard Lighting

– by Ron Millard

The boulevard streetlights that line Clifton and Ludlow Avenues are known as "Sesame Street Lights" according to a Cliftonite who is a retired city employee. It was an insider's term, used in the late 20th century at Cincinnati's Department of Transportation. This style of fixture is also found on Rawson Woods Circle and Belsaw Place.

Beginning in the early 1900s, these streetlights lined both sides of the road, powered by the overhead wiring that

accompanied the tracks of the Cincinnati Electric Railway Company. The streetcars required direct current (DC) of around 600 or 750 volts (V), and the streetlights were initially wired in a "series" circuit fashion using the same high voltage electric supply. Consequently, if one streetlight bulb failed, the entire circuit serving several lights went dark, much like the older version of string lights used on Christmas trees.

Eventually these were all wired in a "parallel" wiring fashion on a lower voltage (120V) alternating current (60 Hz) electric supply, the same as households use. All were placed on daylight sensors that often control a dozen or so streetlights. So, if you notice a row of lights lit on one side of the street, but they're off on the opposite side, it's probably not due to an electrical failure, but perhaps the angle of the sun, or a built or natural feature that's shading one side of the

street. If any boulevard streetlight in this "parallel" circuit fails, the default will be "light on," permitting a daytime employee to easily spot a defective circuit and streetlight and to make repairs. Very clever!



Clifton Avenue 1906

2026 Spring Fest: Regrowth! in Burnet Woods

— by Lisa Haglund

As always, 2026 Spring Fest: Regrowth! will be fun for the whole family. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 25 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and come on out for music, bubbles, face painting, tree and wildflower walks, yoga, and various STEM and nature-focused education and activities. Come be with the beauty of community and Burnet Woods' redbuds in their full glory!

Spring Fest in Burnet Woods has continuously grown over the last five years and now hosts more than 30 organizations. Booths include non-profit and government environmental organizations ranging from Sierra Club Miami Group to U.S. EPA, Cincinnati Reuse and Recycling Hub to Groundwork Ohio River Valley, plus nearly a dozen UC Registered Student Organizations spanning ornithology, entomology, leaders for environmental awareness and protection, net impact, beekeeping, music and more! Hope to see you there!

2026 Spring Fest: Regrowth! is co-hosted by UC Students for Burnet Woods, Cincinnati Parks, Cincinnati Parks Foundation, the UC School of Environment and Sustainability (SEaS) and the Burnet Woods Park Advisory Council (BPAC).

A Storm of Activity expected at Mt. Storm

— by Larry Holt

Aside from people picnicking and relaxing and enjoying the beautiful views, Mt. Storm has a number of fun happenings coming this summer, courtesy of The Mt. Storm Advisory Council, Cincinnati Parks, Clifton Town Meeting and The Clifton Community Fund.

On **May 6 at 11:00 a.m.**, you can learn why and how Mt. Storm came to be. Michael George, naturalist and historian, will talk about the history of Mt. Storm going back to the Bowler Mansion which was built in 1846. He will also answer all your questions. At noon, members of the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra will give a one-hour concert from the Temple of Love. Bring a picnic blanket and your lunch to celebrate Spring in Mt. Storm Park. Sponsored by Cincinnati Parks and the Garden Club of Clifton.

On **Memorial Day, May 25**, Clifton's traditional Parade and Picnic will take place in Mt. Storm Park. The parade starts on Middleton at McAlpin at 11 a.m. and ends in the park, where cookout picnic fare and entertainment will be offered until 2 p.m. Sponsored by Clifton Town Meeting.

On **Father's Day, June 21**, classic cars from all over the

city will be on display from noon to 2 p.m. for our third annual "Mt. Storm Cars in the Park" event. This year's event will include food, drinks and entertainment... plus cars! Sponsored by Cincinnati Parks and The Clifton Community Fund.

But that's not all! On **August 11 at 7:00 p.m.** Cincinnati Shakespeare Company will present *Much Ado About Nothing*. This will be the fifth year in a row for Shakespeare. The Pavilion deck overlooking the Mill Creek Valley is the perfect setting for any live theater, but especially for Shakespeare! Sponsored by the Cincinnati Parks Foundation.

Did I mention — all these events are FREE! See you there!



Bring thy chair that doth foldeth for the best seat!



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Clifton Connect – A New Digital Town Square

– by Josh Gibson of Aptly Digital

In an age where our world unfolds at the speed of a tap or the swipe of a finger, it's no secret that the future is mobile. From managing our finances to ordering groceries, the smartphone has seamlessly woven itself into the fabric of our daily lives, transforming how we interact with the world around us, and indeed, even how we perceive our place in that world.

In Clifton, this digital evolution now has a powerful local upgrade with the launch of Clifton Connect, a new hyper-local guide and community hub, right in the palm of your hand. For the first time, the various threads of Clifton life are being woven into a single

digital tapestry. Whether you are looking to coordinate a playdate through the CANS parents' group or looking for a happy hour special at a local hotspot, the app provides a dedicated space to chat, connect and organize.

Our journey with Clifton Connect is deeply personal. Moving from DC to Clifton in the summer of 2020 at the height of a global pandemic meant my wife Meredith and I started our life here in a bit of a vacuum. With a one-year-old in tow and the world shut down, we found ourselves in a picturesque neighborhood but without a map for community connection. Even now, six years and two more kids

later, we're still uncovering "hidden gems" and community groups we wish we'd known about earlier. This experience inspired Clifton Connect. We wanted to build the tool we would have loved to have, something to dramatically decrease the learning curve, allowing every neighbor, new or old, to tap into the best of Clifton every single day.

In a world of global platforms, the most important connections are often the ones just outside our front door. Clifton Connect is now available for iOS and Android devices. We hope you will explore and enjoy it.

CLIFTON CONNECT

EVERYTHING CLIFTON, ONE APP

Know more. Do More. Live Local.

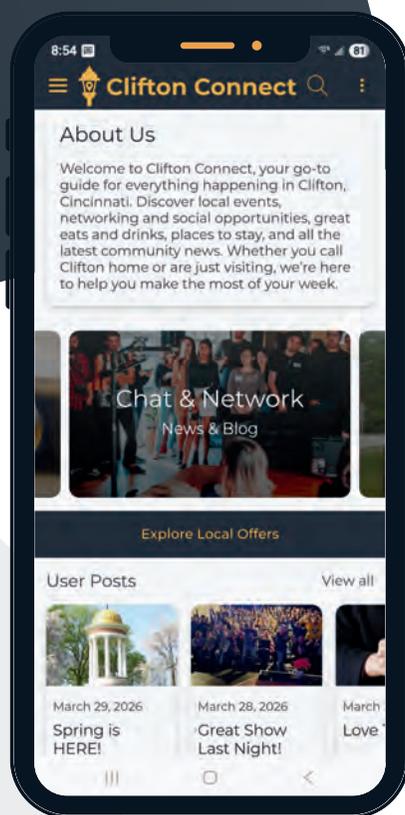


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EAT, DRINK, DO, AND STAY

It's easy to search for local restaurants, bars, coffee shops, things to do, or places to stay. Get notified of local specials & deals exclusive to Clifton Connect users.



SUBMIT NEWS OR INFO

Want to share something interesting or newsworthy with your Clifton neighbors? Upload images, videos, or PDFs directly to the app.



CONNECT WITH OTHERS

Create a user account and chat, share, or join groups with other Clifton residents. Your community, in your pocket.

Free Community Yoga in Clifton

World Peace Yoga offers three options for class participation: in the studio, online live stream or weekly free classes in Burnet Woods.

For newcomers to World Peace Yoga, the first month of unlimited classes, both in the studio and online, is FREE! Visit www.worldpeaceyoga.com for the details and sign up for our FREEdom Month of Yoga.

Also FREE for all levels, our weekly Community Yoga classes meet in Burnet Woods, thanks to Cincinnati Parks Foundation's Stewards of Burnet Woods. Classes meet on Saturdays from 11:00-11:45 at Trailside

Center through April and then move to the Burnet Woods Bandstand for May-September. Visit our website to reserve your space.

We also offer Yoga Teacher Training courses, including the 100-hour **Yoga for the Common Good** training with Peter Block and Anna Ferguson. This online course offers a flexible, budget-friendly and transformative program for students and aspiring teachers. For more information, visit www.yogaforthecommongood.com



Clifton Branch Library

Plant Fest – Saturday, May 16, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library will be hosting its fourth annual Plant Fest on the Clifton Branch Library front lawn. We'll have lemonade to share and activities for all ages! This family-friendly event celebrates the wild world of plants. Join the fun with this year's plant swap, crafts with library staff, and learning opportunities from local organizations.

- Bring a beautiful plant to swap...or two or three. Who's counting? They can be potted plants, cuttings or even seeds—just be prepared to leave a pest-free, non-invasive plant behind in exchange for something new to you.
- You can also bring gently used planter pots to donate!
- Learn about composting, community and sustainable gardening practices from our partners Hamilton County ReSource, the Civic Garden Center, The Society of St. Andrew, Crunchy Leaves Sustainability Collaborative and more!
- Participate in our kids nature scavenger hunt and play fun games on the lawn!

Summer Reading Kickoff Party – Saturday May 30, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Calling all kids, tweens and teens to join in the fun for another Summer Reading Program! Get a free book just for signing up and pick up your tracking sheet to mark your reading and learning journey, earning fun prizes along the way. This year's theme Camp Read aligns with our America 250 – Ohio celebrations we're having each month throughout 2026. We'll gather for games, songs and tasty snacks. Summer Reading runs from May 30 – July 31.

This summer the Clifton Branch Library will have free, shelf-stable meals for kids Monday through Friday from 11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. provided by UMC Food Ministry.

Arts Equity Collective – Fridays, 1-2 p.m. from June 5 through August 21

Teens and tweens are invited to express themselves in a safe, inclusive environment through poetry, visual arts, music and socio emotional learning.

Game Night – Second Tuesday of Each Month, 6-7:30 p.m.

Because adults want to have fun, too, you're invited to join us and 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!



For information on all the programs and events happening at the library, visit the events page of our website: cincinnati.library.bibliocommons.com/v2/events

We look forward to seeing you this spring and summer at the Clifton Library!

Clifton Deer Program Reduces Population by Over Half!

— by Beth Whelan

With the winter field season behind us, we have exciting news to report: The deer population in the study area (the ~1 square mile bounded by I-75, Ludlow Avenue and Clifton Avenue) is down 21% compared to last year and has declined 54% since the program began! Thanks to our local volunteers and the UCAN Nonprofit Pet Care Clinic, our annual operating costs remain low (\$5,000 to \$8,000) for the sixth year in a row. Immigration of deer into the study area has been modest, and mortality among our aging herd remains surprisingly low. Over 60% of our tagged deer are seniors at age 10 or older! If immigration remains steady, and a significant percentage of our older deer reach the end of their natural lifespans, we could see a few more years of decline before the population levels off. We will continue to monitor the population, report to you and treat any new immigrants to the herd until the population reaches an eco-sustainable level. In other news, we recently welcomed a new member to our Board of Directors. Kevin Planic, lead of our Transport Team, joined the board in 2025. "Volunteering for Clifton Deer Org is a unique experience in which I can help protect the urban ecosystem [and] contribute to a program that demonstrates the efficacy of non-lethal population control," Kevin said. For more information about our leadership team, see the "About Us" tab at www.cliftondeer.org. The Clifton Deer Program's success is due, in large part, to our generous donors, enthusiastic volunteers and the gracious neighbors who volunteer their yards for bait sites and who report deer sightings through the "Report Tagged Deer" portal at www.cliftondeer.org. Thank you to all of our supporters!

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Clifton Plan Update – by Patrick Etter and Gérald Checco, Co-Chairs

Work on the Clifton Plan took a little breather this past winter, allowing our superstar planner Kyle Gibbs to press “pause” and embark on fatherhood! Our happy congratulations to Kyle and his growing family. We wish him and his loved ones all the best as they begin an exciting new life chapter. We’re grateful for the dedication he’s shown to our community.

Speaking of “new chapters”: the Clifton Plan resumed action in March with Kyle’s return, diving into more detailed discussions held during community engagement. We all look forward to continuing building connections and momentum as we work together to shape the future of Clifton. And there are always new opportunities to get involved! A series of subject-specific engagements will include regular and special meetings and surveys as we shoulder the difficult tasks of evaluating and

organizing the hundreds of ideas gathered so far. Input has been received from a variety of sources, especially from the community-at-large during dozens of working sessions held over many months by the CTM Plan committee, inviting to the table our business association, churches, schools, city

departments, environmental interests and other civic groups. Inclusion of your perspective will be essential as we work towards a Clifton Plan that aligns with our community's vision. Please submit your comments, suggestions or inquiries at any time to: contactctm@cliftoncommunity.org



Clifton Market Update

On March 12, CTM received a letter from Clifton Market referring to recent difficulties their business and family have experienced. The following excerpts from that letter are published here for the benefit of our readers and this important local business.

“...The downturn in Clifton Market was triggered by Laurel Wholesellers unexpectedly shutting down and

conducting a mass layoff of employees in April 2025... This hit to the market was further compounded by several family and health emergencies that impeded our ability to efficiently manage our business portfolio...

...An article [in the Enquirer] strongly implying that Clifton Market leadership can’t afford a \$1,061 dollar check obliterates the faith and support we have been working to earn in order to save our community market. Clifton Market leadership is exploring available

avenues of recourse and accountability for this article. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience or upset these defamatory claims may have caused to our local Clifton community members...

...We will be releasing another statement soon that will detail future updates for Clifton Market, provide more context about why the market is in its current situation, and introduce ways we plan to engage with our Clifton community to re-build trust and access to local, healthy food.”

Historic Photo Gallery of Ludlow Avenue

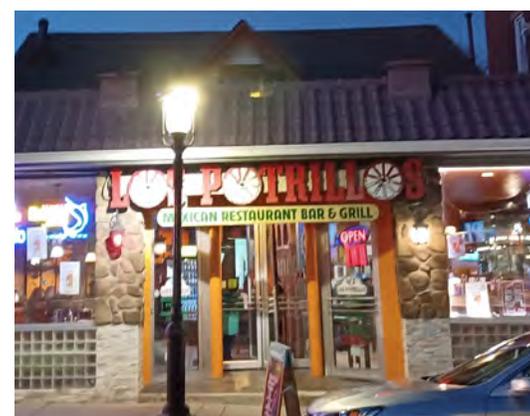
– by Jeff Wilson for Clifton Business Association

We’re posting old photographs of Clifton on the CBA Facebook page, with a strong emphasis on businesses in the Gaslight District. We have a stockpile of images but there are many photos we haven’t found digitally, believing they are out there somewhere on the Internet. Clifton residents also have images, either stored on computers or in photo albums that could be contributed. So please, if you want to share something, we’d love to post it. The oldest photos — some over a century old — will prove very entertaining, but more recent decades will also be of great interest. Ludlow Avenue and the Gaslight District are constantly changing. We’ll connect past images with those of current small businesses, all of whom have interesting histories, adding uniqueness to the neighborhood. If you have digital copies of photographs that you would like to add to our collection, you can attach them in an email to jeffreywilson@yahoo.com or simply message them to the Facebook page of Clifton Business Association.

Then to Now



Then to Now



Clifton's "Treat Triangle"

— by Gérald Checco,



A 500-foot triangle around Ludlow Avenue connects three popular establishments: Graeter's, Einstein Bros. Bagels and Two Seven Two bakery. Each point offers a trademark treat, all with fascinating histories shaped

by cultural traditions, political circumstances and inventive minds.

Bagels are more than just a breakfast staple, they are a symbol of resilience and community with a story that begins in 17th-century Poland. Jewish bakers found themselves restricted by a royal decree that forbade them to bake bread. So these bakers turned to boiling dough, developing the iconic ring-shaped bread that would become the bagel. According to legend, the circular shape of the bagel was created to flatter the king, symbolizing unity and eternity. Boiling the dough before baking gives bagels their signature chewiness and glossy finish. This tradition continues at local shops like Einstein Bros. Bagels, where each batch connects customers to centuries-old techniques and a story of perseverance.

Donuts exhibit the universality and adaptability of fried dough across cultures. Nearly every society has some version of fried dough, treasured for its tasty simplicity. The American donut traces back to Dutch settlers, who brought their "olykoeks" or "oil cakes" to the New World. These simple, sweet, fried dough balls often had a raw center, a problem solved in the 19th century by sailor Hanson Gregory who ingeniously punched a hole in the middle for more even cooking, giving modern donuts their iconic ring shape. This staple at Graeter's arrives every Monday as eager patrons await a fresh batch.

Croissants, while synonymous with French cuisine, have roots in Austria. The kipferl, a crescent-shaped pastry, was created to commemorate Austria's victory over the Ottoman Empire whose flag featured the crescent moon of Islam. The kipferl's journey to France is credited to Marie Antoinette, who, upon marrying Louis XVI, imported her favorite treat to her new homeland. Inspired by this pastry, French chefs developed the croissant, using laminated dough in delicate layers. While associated now with French baking excellence, their true heritage is a blend of cultures and histories. Two Seven Two bakery celebrates the art of croissant-making with cases filled with a variety of flaky, buttery delicacies.

Our Treat Triangle is one more testament to Clifton's preservation of wonderful, enduring traditions, and the creativity of community — delicious sweet and savory treats served up with a side of history.



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events



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exhibits

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Proud Rooster and Bob Doll – When Change Has Come

Editor's note: In 2023, Mike Anagnostou wrote an affectionate reflection for the Chronicle about the exceptional presence of his Ludlow Avenue neighbor at the Proud Rooster. In mid-January 2026, Bobby Doll retired, and our breakfast and lunch experiences in the Gaslight are now forever changed. Thanks, Bobby, for your decades of making a warm gathering spot for Cliftonites and for those just passing through. The following excerpts have been updated.

People who return to visit Clifton after being away for years remark how nothing changes here...They sought reassurance that, in a chaotic world, some good things remain. Clifton is still here...and Bobby Doll and The Proud Rooster would never change.



It's hard to describe to someone who'd never been there before how utterly unchanged the Proud Rooster was. The booths, the counter, the grill are all original from the '50s. Bobby is original.

He started working there when he was 15 and was still there 67 years later. Except for a brief four years in the Army, he's never worked anywhere else doing anything else. Oh, the original cash register is still there, tall, steely, and silent. A squat plastic digital successor sits beside it now, beeping and collecting the cash. And only cash. No credit cards or debit cards were accepted. The only real change is in the change drawer.

The food was good classic comfort food. Nothing fancy. Like the heavy diner plates it was served on or the hard Formica booths you'd sit in. Eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, fried potatoes, Goetta, burgers, and that famous fried chicken. I answered the phone: "Do you serve grits?" Nope, never have, never will. "Can I get chicken and waffles?" We don't do that trendy stuff here. The one exception is decaffeinated coffee. We're still waiting to see how that goes.

Bobby didn't talk much to you unless it was about sports or because he liked you. I'm beside him at the grill and he points to an old lady or man walking down the street and he tells me how long he's known them and a story about them. The picture window transforms into a real-life scene of the play OUR TOWN with Bobby as the Stage Manager. He shows me how to make the Goetta on the grill and then shows me a photograph of his younger self playing basketball or in his army days.

So, actually, a whole lot changes in Clifton. But the memory of a walk into The Proud Rooster was always

a return to the Clifton of old. The Clifton that's comfortable and untrendy, where they know how you like your eggs cooked, Bobby behind the counter at the grill, waving to people passing by the window, talking about Sunday's game, passing plates of hot food to his waitresses. Bobby never changed.



The Proud Rooster sign is being preserved for the ages at the American Sign Museum.

Dr. Terri McCarty: A Clifton Original Retires

— by Mary Pat and Tom Lienhart



If you've lived with animals in Clifton long enough, you've come to know that truly great veterinarians and great clinics are rare. Dr. Teresa ("Terri")

McCarty has been both: a trusted doctor and the steady heart of Howell Avenue Pet Hospital — the modern, family-owned practice she founded in 2010 with her husband Craig Steffen.

Dr. McCarty grew up in Kettering, Ohio, earned her bachelor's degree in Chemistry at the University of Cincinnati (1989) and then completed her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at The Ohio State University (1993). After practicing first in her hometown, she returned to Cincinnati in 1998 to join a large group practice before ultimately choosing Clifton for establishment of the kind of veterinary hospital she believed the community deserved.

Howell Avenue Pet Hospital opened in the building that now houses Petey's Pet Stop. As the client base grew, the hospital moved next door in 2015 to 317 Howell Avenue. Over the years, the practice continually improved and invested in equipment and technology, staying strong through COVID-19 with the support of staff and the Clifton community.

For our family, Dr. Terri has always been there—steady, patient and unfailingly kind through the joys and worries of caring for six dogs. She didn't offer simple "textbook" answers, but gave practical advice that worked in real life, delivered it in a way that made you feel supported, not judged.

One memory stands above the rest: We adopted a dog that no one else seemed able to help, with severe intestinal problems that, even after many vet visits, didn't improve. Dr. Terri didn't give up, taking the time to figure out the right drug treatment that finally turned his life around. Today he's one of our best dogs, and our family is better for it.

That kind of excellence may not show up in a résumé but certainly shows up in the extra minutes spent listening, in careful follow-up, in calm confidence-building when you're scared. It's the mix of skill and compassion that makes people in Clifton say, "If Dr. Terri is there, we'll be okay." Now, with the baton passed to her nephew Dr. John McCarty, who now owns the business and keeps it in good hands, we'll still have the same convenient location for care by Dr. John and Dr. Ginny Johnson and their exceptional staff, all in the service of healthy pets and happy families.

Now Dr. Terri will have more time for gardening, planting trees, camping, sewing and loving life with her pets — a perfect fit for someone who builds, fixes, nurtures and makes things better. Dr. Terri McCarty has made Clifton a better place to live with animals. We will miss her deeply — her steadiness, caring presence and the excellence of her work. What she

established on Howell Avenue matters, and what she has done for our collective wellbeing won't be forgotten.

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An Ode to Good Public Servants in Recognition of True Cincinnati Champions

— by Jan and Gérald Checco



The recent passing of Steve Schuckman — a Cliftonite and an exemplary leader over decades with the Cincinnati Park Board — brings an important reminder of the significant contributions made to our collective quality of life by countless city employees. Steve’s sustained role in the shaping of our parks system into one of the finest in the nation is an exemplary legacy, evident in the development and renovation of parks under his leadership. Smale Riverfront Park, Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park, Lytle Park and Washington Park are just a few of his important projects. The restoration of historical structures and landmarks including the Eden Park Gazebo and Mt. Storm’s “Temple of Love” employed his preservationist expertise.

Behind all the well-tended planting beds, landscapes

and walking trails in our parks are hundreds of public service professionals who work with dedication daily to define our city’s reputation for green beauty. Some residents know who the mayor is, or even certain city council members and department heads, but few recognize the names of the municipal workers who’ve served Cincinnati with wisdom and integrity over the years. Steve Schuckman exemplified this ethos, having performed his duties while seeking no recognition, driven solely by a desire to enhance the quality of life for Cincinnati’s citizens.

Public servants are essential to maintenance of the firm foundations for our communities. They protect the vitality of parks and the safety of shared spaces, resulting in stability and prosperity for our neighborhoods. Their legacy demonstrates that, behind each

well-maintained public space, smoothly operating department or successful city plan and program, there are scores of committed individuals who prioritize service over acclaim.

In commemoration of Steve’s example, let’s extend gratitude to the legions of public servants who contribute quietly, yet significantly, to Cincinnati’s well-being. Let’s offer recognition that the city’s continuing aim for excellence truly depends on those who serve with steadfastness and humility as they also form successive generations of wise and devoted public leaders.



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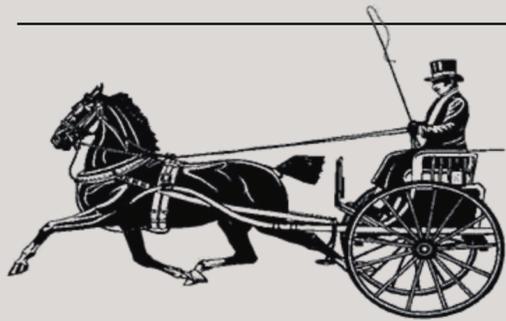


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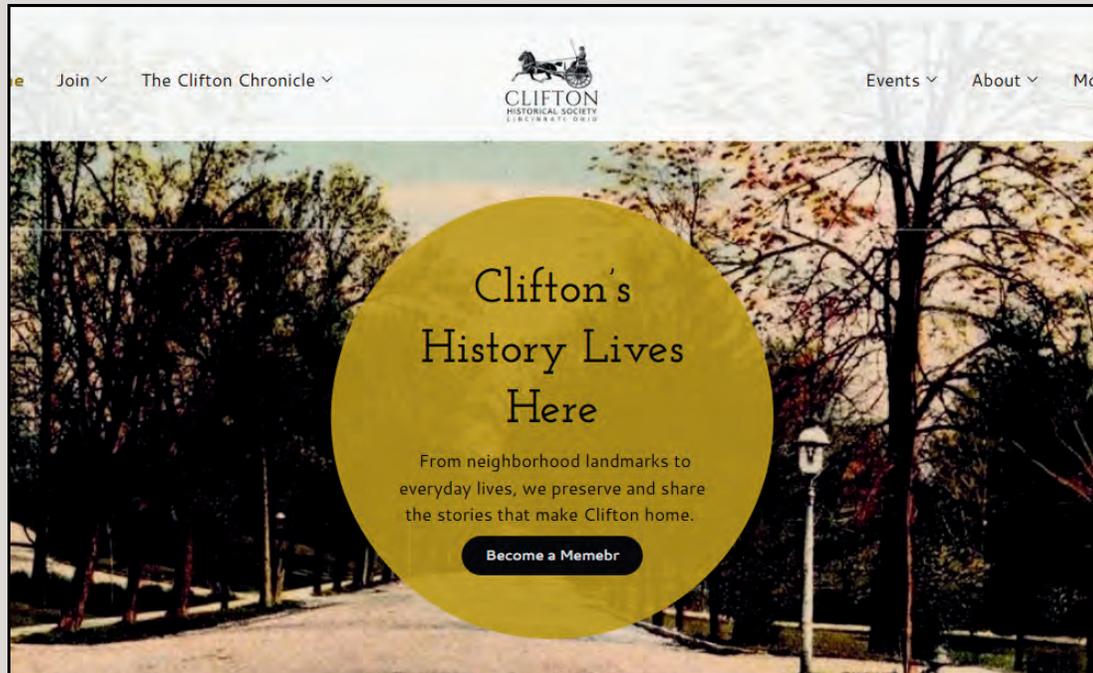


CLIFTON

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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cliftonhistoricalsociety.com



VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

We are excited to share that the Clifton Historical Society's new website is live at <https://cliftonhistoricalsociety.com>. The site will serve as a central information hub for upcoming events, lectures, tours, community recommendations, and much more.

We invite you to explore the beginnings of what will become a lasting resource for the Clifton neighborhood, both today and into the future. To start, the site features current events, longer-form articles from the Clifton Chronicle, and information about the benefits of becoming a member of the Clifton Historical Society.

Stay tuned as we continue to grow and expand this new community resource!

Check It Out

Read the first extended feature, "Night Creeper," set in 1976 at the Roanoke Apartments:

<https://cliftonhistoricalsociety.com/continuing-the-story/f/night-creeper-stalks-the-roanoke-apartments>



Mark Your Calendars - May 20th

Plans are underway for this year's Clifton Home & Garden Tour. Additional details and ticket information will be available soon. Tickets may be purchased at the CCAC desk once released.

For updates on all events and programs, please visit the Clifton Chronicle website or follow along in upcoming issues.

2026 Lecture Series

Our ongoing lecture series is held on the fourth Friday at CCAC and continues to bring engaging speakers and rich local history to the community.

We're pleased to welcome Nick Rechten of Creative Aging, Inc. as this year's lecture series presenter. He will speak on the final Friday of each month, exploring chapters of Cincinnati and Clifton history through engaging storytelling and slides.



Lecture Information

Cost: \$15 per person, which includes the presentation and pizza

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Clifton Cultural Arts Center (room will be announced the day of the lecture)

Special thanks to the CCAC team for their continued support!

History Facts Needed

Roanoke Apartments & Proposed Kroger Development

The Clifton Historical Society is seeking documentation about the proposed 1970s demolition of the Roanoke Apartments for a new Kroger store (exact year unknown).

A longtime resident suggests this may have been an early sign of redevelopment pressures that later affected landmarks like the Esquire Theatre.

We are gathering verified facts, including dates, records, photos, news coverage, and first-hand accounts.

Please share information with Bonnie Speeg at speegBJ@gmail.com

Your help ensures Clifton's history is preserved accurately.

Chasing Cincinnati History with Nick Rehtin

— by Dora Schield



Nick Rehtin, a historian and lecturer for Creative Aging, was born and raised in Cincinnati. He retired as an elementary school educator, yet never lost his desire to share his knowledge with others. I met Nick when members of the Clifton Historical Society (CHS) approached him about being a presenter at CHS's newly

initiated program—a monthly event now being held at the Clifton Cultural Arts Center (CCAC). I attended several of Nick's oral and visual lectures and was taken by his refined way of articulating his knowledge, while at the same time inviting audience feedback. He is particularly adept at focusing on the industrial and aesthetic constructs that built and nourished our city for well over a century.

Nick will be lecturing on the fourth Friday of every month at CCAC. The program (10:30 a.m. to 12 noon) also includes a pizza lunch. Those dedicated to

learning will find a list of monthly topics on the CCAC website at www.cliftonculturalarts.org/events/clifton-historical-society/. I plan to attend as many lectures as I can but am especially looking forward to those on the development of urban travel (March 27) and the history of legal/illicit amusements (April 24). It's also a great time to visit whatever art exhibit is on display at the center. Hope to see you there!

All lectures are free to members of CHS. If you wish to join, please visit the front desk at the Clifton Cultural Arts Center and sign up. The annual fee is only \$15.

A Clifton Lawyer and the Cantaloupe King

— by Bonnie Holliday Speeg



Cincinnati Frank Metzger married Ida Wiegler in 1894, and their son Howard was born in 1901. Frank was Vice President of Gibson Greeting Card Company, so he and his young family migrated along with Gibson when the company moved to New York City in 1905. Tragically, Frank died in 1907 from a short illness of pneumonia.

So, in 1910, widowed Ida returned to Cincinnati with five-year-old Howard. She purchased an 1881 vintage Clifton home at 354 Thrall Street, and for security she kept her Gibson stock.

As he grew, Howard Metzger walked to Clifton Elementary School, Hughes High School and University of Cincinnati where he was a member of the Debate Team and became president of his 1922 graduating class. Back up in New York, he obtained an MBA from New York University and Doctorate of Jurisprudence at Brooklyn Law School.



Stephen A. Gerrard aka "The Cantaloupe King" rose from a youth of street peddling to making his fortune by 1915, manifested in his North Avondale Betula Avenue mansion of pipe-organ fame. A prime example of early 20th century wealth generated in the produce industry, Gerrard was the first to ship cantaloupes and iceberg lettuce nationwide

by refrigerated rail cars. Gerrard was impressed with the educated young Cliftonite lawyer named Howard Metzger to whom his granddaughter Estelle had taken a shine.

Cincinnati Enquirer, October 12, 1929: "The Cantaloupe King's Residence. Avondale. It was a surprise! Miss Estelle Herget and Dr. Howard E.

Metzger, of Clifton, were married yesterday at the home of the bride's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Gerrard. The second ceremony was performed immediately after the first ceremony of Mr. Gerrard's niece Dorothy Colson. Both ceremonies were in the Pipe Organ Room. The second ceremony was a complete surprise to the guests and Miss Herget's and Mr. Metzger's friends, who had been invited to 'help with a surprise for Estelle.' The magnificent pipe organ was used for the first time during the weddings."



Seventeen days after their surprise wedding, the stock market crashed. Along with the nation, the Gerrards and Metzgers tightened their money belts. Howard and Estelle moved to New York City while Ida remained steady on Thrall.

Howard re-entered teaching at Brooklyn Law School, which he helped to establish while serving on the 1926 New York University Board. In a terrible twist of fate, on a summer fishing trip in 1931 with the son of his Law School's dean, Howard fell from the boat and drowned.

Howard left behind his pregnant young widow, his infant daughter Caroline and soon-to-arrive son Markley Gerrard Metzger. Estelle remarried and settled in St. Louis. Nonetheless, Caroline and Markley remained close with their grandmother Ida who, at 90 plus years, moved out to St. Louis. Passing away in February 1959, she returned home for eternal rest in Spring Grove Cemetery, reunited finally with her Frank, her Howard and celebrity in-law Stephen A. Gerrard, The Cantaloupe King.



CliftonFest 2026 Call to Chalk Artists

Are you one of the 35 artists to be featured in this year's festival? Receive a \$250 sponsorship from a local business! Find the application online and submit before the May 31 deadline at 5 pm. Good Luck, artists! <https://cliftonculturalarts.org/events/cliftonfest/call-to-chalk-artists/>

What George Didn't Do

— by Jan Brown Checco, *part 5 of 5 stories*

George B. "Boss" Cox— an adroit businessman— died in 1916 without a will. Having no natural heirs other than his wife **Caroline Shill Cox** (who'd suffered two miscarriages), the probate court awarded her the estate valued at \$1,884,667. George's brother Alfred and his sister Kate Newman bitterly disputed this decision. Kate filed a claim saying that a will existed in which George had left "considerable provision" for his siblings. Caroline said she would be making "certain provision" for George's brother and sisters. Kate dismissed her suit and died shortly thereafter. Cox's other sister, Charlotte, and her husband John Pearson had lived at Parkview around 1910, probably to help when her brother's health was beginning to fail.

After George's death, the census listed Caroline as living alone without any servants. She maintained her home and her husband's grave in Spring Grove Cemetery, bringing flowers weekly until just a few days before her own demise. When her health declined in 1930, she hired two live-in female servants and a chauffeur. Falmouth, Kentucky-born, Caroline owned several valuable nationally known horses and through the final years of her life, she went to the Coney Island racetrack with her niece to watch her horses run.

About her notorious husband Caroline had said, "He was a born leader. He was wonderful."

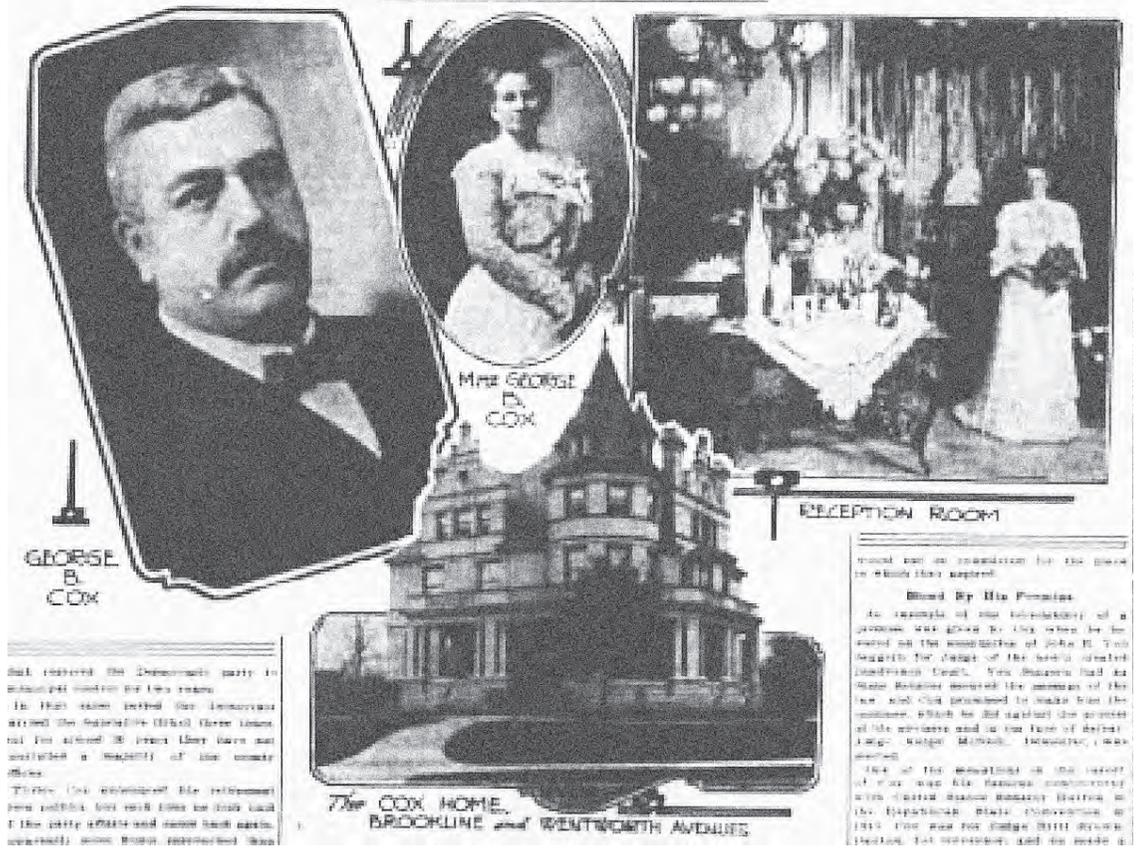
On April 17, 1938, at the age of 84 years, Caroline died of pneumonia as had George. The funeral was held at her Parkview home where, the local press observed, she'd kept George's den like a shrine with portraits and treasured correspondences framed on the walls. Caroline's executors distributed over \$300,000 to the Community Chest, Ohio Humane Society, Clovernook Home for Blind, Home for Incurables, German Althenheim, and to institutions caring for the aging, the poor, orphans, the friendless and foundlings. Bequests included hospitals, nurseries, charities, dozens of individuals including the Cox nieces and nephews, household members, chauffeurs, and horse trainers in Parkview's stables. However, despite having lived in Clifton for 43 years, no gift was received by any local organization, church or individual. Cox and Caroline

Political Leader's Widow Succumbs in Her Home.



MRS. GEORGE B. COX

Where George B. Cox, Master of Politics, Lived and Died



had received a cold shoulder from Cincinnati's upper-crust Republicans, and apparently also from Clifton. George and Caroline's personal valuables were auctioned on March 29, 1939: oriental rugs, fine drapery, and autographed portraits of Cincinnati politicians including Warren Harding and Nicholas Longworth posing with the Boss. But none of the Cox portraits displayed earlier throughout the house were sold, nor have been found since.

Parkview was bequeathed to the Union Bethel, becoming a home for women attending the University of Cincinnati. Pi Kappa Alpha purchased the mansion for their fraternity house in 1947. It was added to the National Registry of Historic Places in 1973. Michael L. Dever, president of the Performance Automotive Network, purchased the property in 2007, and donated it to the **Hamilton County Public Library** in 2010. The magnificently renovated and vibrantly programmed new Clifton Branch Public Library opened its doors on May 28, 2015. Visit soon, pick up a few good books, and linger to enjoy this rarefied gathering space!



An eternal resting place for George B. Cox in Spring Grove Cemetery



— COX THEATRE — AFD 1934

The Speakeasies of Early Clifton

— by Geoff Gelke, Clifton Historical Society

During Clifton's formative period between 1840 and 1885, the founding Barons sought to safeguard their coveted utopian homesteads from deterioration by ruffians, and so instituted strict regulations against activities such as horse racing, taverns, large gatherings, etc. Rounders so inclined simply had to find their satisfactions elsewhere in Cumminsville ("Hell Town") or in the fringes of Corryville.

The most notorious hostelry in Cumminsville was the Mill Creek House, built in 1834 by Ephraim Knowlton for horsemen and drinkers, a place to wage bets on whose horse could out-trot the others up and down Spring Grove Avenue.

Equine competitors included Maud S, Cincinnati's most famous racehorse and fastest mare in the country, owned by Clifton's mayor James Bougher, a horse fancier residing on Clifton Avenue next door to Sir Alfred Goshorn. Bougher's widow was destined to marry her celebrated neighbor and live in his grand mansion at 3540 Clifton Avenue (recently restored and on the real estate market.) Maud S was also destined to relocation, to New York City when purchased by William H. Vanderbilt, where she unhappily worked as a road horse on poor streets. Social pressures from the local horse set saw her returned to the racetrack, where she continued to break records until her retirement in 1885.

Today, Knowlton's Mill Creek House—once located at



Spring Grove and Burgoyne Streets— is just a memory, and now just a parking lot.

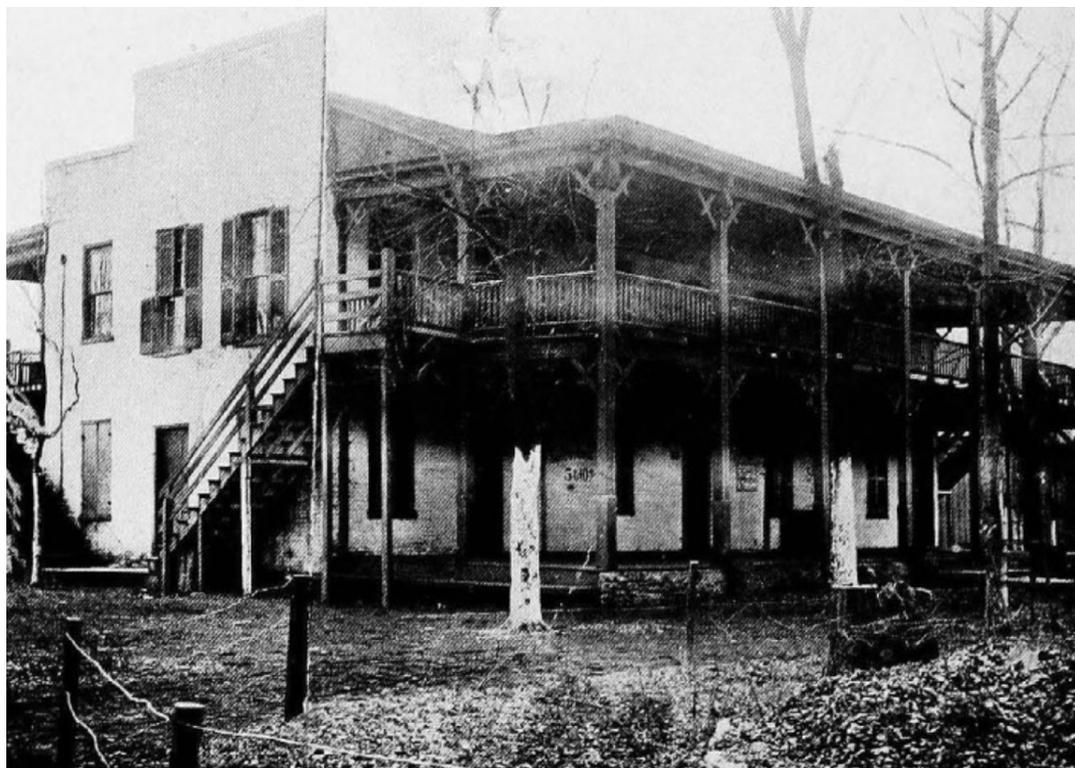
To the eastern border of Clifton was the Clifton Haus, a hotel and tavern with a beer garden popular in warmer months. Established in the 1870s, Moritz Eichler's place was converted into the apartment building we now see at 3300 Jefferson Avenue. Compare the photos from then and now. Across the street at 3245-3247 Jefferson Avenue is Fries Cafe, looking much as it did in the 1870s. Back then it was known as Kluesener's Saloon, offering three bowling lanes, a restaurant and beer garden. It even had a ladies' entrance for girls like my grandmother, who would go to fetch a bucket of beer for my great grandfather. That way they didn't

have to mingle with any ruffians— or so she told me. Immigrant Otto Kluesener lived upstairs until his passing in 1901. Today, Rich Kadel carries on tradition with a piano bar, billiard room (the speakeasy room during Prohibition) and a beer garden, now serving fine spirits in a rarely found genuine Old-World ambience.

In Corryville, the old Mecklenberg Gardens (1865) is undergoing renovation, perhaps reopening this Spring, bringing history full circle. With the advent of inclines and electric streetcars from the city basin, Clifton's population grew from the 1890s onward. More restaurants and taverns popped up along Ludlow Avenue, but sadly without the dash and nostalgia of the early hostelries.



Apartments formerly Cliftonhaus



Millcreek House

Composting with Queen City Commons

— by Julia Marchese

Modern life has pulled us away from close relationship to the land. How can we rediscover those connections on a practical level? Queen City Commons is helping Cincinnatians put their hands back into the earth and feel the hum of soil's life. Perhaps you've wanted to compost but don't have your own yard. Maybe you aren't sure how to get started or feel you don't have the time. In partnership with the City of Cincinnati Office of Environment and Sustainability, and through grant funding from the USDA, Queen City Commons has placed several residential compost drop-off bins around Clifton, Corryville and The Heights. Making sustainable lifestyle choices has never been easier. The program bridges a gap between the accessibility and convenience of traditional curbside pick-up models with an affordable drop-off model. Most Clifton households will find they're no more than half-a-mile from a drop-off bin, in sync with our walkable neighborhoods, allowing easy drop-off of compostable household scraps. Signing up for the program is cost-free for the first three months, after which payment transitions to a sliding-scale fee of \$4- \$20 per month for continued access to drop-off bins. Free collection buckets are available at the Clifton Cultural Arts Center for participants who sort out compostable food scraps at home. Our drop-off bins are located on Howell Avenue at Clifton's Merchants Parking Lot, Clifton United Methodist Church, Dunore Park, Mt. Storm Park, Bishop Park, the Cincinnati Zoo, the Civic Garden Center, Classen Park and Rohs Street Café. Our pilot program is also operating in Northside, Hyde Park, Oakley, OTR, Downtown and the West End. We're gaining valuable insights about what the future of municipal composting can be, with respect for Cincinnatians' expressed desire to have a municipal composting option.

You'll find a map of Clifton's community drop-off bins and can sign up for access at www.queencitycommons.com/compost/residential/. Use the code "CliftonComposts" to begin your free three months of drop-off.

Editor's Note: Queen City Commons is a worker-owned cooperative committed to building a composting network in our region. Since 2020, the organization has offered collection and drop-off services, partnering with area farms and gardens to compost everything they collect.

18

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Awakenings

Past snowfields, sidewalks, roads
piled high,
this dazzling monochrome of white,
I drive home carefully, slowly and park.

Suddenly my heart leaps. I hear
a flute melody that fills my winter mind
with songbirds, violets and streams.

The radio host interrupts my reverie.
"The music we just heard was *Pan
and the Birds.*"
I imagine Pan gallivanting on greening hills —

Calling forth Spring with his shepherd's pipes.
My enchantment ends briefly when I open
the car door and try to sidestep solid ice.

Behind the house, I search for signs of Life.
By the back door under a pile of dead leaves, to
my surprise, seven iris tips
—bright green!

— Nancy Heuck Johanson

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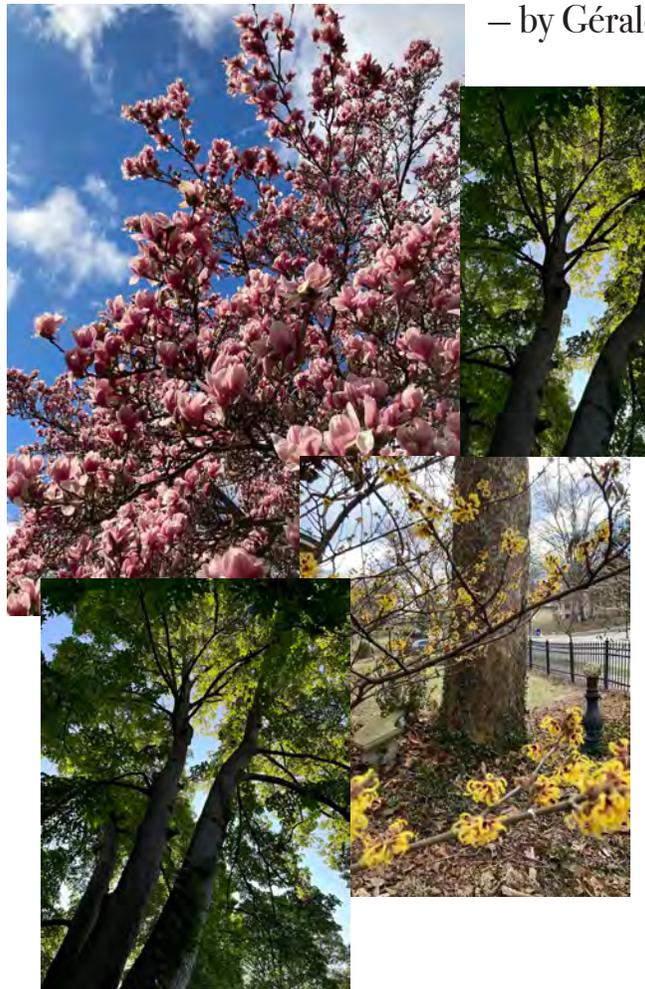
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In Search of The Princes of Clifton

— by Gérald Checco, *President, Cincinnati Forestry Board and Clifton resident*



Maybe you've noticed? The Clifton Historical Society has been regularly stirring up collective nostalgia, publishing booklets that bring our local history to life. Whether you're a Clifton newbie or millennial member of a multigenerational ménage, the CHS's growing literary offerings can provide delightful peeks into the quirky past of this place. Flip through CTM's archive of Clifton Chronicles and you'll find dozens of stories revealing the depth of our treasures. www.cliftoncommunity.org/clifton-town-meeting/clifton-chronicle/

While the Barons of Clifton rest peacefully in Spring Grove Cemetery, timeless world-class stained-glass windows that were created in their lifetimes are enduring masterpieces, dazzling our eyes and hearts while in the care of Clifton United Methodist Church. Books about these subjects are available for purchase at the CCAC reception desk and are perfect additions to your collection of local lore.

But wait, hold onto your sunhats and gardening gloves—it's time to recognize the Princes of Clifton! We're rolling out a green carpet for our community's most majestic trees. You can participate in this royal shout-out to the sentries in Clifton's canopy that

silently maintain a precious shade for our parks and yards. Some leafy legends have grown for over a century on private lawns, providing shade for summer picnics and the acrobatics of squirrely jesters. Others preside on street corners and in parks, providing shelter, beauty and climbing branches for generations of kids. Trunks and overarching canopies weather storms, droughts and daily visits from every dog in the neighborhood. Yet, most of these paragons haven't received their richly deserved "15 minutes" of fame. It's easy to ignore a sheltering giant while being bewitched by fancier flowerings below!



Do you have a favorite tree that's ready for its close-up? Tell us about your champions! Its story, age, maybe that one time it took center stage in your life. Drop us a note and a photo at arcg.is/10151P2

or scan the QR Code. Let's recognize, appreciate and finally crown Clifton's arboreal royalty. The "Princes of Clifton" booklet is in the making, in collaboration with the Urban Forestry program of the Cincinnati Park Board, and you can help us to document these superstars that remind us why this is a great place to set roots!



Gaslight Gardening — by Leah Kottyan, Thrall Street

The gardens of Clifton are part of our neighborhood's identity. We use our sidewalks; we enjoy each other; we love being outdoors together. In the Gaslight Gardening column, we celebrate the flora of Clifton. Common names for plants are used to make the articles accessible to everyone.

"The tulip is the most beautiful of all flowers." — Alexandre Dumas, *The Black Tulip*

I moved to Clifton in the middle of winter. Ice and snow greeted our moving trucks, and in those early weeks I bundled up for long walks, wondering what would emerge from the gardens of Clifton when spring finally arrived.

One of my first delights came a few months later, when tulips burst from the front gardens of Mrs. Ruth Ann Bumiller on Resor. The color and abundance stopped me in my tracks. I admired the display for days, and, with a notebook full of questions, I eventually wrote her a note.

Mrs. Ruth Ann invited a conversation that I still think about each fall and spring. She told me that her late husband, Ted Bumiller, started the tradition and planted hundreds of tulip bulbs year after year, right up until he died in 2004. Since then, his children, Mrs. Ruth Ann's stepchildren, have carried it forward. Every fall they plant more than 1,000 tulip bulbs in his memory.

Their secret is wonderfully simple: they plant for impact and they replant for reliability. Tulips can be perennial in our area, but they are not always

dependable year after year, and blooms often become smaller and sparser with time. Ted's daughters, like their father, choose abundance on purpose, planting bulbs close together for that breathtaking effect. It is also a gentle reminder that plant-spacing "rules" are guidelines, not commandments, especially when what you want is a bold, celebratory show.

I have adopted a version of their approach in my own garden. After my tulips finish blooming, I move older bulbs to side beds and refresh the front garden each fall by planting new bulbs on top of rich compost. I also let the green leaves fully die back (they are recharging the bulb for the next year). Only then do I cut them down.

There is something about anticipating flowers that can break through even the bleakest winter blues. As I write this in the middle of the epic January 2026 snowfall, it is hard to describe how much I'm looking forward to those first tulip leaves pushing up through cold soil. And when the Bumiller tulips bloom again on Resor, they will be what they have always been: real-time beauty and a vivid, generous display of generational love.



DePaul Cristo Rey News – by Margee Garbsch

The Search for Our Next President

DePaul Cristo Rey High School's (DPCR) Board of Directors has opened a search for our school's third president. The president is the administrative and spiritual leader of DPCR, responsible for the overall management of the school, including development and growth as a Cristo Rey Network high school. The president reports to the school's Board of Directors and collaborates with DPCR's sponsoring organization, the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, as well as the Cristo Rey Network and the Cincinnati Archdiocesan Catholic Schools Office. The official job description can be found at depaulcristorey.org. The search follows the fall 2025 resignation of Siobhan Taylor who led the school from 2020 to 2025. Patricia Robertson is serving as interim president until the new president begins, projected for July 1, 2026.

Rey of Light 2026 — \$1 Million Goal

Since 2012, the Rey of Light annual scholarship benefit for students has consistently exceeded its goal. Taking place this year on April 25 at DPCR's Clifton campus, \$1 million is sought for the first time in the event's history. Ed and Betty Stenger return to chair the event. All proceeds support financial aid for DePaul Cristo Rey students. The planning committee is seeking sponsors, silent and live auction items and guests. Contact Lisa Muething at **513-861-0600** or lisa.muething@dpcr.net to learn more.

15 Years Strong: Celebrating DPCR Corporate Work Study

DePaul Cristo Rey's Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP) is unique in Greater Cincinnati. Students work at one of 87 regional businesses and organizations,

earning part of their tuition to attend DPCR, a private, college-prep high school. This education and work experience strengthen students' pathways to a bachelor's degree, increasing economic mobility and advancing racial equity. A celebration of the CWSP on February 3 honored what began as a bold investment opportunity by corporate partners, supervisors, sponsors and DPCR leaders. The annual Leadership Breakfast featured speakers Kelvin Hanger, president and COO of Good Samaritan Hospital, and Tim Strayer, vice president and senior HR business partner-consumer lending at Fifth Third Bank. CWPS Vice President Shermirah Smith recognized Mazak as Partner of the Year, and Saint Joe's (formerly St. Joseph Home) as Nonprofit Partner of the Year.

Recognized for milestone anniversaries of partnership were:

Five-Year Partners: Anchor Fluid Power, Corryville Catholic Elementary

School, The Christ Hospital, Thompson Hine LLC, United Coalition for Animals **Ten-Year Partners:** Cincinnati Youth Collaborative, Cintas Corporation, City of Cincinnati Law Department, Fifth Third Bank, HER Cincinnati **15-Year Partners:** Bayley, CISE, Corporex, Good Samaritan Hospital, KMK Law, Macy's, Mercy Health, Messer, Mount St. Joseph University, St. Vincent de Paul, Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, Western & Southern Financial Group, Xavier University



Representing 15-Year Partners: Destinee Nowak, Western & Southern Financial Group; Niki Krebs, Messer Construction; Nancy Witschger and Cheryl Pannabecker, Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati; Abby Kump, Macy's, Inc.; Joey Saylor and Steven Almquist, Mount St. Joseph University; Kenneth James, Mercy Health; Joi Lindlau and Kelvin Hanger of Good Samaritan Hospital



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Spotted Lanternflies - The Battle Continues

The dreaded Spotted Lanternflies are waking up, and we can still help to eradicate them. Whenever you're out walking or gardening, keep an eye out for egg masses, laid in September to November and hatching in late April to June. Egg masses are typically found on trees, near the base sometimes hiding in the ridges of bark. But they can also be found on smooth outdoor surfaces including buildings, walls, and lawn furniture. Each egg mass can contain 30-50 individual eggs. Scrape eggs into a plastic bag, soak with hand sanitizer, seal and dispose in the garbage.

Also, it's always a good time to remove all Tree-of-Heaven plants growing on your property or that you see in vacant lots nearby. This host plant is a magnet to the Spotted Lanternfly, so removal makes our region less attractive to this enemy of orchards and vineyards. When you see the nymphs or adults that — admittedly — look kind of cute, you are advised to smash and trash them. Farmers and gardeners will thank you!



Eggs in Winter



Tree-of-Heaven



Nymphs and Adult Spotted Lanternflies

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Easter at Clifton UMC



Palm Sunday (3/29)
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Maundy Thursday (4/2)
6:30pm @ Clifton UMC

Way of the Cross
Good Friday - Noon @
100 Joe Nuxhall Way, 45202

Good Friday (4/3)
Tenebrae Service
7:30 PM @ Clifton UMC

Easter Sunrise Service
7 AM @ Mt. Storm Park

Easter Celebration
9:15 & 11 AM @ Clifton UMC

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Kathleen Kauffman's Journey of Hope



Kathleen (center) with her mother and sister

Health and wellness experts often encourage people to listen to their bodies. That advice saved the life of Kathleen Kauffman, a Personal Symmetrics ABC Certified Post-Mastectomy Fitter. Kauffman built a friendship with Personal Symmetrics patient Michelle L., a 33-year-old survivor of stage 3 triple-negative breast cancer. Talking to Michelle about her symptoms and reflecting on her own family history of cancer,

Kauffman became more intentional about performing self-breast exams.

"You hear about breast cancer in older women," Kauffman said. "But I see patients in their 30s, and you think, 'It can really happen to me.'" When she felt a small lump, Kauffman made an appointment with her gynecologist right away. A mammogram showed the lump was dense tissue, but it also revealed calcifications that required follow-up. On December 5, 2024, at age 30, Kauffman was diagnosed with stage 0 breast cancer. The diagnosis was DCIS (ductal carcinoma in situ), meaning abnormal cells were contained in the milk ducts. Because the cancer had not spread to her lymph nodes, Kauffman did not need chemotherapy, radiation or hormone therapy. Still, she chose a double mastectomy with reconstruction. The path to recovery included four surgeries.

Kauffman wanted the cancer "out of my body. I'm 30 years old," she said. "There are so many things I want to do—have a great career, live a full and happy life, and possibly get married and have kids. I'm not ready to give that up."

On Christmas Eve 2024, she received what she calls the best gift: confirmation that all the cancer had been removed. "I'm cancer-free, and I don't need any further treatments," she said. Kauffman credits her Personal Symmetrics co-workers for support. "They felt the scare, worry and shock right along with me." Clinical Director and Post-Mastectomy Fitter Tammy Franklin helped Kauffman with post-surgical fittings, including bras, compression garments, custom breast prostheses from American Breast Care and a partial prosthesis to add projection to her implants. Kauffman says the same individualized care is extended to every patient, with time to ask questions and find options that feel comfortable and build confidence.

Going through breast cancer has changed how Kauffman relates to patients. After a single or double mastectomy, women may feel sad, vulnerable or self-conscious. "A bra and prosthesis can help her feel like a woman again," Kauffman said, "and I love seeing that smile return." Kauffman emphasizes that early detection was key. "Pay attention to your body," she said. "If something feels not quite right, get it checked." She also encourages peer support, noting that connecting with someone who has been through the same experience can validate feelings and ease isolation.



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With the recent operating challenges facing a "sister" of our locally-owned cinema — Mariemont Theater — it's a reminder that these exceptional theaters don't survive on nostalgia alone. They survive because people walk through the doors, buy tickets, grab popcorn, and enjoy.



Streaming is easy. Staying home is convenient. But independent theaters depend on cinephiles' habits, so let's rediscover the pleasure and magic of choosing the big screens in dark rooms that, in Clifton, have been entertaining us for over a century.



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Crossword Puzzle

The Streets of Clifton

Contributors: Gérald Checco, Ron Millard, Bonnie Speeg, Tom Fruth, Jan Brown Checco

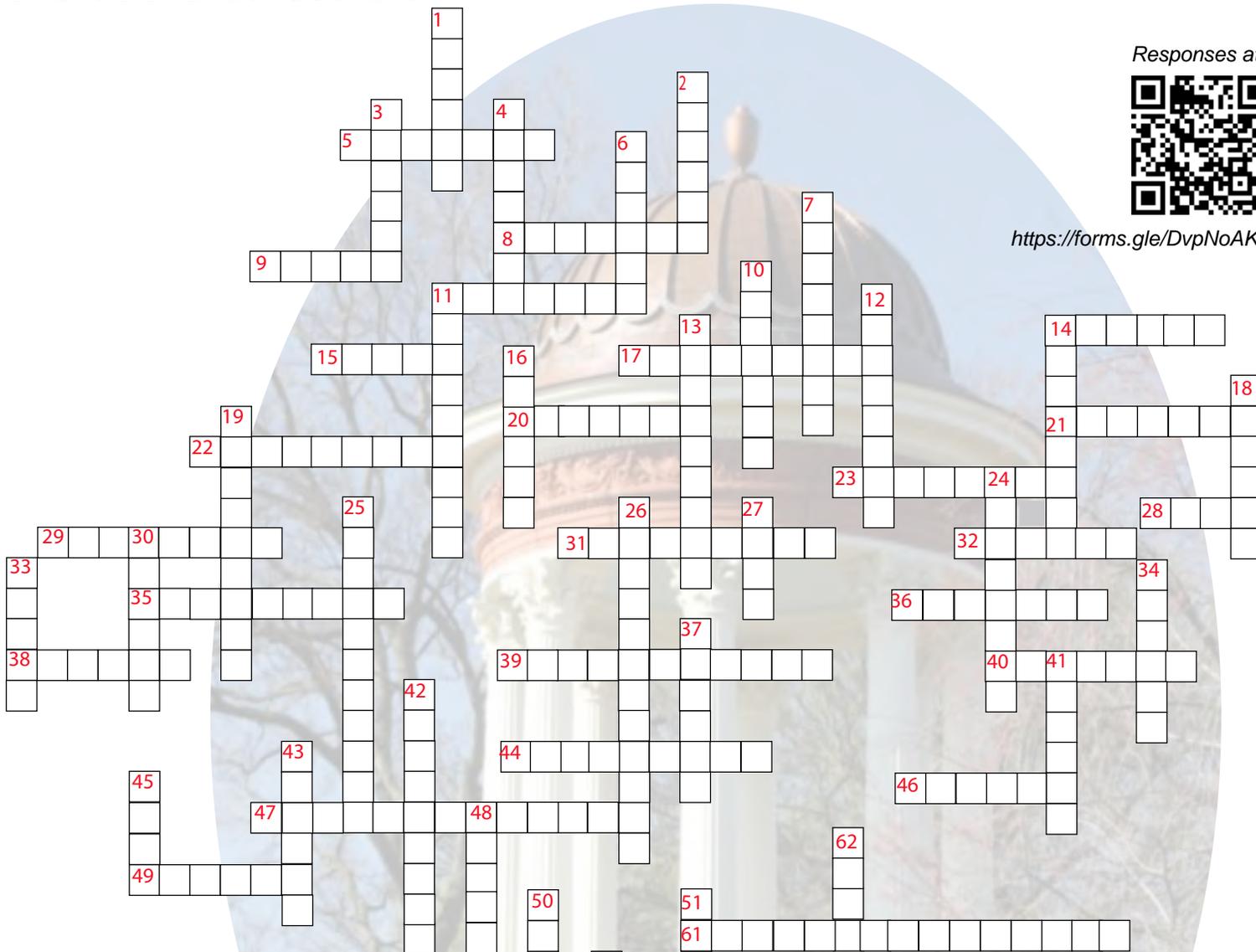
The types of streets (Street, Avenue, Parkways...) are not included.

For street names made with several words, spaces in between words are omitted

Responses at



<https://forms.gle/DvpNoAKCbhNXumfN9>



- 1 Clifton has several streets with double L's, only one with three.
- 2 The library and post office were there until recently.
- 3 Middle of this street was the 1850 southern boundary of Clifton.
- 4 Named for a Democratic vice-presidential candidate-Lincoln won!
- 5 That was Seth Foster's birthplace in KY, \.
- 6 Also a nearby Pocket Park name
- 7 He co-founded the Andrews Soap Company on Spring Grove Ave.
- 8 Early 20th century home to poet Mary Louise MacMillan
- 9 This lane is anything but urban.
- 10 Named in 1845; formerly Irwin's Mill Road
- 11 Hero of two revolutions, often called the French Founding Father
- 11 Named after the daughter of a prominent Clifton family
- 12 Part of Reuben Resor's original terraced front acres
- 13 Above the street whose name was part of its own name
- 14 Around the former Sacred Heart Academy
- 14 In German, another way to say "we have"
- 15 The northern portion of the original Clarkson Farm or Clifton Farm
- 16 The original Eastern boundary of Clifton village
- 17 Named after a General whose estate was located there, also #21 lived there
- 18 Named after a church where an important battle of the American Civil War happened
- 19 Between the trees
- 20 A step-like landform
- 21 Contrived from the name of an irascible Cincinnati journalist
- 22 This street goes into Vine.
- 23 Meat-packing giant, Spring Grove Cemetery President at time of death
- 24 After an Irishman who made his fortune in shipping and insurance, it's elementary.
- 25 Venus at first sight
- 26 Former nickname of the Crosstown Inn, a historic building in Clifton
- 27 The most important civil rights leader; previously named for General St. Clair
- 28 First Mayor of the Village of Clifton, another one was Mayor of Cincinnati
- 29 From old English meaning "The Stream of Lilla"
- 30 A powerful 9th century king who laid the groundwork for a unified England
- 31 After mountains in Western Massachusetts
- 32 Home of an Irishman who made his fortune in the shipping and insurance business
- 33 Merchant of wood-burning stoves
- 34 Son of Israel; surveyor who, with Arthur St. Clair, named Cincinnati
- 35 A creek once flowed there creating a boundary of land.
- 36 Formerly Central Avenue
- 37 The park of the same name was given by two sisters to remain as a bird preserve.
- 38 A short street nowhere near Miami University
- 39 The highest property value in the French Monopoly Game
- 40 Where a haunted house stands, name also of the only land-grant Ivy League
- 41 Not a mystery; named after a prominent local hearse businessman
- 42 Home of the former Navy officer, Mayor of Cincinnati, and congressman
- 43 This Jeopardy host lived here in 1958.
- 44 Like the top of a hill, not like a mountain of toothpaste
- 45 Elijah was an original Clifton landowner.
- 46 This physician was Private Secretary to Rutherford B. Hayes.
- 47 Homestead of Salmon P. Chase; today an HOA
- 48 Name of the Lafayette Ave. estate of Robert Buchanan
- 49 Some greenhouses were located there.
- 50 Runs through a mattress heir's land, could be a synonym of #41
- 51 Used to be named Glenway but changed name after Clifton's annexation by Cincinnati
- 52 Between 35 and 60
- 53 Circa 1900, this avenue made its way through the Rawson's land, extended in the 1950s.
- 54 After two brothers in the stove business, you can say that again!
- 55 Steamboat Captain and builder became Mayor of Clifton.
- 56 This road is not at the center of Clifton.
- 57 Not your typical jungle
- 58 If there's already a street named after your dad, your option is to use the first name.
- 59 Previously known as Carthage Pike
- 60 Named after the Reverend Charles McIlvaine, the second Episcopal Bishop of Ohio
- 61 Which street did Sarah Jessica Parker grow up on?
- 62 Wm. Resor's estate from Clifton Ave. to Vine St.