



Photograph by J. Miles Wolf © 2024

“Perhaps I am a bear, or some hibernating animal underneath, for the instinct to be half asleep all winter is so strong in me.”

– Anne Morrough Lindbergh, American Writer and Aviatrix

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cincinnati, OH
Permit No. 301

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

President's Message

By Steve Goodin

If you are of a certain age, you will likely remember the gauche “Don’t Trash the ‘Nati” anti-litter campaign from the late 1990s.

I call it “gauche” because the font was terrible, and the trendy-at-the-time diagonal design constituted an aesthetic eyesore – visual pollution, ironically. And who calls Cincinnati “the ‘Nati,” anyway? I’ve never heard anyone refer to Cincinnati that way in actual conversation. “The Queen City,” of course. “Cincy,” maybe. “The ‘Nati,” never – although the English major in me does appreciate the precedent apostrophe, which is actually correct if one must abbreviate a proper name in this manner.

My primary problem with “Don’t Trash the ‘Nati?” It was a classic Cincinnati attempt to effect large-scale civic change – well-meaning but hectoring, a little silly but ultimately ineffective. People laugh about it now with a mix of nostalgia and sarcasm. And yet, we still have a tremendous amount of litter in our neighborhoods.

So, despite this Big Brotherish effort to shame us into doing better, the compulsion to toss trash into public spaces continues unabated. Turns out “Don’t Trash the ‘Nati” was no match for the human condition.

I occasionally ruminate about such things on Saturday mornings when I brave the traffic in front of my Clifton Avenue house to pick up the week’s accumulated refuse. Each new haul contains at least one surprise, the most recent being an empty bottle of Patron and a small television. What compels some of our fellow citizens to hurl these objects from their moving vehicles should be the subject of a psychology doctoral thesis someday. Or maybe a series of sermons at our local churches. Or both.

Last year, I put my own modest “DO NOT LITTER” signs on the edges of my property. To my amazement, every Saturday, I would find a pile of empty Keystone Light cans stacked neatly beside it, like an offering. This went on for weeks until whoever this person was – a commuting student, unhoused person, or just a guy who liked to walk around the neighborhood drinking Keystone Light – moved on or was moved on. I felt a strange connection to this fellow (assuming it was a fellow) and came to admire his tenacity and consistency. Plus, he hipped me to the fact they still make Keystone Light, which triggered some foggy college days memories and got me thinking about looking up some old friends on Facebook

until I remembered I hate social media. In any event, I hope the guy is okay.

Until our fellow citizens learn to hold onto their McDonald’s wrappers until they get home – a day, I ruefully note, which will likely never come – we Cliftonites must bear the burden of keeping our gateway streets presentable. I would like to thank all of the volunteers who participated in the annual Clifton clean-up on November 1st, which was a rousing success. I would specifically like to thank the members of the Cincinnati Police Department who blocked traffic so we could effectuate the “deep clean” the area needs.

I would also like to thank Clifton resident Amira Beer, who is the unsung Clifton Avenue Litter Warrior. She speed-walks the street almost every evening,

picking up trash as she goes. She is a fantastic public servant in her day job at City Hall, but she sets an even better example of civic engagement and pride during her unheralded off-hours work. Thank you, Amira. And I’d also like to thank the folks who tirelessly police litter at Salway Park. I know it’s technically in Spring Grove Village, but I think I can safely speak for the many Clifton residents who use this beautiful amenity daily when I say we appreciate your efforts. Given the current state of city resources, this work really is up to us.

During our July meeting, the Clifton Town Meeting trustees were casting about for our own neighborhood-specific anti-littering slogan. The only suggestion was “MAKE CLIFTON BEAUTIFUL AGAIN.” That one was rejected. I have no idea why. ■



2024 CTM Leadership

Board of Trustees

Steve Goodin (President), Mindi Rich (Vice President), Gérald Checco (Treasurer), Barry Gee (Secretary), Jan Brown Checco, Leah Kottyan, Kevin Leahy, Nestor Melnyk, Tim Noonan, Justin Ogilby, Ben Pantoja, Jayme Ritter, Genet Singh, Rachel Wells, John Whedon

Committee Chairs

Executive – President Steve Goodin

Public Safety – Tim Noonan

Arts & Culture – Joyce Rich

Caretaking & Beautification – Jayme Ritter

Chronicle – Jan Brown Checco

Clifton Community LLC – Steve Goodin, Gérald Checco

Communications – Ben Pantoja

Events – Barry Gee

Finance – Gérald Checco

Governance – Ben Pantoja

Housing & Zoning – Rachel Wells

Transportation – Justin Ogilby

Welcome & Connect – Mindi Rich

Clifton Soccer – Mindi Rich

Parks – Rachel Wells

Membership & Nominating – Tim Noonan

Liaisons

Uptown Consortium – Steve Goodin

Invest in Neighborhoods – Gérald Checco

Golf Outing – John Whedon

Clifton Community Fund – Gérald Checco

Clifton Business Association – Jan Brown Checco, Genet Singh

Neighborhoods of Uptown – Rachel Wells

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 below. 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:

<input type="checkbox"/> Single (1 vote)	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Household (2 votes)	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Full-time college student (1 vote)	\$10
<input type="checkbox"/> Business (1 vote)	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior citizen, 65+ (1 vote)	\$10
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior household, 65+ (2 votes)	\$14
<input type="checkbox"/> Life membership (2 votes)	\$180
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation of \$ _____	



Moving?

Please send your full name and updated mailing address to ctm.chronicle@gmail.com

From: *The Editor*

By Michael Moreland

Judging by the giant squirrel's nest packed deep inside the chimney stack, the fireplace probably hadn't burned much of anything in a while. Of course, when you're restoring a hundred-year-old house, what else would you expect? We eagerly added 'nest removal' to our list of tasks.

Several weeks later, the dense bundle of mangled twigs and leaves came crumbling down with a billowy plume of dirt and soot. After a few moments, I kneeled to peer inside. I looked up. Daylight! We were in business.

Summer turned to fall and fall to winter. One night, I came downstairs to discover Rob had turned on the fireplace. The arched opening of the emerald green tile glowed, filling the room with an inviting citrusy haze; its warmth was immediate. We both smiled. Without realizing it then, this would become winter's welcome: the three-quarter turn of a gas knob.

Sometimes, we sit and stare directly into the flames, hypnotized—not talking, just gazing. Other times, the fire provides the perfect ambient backdrop to unfold the morning paper or toast an evening drink. Our dog Max usually lies near the shimmering hearth,

bathing in the radiant heat. I feel his coat periodically to ensure he hasn't gone full rotisserie.

Every season seems to have that moment—that sign that our routines, clothes, food, and much more are about to change again. With that change comes new opportunities and familiar traditions—experiences shared with family, friends, and neighbors all season long. Our latest newsletter is proof.

In this issue, we welcome our newly elected 2025 CTM trustees, the return of CliftonFest, and our official Small Business Owner Spotlight. Our libraries continue to provide engaging and educational opportunities alongside enriching programs through our arts and cultural centers. History abounds with stories of unexpected famous figures traversing Clifton and tales from beyond the crypt. With recaps, highlights, and exciting community announcements, it's a packed paper.

I'm so grateful to our writers, storytellers, and advertisers for contributing to The Chronicle. To all of our readers, thank you for your continued support and engagement. I wish you a safe and satisfying holiday and a very Happy New Year. ■



Contribute to The Chronicle *Creators*

To become a content contributor and learn more about article guidelines and submission, email our Editor, Michael Moreland, at mycliftonchronicle@gmail.com.

Advertisers

If you're interested in advertising in The Clifton Chronicle, we'd love to have you! For more information, please email our Ad Manager, Jan Checco, at ctm.chronicle@gmail.com.

Questions?

Please send requests for more information to mycliftonchronicle@gmail.com.



The Chronicle Is Online!

Checkout our latest newsletter and our archive of past issues by scanning the QR code or go to cliftoncommunity.org/clifton-town-meeting/clifton-chronicle.



Join The Clifton Chronicle Daily Facebook page for more news and updates!

Connect

For announcements, community updates, and links to virtual Clifton Town Meetings, visit our website at cliftoncommunity.org

Subscribe

To subscribe for a printed paper or to request your Chronicle by email only, please provide your postal mailing or email address(es) and full name(s) to ctm.chronicle@gmail.com

Volunteer

Our community council depends on the support of volunteers like you! If you'd like to help with an event or serve on one of our committees, email us at ctmpresident@cliftoncommunity.org

Meet Your Newly Elected 2025 CTM Trustees

On Monday, November 18th, 2024, the community gathered to elect the 2025 Clifton Town Meeting Board of Trustees. The 15 volunteers who comprise the Board meet monthly to plan and produce a variety of community events, including Holidays on Ludlow, Memorial Day Parade and Picnic, and our Golf Outing. They also address other needs, such as writing grant applications for special projects, providing financial support to many Clifton organizations, and discussing challenges to our quality of life, ranging from traffic and neighborhood safety to beautification work and zoning. Come get acquainted with these neighbors who represent our collective interests! Attend CTM Board meetings at the Clifton Rec Center on the first Monday of every month from 7 – 9 pm.

Jan Brown Checco – As a CTM trustee since 2020, Jan returns for another term. She will continue to help support The Clifton Chronicle as committee chair and advertising manager, in addition to administering the Facebook page. Jan looks forward to serving our local businesses as a CTM liaison to the Clifton Business Association. With the rebirth of CliftonFest, she hopes to aid event planning and support communication between CTM and CCAC for this important cultural event. Jan remains devoted to community building and preserving our shared quality of life here in Clifton.

Patrick Etter – With a great appreciation for the neighborhood, Patrick looks forward to becoming more involved with others who feel the same about our community. He values the neighborhood's walkability and, by extension, the varied storefronts on Ludlow that having a pedestrian-friendly street allows. Patrick believes it makes Clifton feel like a special place within Cincinnati, like a smaller village within a larger city. He wants to help keep Clifton a pleasant neighborhood by focusing on green spaces, pedestrian safety, and walkability.

Steve Goodin – Steve has lived in the Clifton or Northside neighborhoods for 20 years. He is a former Cincinnati City Council member, Southern Ohio Regional Transportation Authority trustee, and outside litigation counsel member for several city departments. He currently serves on the city's Hamilton County Planning Commission, USO Ohio board, and the Charter Committee of Greater Cincinnati executive board. Steve is a partner at the Porter Wright law firm and lives on Clifton Avenue with his son, the internet-famous Hugh Goodin.

Kevin Leahy – Kevin has lived in Clifton since 1998. Before retiring in 2018, he worked for Duke Energy in their international and renewable energy business and later

in environmental policy. Kevin has an Engineering Degree from Purdue, an MBA in Finance, and a Master's in Public Administration. He and his wife raised their two daughters here, where they enjoyed good schools, a great library, other families, and Clifton Meadows. As a newly elected CTM trustee, Kevin looks forward to protecting and preserving Clifton while improving the infrastructure that serves our community.

Kevin Mohan – Captivated by the scenic beauty, architecture, and diversity of Clifton, Kevin has been a proud resident for over 45 years. Joining CTM, he remains interested in promoting a strong and safe business community on Ludlow—fostering artistic initiatives, addressing issues related to panhandling and illegal activity, and striking a sensible balance between motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

Ben Pantoja – Ben has lived in Clifton for 40 years. He's currently a CTM trustee, acting as the Governance chair and Communications chair. He enjoys the challenges and learning opportunities these committees offer. Ben was also on the CTM board between 2010 and 2016, including two years as Vice President and two years as President.

Brenden Pulte – After growing up in Mt. Lookout, attending Walnut Hills and then UC, Brenden moved to Clifton this March. He's always been drawn to the historic architecture, small businesses, green space, and connectivity to the rest of the city. But what Brenden loves most is the community's tangible sense of pride and identity. Clifton is very dear to him, not the least because of his wonderful new neighbors and friends. Brenden is excited to help represent our great neighborhood!

Mindi Rich – Mindi's family happily returned to Clifton in the summer of 2022. Mindi has assisted with the Clifton Child Study Group and helped organize CliftonFest. She worked with the City of Cincinnati and DOTE to create a crosswalk and eventual 3-way stop at the intersection of Glenmary and Brookline. She was appointed as a CTM trustee in 2024 and has since served as the Vice President of the executive board and the chairperson of both the Welcome & Connect committee and the Clifton Soccer committee. Mindi strives to help foster a welcoming, inclusive, and safe community for all.

Owen Waller – A UC graduate and an electronics engineer, Owen has lived in Clifton for over a year. After settling in, he began attending CTM meetings and has gained an appreciation for maintaining and cultivating a healthy neighborhood. Owen looks forward to engaging with the community and serving wherever needed. ■

Safety

We continue to raise funds to schedule extra police presence in our business district. The Clifton Cares campaign allows everyone to contribute and help support our shopkeepers. Each hour of security costs \$75. To make a tax-deductible donation, go to cliftoncommunity.org/products-page, scroll down to Clifton Cares 2024 Safety Fund, or scan the QR code below. Any amount you contribute helps protect our neighbors, customers, and businesses on Ludlow Avenue.



Hubbard's Cupboard Opens at DePaul Cristo Rey High School

By Margee Garbsch,
Director of Communications & Marketing



Teach Daniel Verdon and Junior Niyla at DPCR's Hubbard's Cupboard

Hubbard's Cupboard, a collaboration between Crayons to Computers and the Sam Hubbard Foundation, has opened one of its newest Cupboards at DePaul Cristo Rey High School in Clifton. The Cupboard provides students and teachers with free school supplies, hygiene products, and healthy snacks.

DPCR's Cupboard was stocked in August for the start of school and will be restocked 20 times throughout the school year to ensure seamless support. The Cupboard is a joint effort of Crayons to Computers, which works to level the playing field in classrooms by ensuring teachers can provide their students with the tools to succeed, and the Sam Hubbard Foundation. The Foundation was founded in 2020 by Cincinnati Bengals player Sam Hubbard to bring equitable access to food, education, and a healthy

lifestyle for all Cincinnatians.

DPCR is among eight new schools joining the program this year; there are 21 "Cupboard Schools" in Greater Cincinnati. All are located in one of the 16 counties served by Crayons to Computers and serve most students who qualify for the National School Lunch Program.

DePaul Cristo Rey is a Catholic, college-preparatory high school with a mission to educate young people who have the potential but limited financial means to go to college. This is accomplished through a dynamic academic program partnered with an innovative Corporate Work Study Program, not available at any other local high school. Sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, DPCR is one of 40 high schools in the nationwide Cristo Rey Network® which serves 12,300 young people. ■



Clifton Dental Care

Jennifer Lowe, DDS
(513) 751-5200



Call us Today
to Schedule
an Appointment!

3308 Jefferson • Cincinnati, OH 45220

Adrian Durban
Since 1899
FLORIST

Fresh Flowers, Plants, Champagne & Gifts

Daily Delivery to All of Cincinnati
& Northern Kentucky

"Established in Clifton" since 1899
Proudly owned by the 4th generation
Durban Family

AdrianDurban.com
513.221.8222

'Best of Cincinnati 2024'

adriandurban.com

4.9 ★★★★★ (571 store reviews)

Based on customer reviews and data from Google and/or its partners.

See You at the Hub!

By Larry Holt



Have you heard about the Hub? It's right down the street from Clifton, where you can meet people from all over the city every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday! Is it a cool new pub? Yet another craft brewery? Nope! It's Cincinnati Recycling & Reuse Hub. Come on down, relax, and recycle!

Relax & recycle? Yep, because the Hub takes all the material we can't put in our curbside recycling bins. The stuff that goes to landfills...that basically goes to waste. Very little is wasted at the Hub!

#1 plastic containers? The Hub takes them. Styrofoam? Yep. Bubble wrap? Hell yes! Those triple-layer coffee bags? Yep. All those pots you buy in the spring and can't believe the plant stores won't take back? The Hub loves them! If you can't recycle it at the curb, the odds are the Hub can take it and find a use for it.

I could list all the material they take. I could also give you a detailed history,

but you'll get a better summary on their website. www.cintirrh.org

The short version is that the Hub was founded in 2020 and is located at 911 Evans Street, just around the corner from the Museum Center. Since 2020, the Hub has diverted over ONE MILLION pounds of material from landfills!

A personal confession. Before the Hub, I was saving (hoarding?) non-recyclables because I thought someone would figure out a way not to waste so much material... particularly plastic. Now I just go to the Hub on Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday! Their hours are:

Tuesday 10 am – 2 pm
Thursday 12 pm – 6 pm
Saturday 10 am – 2 pm

If you'd like to help, signing up at their website is easy. Volunteering is a lot of fun, and you'll learn a lot. For instance, I learned I have a flair for processing reusable packing materials!■



Signing and Crafting at the Clifton Public Library

By Eric Davis, Librarian, Clifton Branch

As temperatures drop and our sun shines upon us for fewer hours each day, so begins the cozy winter reading season. The library is here to help you find your next read and provide a little fun through our annual Winter Checkout Challenge, which runs from January 14th through February 24th. Stop in the library to pick up a challenge sheet and a free tote bag. Complete your sheet and receive a free (highly sought-after) library mug, perfect for sipping your favorite hot beverage as you savor your next novel.

Signing Play Group

4th Monday of each month, 10:30 – 11:30 am (12/23 for December)

Does your child communicate using sign language? Join our community of support for families with children who have speech delays, are unable to vocalize, are deaf and hard of hearing, or use sign language for other reasons. This informal playgroup aims to provide families with children 0–5 with a fun, supportive environment to play and learn together. Meetings are in the Clifton Branch Library's Meeting Room. No registration is required.

Real or Scam? How To Keep Yourself from Falling Victim

Wednesday, January 22nd, 11 am – 12:30 pm

Worried about identity theft and the latest scams? We will explore the variety of scams currently out there. In the second part of the class, we will discuss ways to protect your identity and review methods to ensure you don't become a victim. Registration is encouraged but not required.

Let's Get Artsy and Crafty!

Monday, December 9th, 6 – 7:30 pm

Join us as we create beautiful snowflake decorations and ornaments for the winter and holiday season. Artist, crafter and creator Amy Gable will lend her expertise and bring all the supplies necessary to get creative and brighten the winter days. Suitable for teens and adults. Registration is required.

For a listing of all the fun and educational programs and events at the Clifton Branch and all the library locations, please visit our events page: <https://cincinnatilibrary.bibliocommons.com/v2/events>. We look forward to seeing you at the library this winter season!■

8 Tips to Prep Your Home for Winter

- 1. Clean your gutters to prevent leaves and debris from creating blockages and preventing drainage.
- 2. Reverse your ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to help push down warm air and save energy.
- 3. Call a professional chimney sweep to inspect your fireplace for cleanliness and proper ventilation.
- 4. Disconnect hoses and drain exterior faucets (including your lawn irrigation system).
- 5. Replace your furnace filters and have a professional check your system for efficiency and potential leaks.
- 6. Add weather stripping around drafty doors and windows to keep your home warm and cozy.
- 7. Trim your branches to help protect your trees from breaks due to heavy ice and snow.
- 8. Make sure you've got a good snow shovel and animal-friendly salt to keep your sidewalks safe and clear.



A Soccer Program at The New School Montessori

By Ann Baumgardner, Communications Director

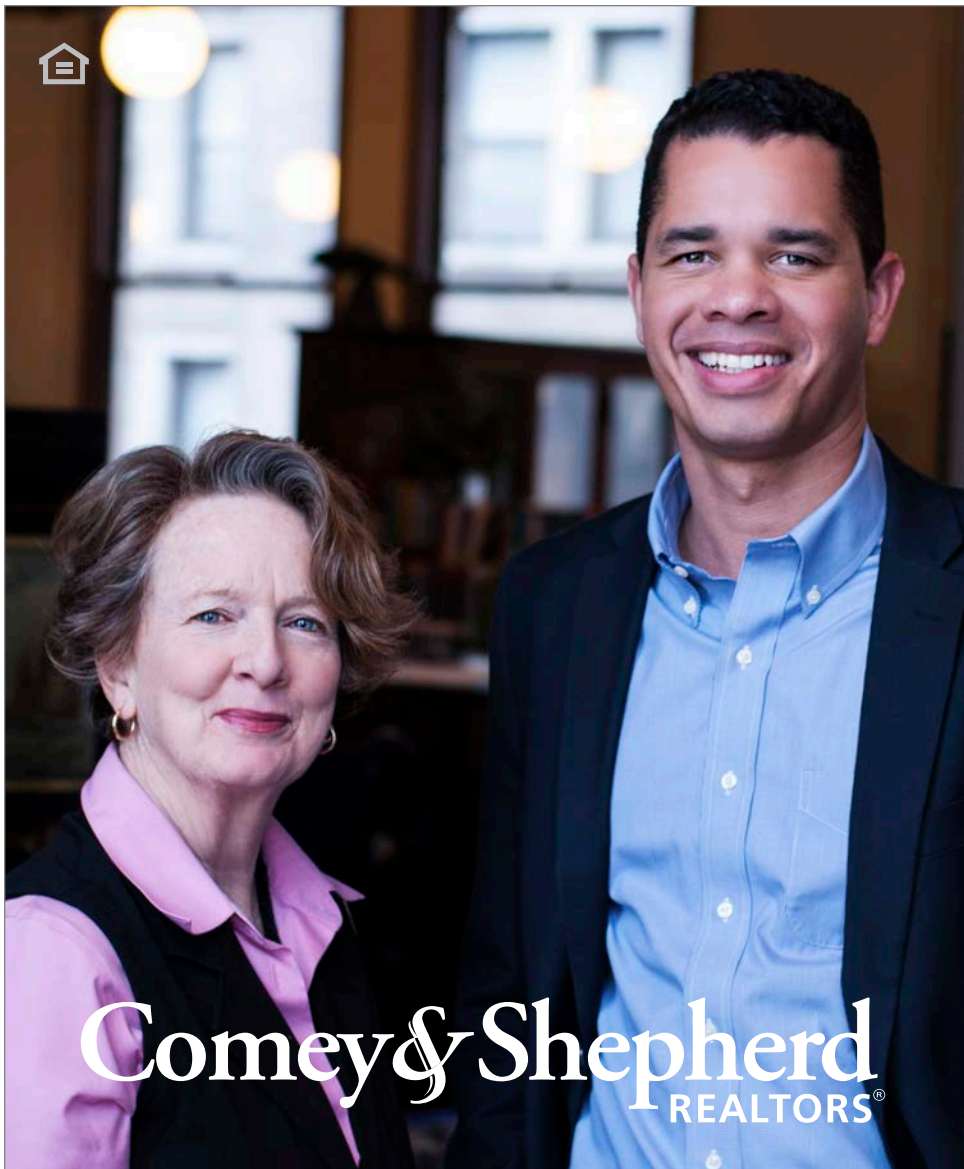
North Avondale resident Catherine Pray Bollmann, a New School Montessori (6-9) teacher and parent, has brought something new to our school! We are so grateful to her for organizing a soccer program for our students. She not only signed our school up to be in the SAY East soccer organization but is also serving as our district representative.

Our students and parents have met the moment with vigorous enthusiasm, forming five (yes, FIVE!) TNSM teams with parent coaches for each team and

specialty-designed soccer shirts to boot.

The number of New School students who signed up for fall soccer represents nearly 40% of our whole student body, with nearly 70% participation from our students who are actually eligible for the program and meet the age requirements for the league.

In the spring, kindergartners and students who didn't sign up this fall will be permitted to join our school teams if they choose. We may not all fit on the Mitchell Mansion steps! ■



YOUR TRUSTED CLIFTON TEAM

With over 40 years of combined real estate experience, we understand every seller and buyer is unique. Whether you're downsizing, growing your family or simply ready for a change, we're here to make your next move with you.



513.255.5154
DruffelDiTomassi.com

Comey & Shepherd
REALTORS®

Robert DiTomassi
& Barbra Druffel

New Green Savings Program

By Mark Jeffreys, City Councilman

With the passage of the federal Inflation Reduction Act, the State of Ohio is about to deploy \$500 million in funding for energy efficiency projects starting in the next few weeks. That level of investment is unprecedented and creates an opportunity for homeowners in Cincinnati to save an average of \$700–1,200/year on their energy costs while making our air cleaner and reducing carbon emissions. However, there are things homeowners need to do to take advantage of this initiative.

In terms of scope, the program will offer rebates for more energy-efficient appliances and a subsidy for weatherizing a home, installing a heat pump, and putting solar panels on your rooftop. The level of subsidy depends on income. It starts at 25% from the federal government but could be up to 100% for lower-income homeowners.

The \$500 million from the State of Ohio funding is not allocated by region. It is first-come-first-serve. Cities organized to take advantage of these incentives will get a disproportionate share. That is why I have led an initiative with the City of Cincinnati to create and fund a Green Savings program.

The Green Savings program includes three parts. First, a Green Bank, which other cities have, is to be a single point of contact on the back end for the many programs. The Green Bank will be through the Cincinnati Development Fund. Second, workforce training would be provided for people to do home energy assessments. An energy assessment is a requirement to take advantage of the subsidy. Third, funding for necessary home repairs for some lower-income homeowners (e.g., fixing a leaky roof so solar can be installed). This \$1.75 million investment has already yielded an additional \$4 million in other investments from private foundations and others. This will enable hundreds of homes to take advantage of that \$700–1,200/year in savings.

Here's what you need to know: the State of Ohio program will pay for an energy assessment regardless of income. That energy assessment will be a required first step for a homeowner. We expect to hear more details on how that will work in the weeks ahead. So stay tuned or reach out to my office Mark.Jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov, to learn more. As always, I appreciate the opportunity to hear from residents and to serve the people of Cincinnati. ■



Personal Symmetrics
Post-Mastectomy Services
a Division of R.J. Rosenberg Orthopedic Lab

At Personal Symmetrics, we offer you personalized and exceptional service; post-mastectomy, and lumpectomy care.

We feature custom breast forms, breast prostheses, bras, camisoles, and post-mastectomy swimwear.

personalsymmetrics.com



R. J. Rosenberg
Orthopedic Lab, Inc.

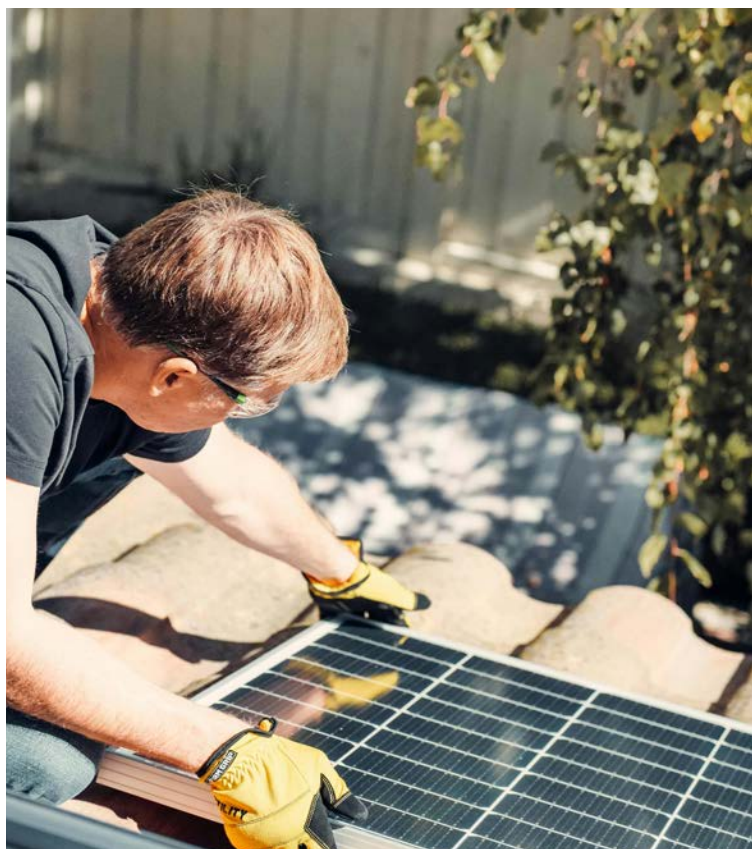
We specialize in upper limb and lower limb prosthetics and silicone restoration.

Our certified team of professionals offer high-level technology, support, and one-on-one compassionate care.

rjrosenberg.com

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON R.J. ROSENBERG ORTHOPEDIC LAB
OR PERSONAL SYMMETRICS, CALL 513-221-7200.**

3366 CENTRAL PARKWAY • CINCINNATI, OH 45225



KBC
Celebrating



Full-Service
Design/Build
Remodeling

513-385-9165
kbcinc@fuse.net

Project Form:
www.kbcinc.net

3661 W. Galbraith Rd,
Cincinnati, OH 45247

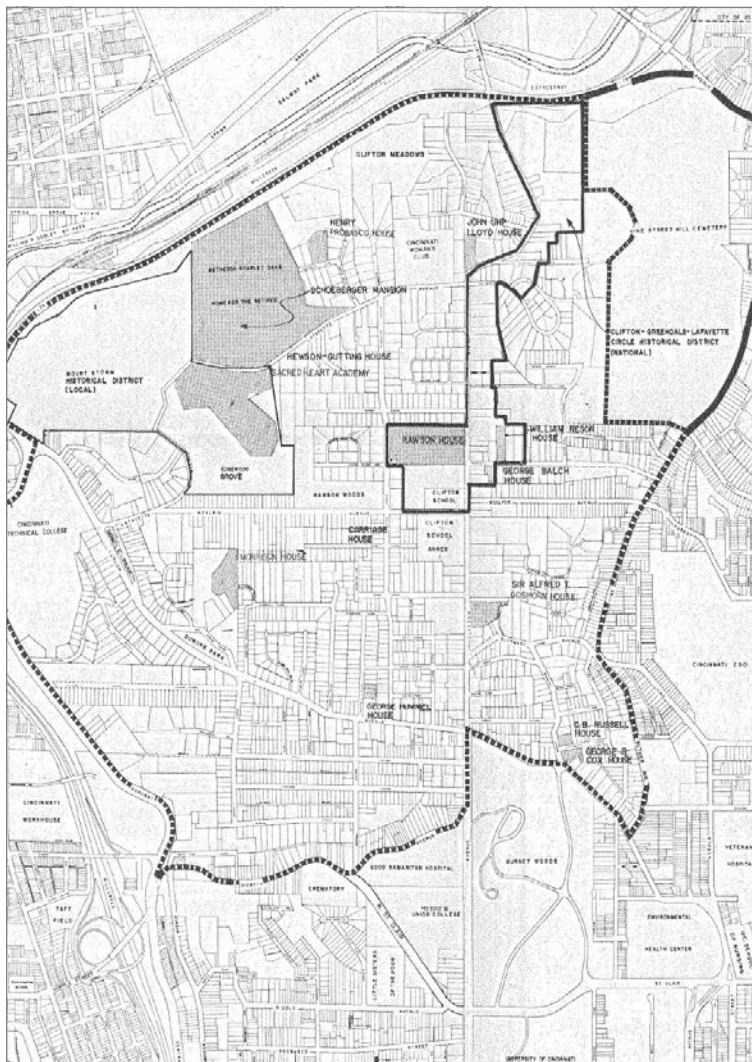


Room Additions • Kitchen Remodel • Bathroom Remodel • Patio
Screen Porches • Whole Home Renovations • Universal Design
Structural Repairs



The Clifton Plan

By Gérald Checco



Cincinnati is well known for being the first city in the United States to create and adopt a comprehensive plan in 1925. The plan's goal was to "plan for the orderly development of the city during the fifty years to come."

Understanding that a city-wide plan cannot go into details at the neighborhood level, the City has also created neighborhood-specific or subject-specific plans to help guide the various neighborhoods. As an example, Clifton was the subject of multiple plans including:

- The 1975 Clifton Community Plan
- The 1978 Clifton Neighborhood Business District Urban Design Plan
- The 1980 Clifton Community Plan
- The 1990 Uptown Comprehensive Development Plan

- The 2016 University Impact Area Solution Study

The last comprehensive Clifton Plan was in 1980, almost 45 years ago. You can read the very interesting document by scanning the QR Code below. Since then, our neighborhood, our city, and the world have changed dramatically. Clearly, we need a new plan to guide Clifton for the next 20 years.

The City Planning and Community Engagement Department will work with the neighborhood to create our new plan, with CTM as the recognized representative. Preparation for this work had begun before COVID-19 in 2020, so substantial progress has already been made. We will review that work to ensure it is still valid and continue the effort in 2025.

If you want help establish a vision for the future of Clifton, scan the QR codes below.■



To participate in the new Clifton Plan, scan here.



To read the 1980 Clifton Plan, scan here.



CLIFTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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

Alternate Expressions of Church Include



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



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



Free Community Laundry
Third Wednesday Evenings
@ City Limits Laundry
Even Months: Nixon St.
Odd Months: Kipling Ave

3416 Clifton Ave, 45220

(513) 961-2998

Facebook.com/CliftonUMC

CliftonUMC.com

Advent Schedule



Sunday December 15 at 11 AM -
Children's Christmas Play

Christmas Eve Services:

5 PM -
Interactive Child Centered Worship
7:30 PM-
Candelight, Communion, Carols
11 PM- Online Lessons and Carols

Artwork: "Abolition Baby" by Nicolette Peñaranda
| A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



Join our global family.
Host an international student!

Host a high school student
for a semester or year.

Questions?
Talk to a local representative
about the AFS experience:

Barb McManus
bjmcmamus57@gmail.com or 513-608-2781

1-800-AFS-INFO
afsusa.org/host



AFS-USA is supported through funding from the U.S. Department of State. AFS-USA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

A Winter Walk Through Clifton

By Anonymous Cliftonite

Stone, brick, and stucco set the stage,
Like a backdrop to a local play.

Inside, family, friends, and neighbors fill our homes,
Finding sofa arms and soft rugs to sit and gather.
Sweet and savory aromas escape from steaming pots
and hot ovens,
Teasing a homemade meal ready to be relished.

Outside, chimney smoke seasons the cold, crisp air.
Branches creak, and twigs crack like dominoes down
each breezy street.

Amber glows seep through frosty leaded windows.
As leaves disappear, new sight lines emerge.
Buildings flash once-hidden facades,
Revealing unfamiliar vantages and proximities.

The stillness,
The smell,
The feeling,
Cannot be too different than 100 years ago.
As if a moment timed just right could be a portal
to the past.

Life moves quickly.
Change happens frequently.
Winter is a welcome time for rest and appreciation.

I am grateful indeed.

Angela Roskop at the Klau Library

By Abigail Bacon, Head of Public Services and Outreach

The Klau Library is an academic library open to the public in the heart of Clifton. Our library is the hub for Hebrew Union College's students and faculty and serves countless visiting researchers, many of whom are college alumni.

Meet Angela Roskop Erisman, originally from Minnesota, who came to Cincinnati several years ago to pursue a Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible at HUC after completing her MA at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She settled here with her husband, Jay Erisman, a native Cliftonite, when he co-founded New Riff Distilling in Newport, KY.

Erisman is an active scholar who writes articles and books on a section of the Bible called the Pentateuch, or Torah. She teaches occasionally at local churches and synagogues and is involved with the Society of Biblical Literature, an international scholarly organization. Erisman travels internationally to offer lectures and seminars, most recently to the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford. Her newest book, *The Wilderness Narratives in the Hebrew Bible: Religion, Politics, and Biblical Interpretation*, will be published in November by Cambridge University Press.

Erisman is a frequent visitor to the library, coming at least once or twice each month to use its incredible wealth of resources. To be a scholar, as she frames it, one must be in conversation with other scholars from different continents and previous generations. For Erisman, this means going back to the nineteenth century, and even to antiquity, to read what her predecessors have written. In the Klau Library, she can find almost everything she needs. In her words, "It is a treasure virtually without parallel."

Being a Gen-Xer, Erisman tends to blend current technology with very old-school research methods when preparing for her library visits. While she uses the online catalog to locate items in our system



and download articles to her iPad, Erisman breaks out the trusty index card system she learned in high school before heading to the library. After identifying a useful book, she creates a card for it. This efficient system allows her to use more time to read the materials needed for her research projects.

Now that her book on the wilderness narrative awaits printing, Erisman has moved on to her next projects, including a commentary on the book of Numbers (Cambridge University Press), a book about the history and theology of the book of Exodus, a book about women in the Pentateuch, and a biography of Moses.

Erisman will deliver a free public lecture in the library this December titled "Literature as Politics: The Exodus Narrative." Erisman shares, "The Bible is an incredible work of literature. There is something in it for everyone, no matter what your background or interests. The more I study, the more I find new things in it, and not just small things. My work has revolutionized my own understanding, and I seek to share that with others through my writing and teaching." To join us for this free lecture, the event details and registration are on huc.edu/libraryseries. ■



Clifton Soccer

Spring & Fall Seasons

Fielding teams
for boys & girls ages 4-18

Great soccer in a great neighborhood!

SAY East League

sign up at cliftonsoccer.org

Garden of Joy Culinary Academy Ribbon Cutting

By Gérald Checco

On Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024, a jubilant crowd of over 200 guests sang as a ribbon was cut to celebrate the opening of a new cultural and educational project in Clifton: The Garden of Joy Culinary Academy. The location is a familiar one, previously a Frisch's restaurant at 3226 Central Parkway. Reverend Todd O'Neal and Ali Rizvi are the 'godparents' of this exciting initiative. Reverend O'Neal ("Rev") is the Bishop of the House of Joy Church located next door and is a former Cincinnati Public Schools Music Teacher. Ali is a social worker for CPS and is also a musician. No wonder they see "cooking as dancing" and think that good eating is enhanced by listening to music.

Their dream is to create a safe place for kids and young adults to learn an essential life skill: cooking. Eating well is a basic need lost in many struggling families. The academy's vision is to develop cooking talents and help young people understand where the food comes from. Raised planting beds outdoors and indoor hydroponic structures will provide some of the greens needed for cooking, but more importantly, will make

clear the connection between growing plants and eating them. Other partners include Mywhy Cincinnati, Joe Burrow Foundation, CPS, Cincinnati State, and Job Corps.

When Rev saw Frisch's Restaurant closing, he knew this would be the opportunity for his dream, an ideal situation that would probably never come again. He purchased the property and began renovations. The proximity of Clifton Colony apartments also offers a unique source that can benefit from a community center where youth and young adults can gather for conversation, cooking, and, of course, playing music. Ali and Rev plan to create a small stage in the restaurant for performances.

One of the teaching chefs is well known in Clifton—our beloved Mohammed Largo, former owner of Marrakech restaurant on Ludlow Avenue. He will teach North African cooking, with perfect seasoning and grilling that's certain to open the eyes (and taste buds) of the young cooks!

Programs are expected to ramp up in January 2025, with the intention to build summer activities. To learn more and to offer support, go to <https://www.gardenofjoyculinary.org>. ■



Cyclists and Board Game Enthusiasts Welcome at Diggs Plaza



NEW!

Several new amenities have been added to Clifton's little corner of Burnet Woods: two game tables, art bike racks, and a bike repair station. Thanks to a successful grant application to the Strader Fund, CTM has gifted these items to the Cincinnati Park Board. Clifton Cultural Arts Center donated the art bike racks designed and fabricated by Bob Dye. ACE Hardware supported the project, and Parks staff provided transportation of materials and expert installation. Bring your own checkers, chess pieces, carry-out snacks, and meals to enjoy the beauty of the adjacent woods. Watch for more improvements coming to Diggs Plaza in the very near future.

events



Community Potluck

Sat, Dec 7 at 11:00 am



Sunset Salons: Coffee

Tue, Jan 21 at 6:00 pm



Highly Improvable

Sat, Feb 1 at 8:00 pm

SECOND SUNDAY SHOWTIME

Lively, family-friendly theater and cultural performances offered for FREE every month.



CSO Holiday Concert

Sun, Dec 8 at 2:00 pm



A Taste of Ireland

Sun, Jan 12 at 2:00 pm



Circus Youth in Action

Sun, Feb 9 at 2:00 pm

exhibits



Oil and Dust Paul Loehle

Dec 13 - Jan 3



FIB3R IS ART Juried Exhibit

Jan 17 - Feb 7



Emerging Artists Summerfair Cincinnati

Feb 13 - Feb 28

2025 SUMMER CAMPS

CCAC's incredible line-up of multi-disciplinary art camps for summer 2025 go on sale in January!



WINTER BREAK ART CAMP

Mon, Dec 30 – Fri, Jan 3 (no class 1/1)

Your child will spend their week away from school expressing themselves creatively and laughing with friends.

education

CRAFTS & COCKTAILS

Create a unique piece of art while enjoying the evening's signature cocktail – or any other refreshment.



Raku & Wassail

Fri, Dec 20 at 6:00 pm



Chandeliers & Champagne

Fri, Jan 17 at 6:00 pm



Relief Sculptures & Painkillers

Fri, Feb 21 at 6:00 pm

FAMILY WORKSHOP

Have fun as a family creating one-of-a-kind art pieces and lasting memories.



Holiday Bottle Buddies

Sat, Dec 14 at 10:00 am



Printing with LEGO®

Sat, Jan 11 at 10:00 am



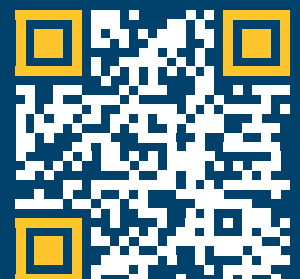
Pop-up Valentines

Sat, Feb 8 at 10:00 am



3412 Clifton Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45220

513.497.2860
cliftonculturalarts.org



Small Business Owner Spotlight

Greta Peterson of Hansa Guild Co.



Greta Peterson is the passionate owner of Hansa Guild Co.—a unique and vibrant shop on Ludlow Avenue. Greta cultivates a shop with hand-crafted, ethically sourced products that reflect a commitment to quality and sustainability. Hansa Guild Co. has helped foster a strong sense of community here in Clifton, hosting workshops and events that encourage creativity and collaboration. Going into the store, visitors are transported into a world where artisanal goods play a central role in storytelling and fostering connections among neighbors.

Hansa Guild Co. is known for its curated collection of handmade goods, including textiles, ceramics, and home décor, all of which support local and global artisans. It is also widely known for Greta's kindness and thoughtfulness. She takes the time to get to know those who visit her shop, and her efforts pay off—pleased customers always leave the store with the perfect item and the knowledge they'll be back again.

Maya's Family Tradition of Unique Jewelry and Crafts

By Linda Fatherree



In the heart of the Clifton business district, Victor Morales found a perfect home for MAYA, his boutique collection of hand-crafted jewelry from Mayan, Mexican, Navajo, and Zuni Pueblo artisans.

As a native Mayan from Guatemala with his Italian wife Elisa and their Cincinnati-born daughter Giulia, Victor and his family appreciate the diversity of the community, the friendliness of its residents, and the ongoing support for local small businesses.

Victor works directly with talented artists and craftsmen from Guatemala to Mexico and the Southwestern U.S. to offer customers a variety of beautifully handcrafted items. In the eight years since MAYA opened, the shop's primary focus has been its collection of hand-crafted silver jewelry with various shells and stones, including coral, turquoise, onyx, spiny oysters, and more.

Today, MAYA also offers a variety of unique creations from Mexico and Central America. Fantastical creatures known as alebrijes are carved and painted in Oaxaca, Mexico. Incredibly soft and warm bamboo chenille scarves are hand-woven by a cooperative of Mayan women. Other whimsical and decorative items fill the shop with color and energy.

Generations of Victor's family have nurtured relationships with talented artists and craftsmen to bring their products to new customers. He said, "It is wonderful that our Clifton neighbors have helped us continue this family tradition. We are committed to offering friendly service and a unique gallery that our community is proud to support."

MAYA is located at 323 Ludlow and is open daily in December during the holidays. Learn more at www.jewelrymaya.com or on Facebook at "JewelrybyMaya."

Holidays on Ludlow Saturday Dec. 14

Shop in our lovely
Gaslight businesses, join
in the evening celebration
**on Clifton Plaza
from 6 - 8 pm.**
**Lighting of our
community tree
is at 6:15 pm!**
*Please - add
your handmade
ornaments!*

**Come let
us enjoy -
Santa, Music,
Beverages,
& More!**

*Hosted by Clifton Business Association
and Clifton Town Meeting and our friends!*



LUDLOW GARAGE OH.
CIN
WHERE LIVE MUSIC COMES TO PLAY

- Cocktails
- Brunch
- Dinner
- & of course
Legendary
Concerts

Best Brunch in Clifton!



THE
WHITFIELD
CLIFTON GASLIGHT DISTRICT
513.712.3000



Gaslight
PROPERTY



Open House
Sunday, October 20
2:00-4:00

- Preprimary to grade 6
- Embracing all definitions of family
- Credentialed Montessori teachers
- Preprimary and Elementary Woods for play in shaded and natural settings
- Extended Day from 3:00-5:30 p.m.
- Chef-prepared hot lunches with vegetarian options (included in tuition)
- Accredited by both the American Montessori Society and ISACS

Academic Excellence with Montessori Heart

Call **(513) 281-7999**

www.newschoollmontessori.com



IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3445 Clifton Avenue
Cincinnati, OH



**LOVING AND MEETING ALL
ON A CHRIST-CENTERED JOURNEY.**

IMMANUELPRESBY.ORG

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
CHILD DEVELOPEMENT CENTER
BUDDY BAGS IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH
FAIRVIEW CLIFTON SCHOOL
SUPPORT FOR
ST. GEORGE FOOD PANTRY
INCLUDING
CHRISTMAS BOXES FOR KIDS
EVENTS INCLUDING
COMMUNITY BBQS
AND CHRISTMAS FEST

A Clifton Tradition
Artfully Crafted Cocktails
Creative Cuisine
Comfortable
Inviting
Family Friendly

GASLIGHT
BAR & GRILL
& Rooftop Dining
GaslightBar&Grill.com

RUTH'S
PARKSIDE CAFE

Lunch & Dinner Monday - Friday • Dinner Saturday
Vegan and Vegetarian Options • Full Bar
Free Off-street Parking
Carryout and Reservations Accepted
513-542-7884 RUTHSCAFE.COM

Gaslight Gardening

By Leah Kottyan, Thrall Street

The gardens of Clifton are part of our neighborhood's identity. We use our sidewalks, enjoy each other, and 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.

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." – Audrey Hepburn

Growing vegetables, fruits, and herbs in my garden is my joyful expression of love for my family and friends. I adore filling my dinner table with sauces made from my own tomatoes, peppers, and herbs. I live for the crunch of a freshly picked cucumber sprinkled with fresh dill and doused in vinegar. I am the friend who shows up with a bag of whatever happens to be growing in my garden. Like other Clifton neighbors, growing food is part of who I am.

If you want to grow your own food, no decision is as important as choosing what to plant. As you create a plan, your priorities will be deeply personal. For me, the most important consideration is taste. Thus, we first find spots for our favorite tomatoes, cucumbers, and pepper varieties. When planning for the planting season, we start sweet peas very early in the spring in the same soil used for tomatoes we plant after Mother's Day.

If you live in a space with limited gardening opportunities on the ground, consider vegetables that are optimized for pots. I pass by many impressive tomato and pepper plants grown on the balconies of apartments around Clifton. The Clifton community garden also offers an

opportunity to garden in the community—learning and sharing with neighbors. We grow herbs and grape tomatoes in our small backyard on baskets mounted to the fence.

One of the most fun parts of vegetable gardening is how each season teaches you a new lesson. As you plan your 2025 vegetable garden, here are a few tips I have learned:

- Planting from seed is exciting. Cucumbers, beans, peas, and beets are especially easy to grow from seed.
- Veggie gardens can be beautiful. Add companion plants after ensuring they are not poisonous.
- Squirrels and other Clifton critters can be frustrating. Consider throwing a net over crops that are about to ripen.
- The Cincinnati area has a lot of fungus in the air. Consider varieties of vegetables with natural resistance to fungal blights.
- Mint often misbehaves and takes over a space. I isolate mint in its own pot.
- All vegetables need water. Establish a watering plan that works for your lifestyle. Drip irrigation and self-watering bottles work well.
- Make a plan before you find yourself with more seeds and plants than you have space!
- If you find yourself with more veggies, seeds, or plants than you anticipated—share.

Enjoy the process from planning to growing, from harvesting to consuming! In the spring Gaslight Gardening Column, we will explore the joys of starting plants from seed in the late winter and spring before transplanting to the garden. ■



Manifest Drawing Center

By Kevin Leigh-Manuelli, Program Coordinator

Manifest Drawing Center, a non-profit organization located at 3464 Central Parkway in Cincinnati, serves as a dedicated hub for artists looking to develop their drawing, painting, and photography skills. Committed to promoting visual literacy and critical thinking, the Center offers a diverse range of professionally instructed courses and workshops that cater to various artistic interests, as well as uninstructed open sessions that encourage independent exploration. As the only regional art center focused specifically on the discipline of drawing, Manifest provides a unique opportunity for artists to refine their techniques and expand their creative horizons.

The Drawing Center fosters a supportive and inclusive environment, welcoming individuals of all experience levels—from beginners to seasoned professionals. By prioritizing high-quality education and community engagement, Manifest aims to inspire serious artists in their creative endeavors while fostering a vibrant network of artists. Studio programs include:

Drawing As Mindfulness / Mondays 7 – 9 pm

This weekly offering is designed for anyone, from those with no skill, talent, or experience to those who have studied art all their lives. Drawing as Mindfulness is a thoughtful observational approach to drawing and an invitation to get to know yourself on a deeper level.

Open Figure Sessions / Tuesdays – Sundays (times vary)

As Manifest's oldest running program, operating continuously since 2004, the Open Figure Sessions continue to provide the Greater Cincinnati region a valuable life-drawing opportunity in which professionals, students, novices, teachers, and the creative public can work side-by-side in the common pursuit of shared learning around the discipline of drawing while working from the nude (or clothed) model. Open Figure sessions are now offered weekly on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Sundays throughout the year.

Open Photo Lab / Sundays – Thursdays (times vary)

The Open Lab Sessions are an opportunity to cultivate and strengthen photographic communities within the Greater Cincinnati region through a shared black-and-white darkroom and film processing station in the rich and supportive environment of the Manifest Drawing Center facility. Open Lab Sessions provide the chemistry and equipment to freely print and develop film in a relaxed but vibrant environment.

Drawing Essentials / Tuesdays 6 – 9 pm

Whether you're picking up a pencil for the first time or brushing up on your skills after a studio sabbatical, Drawing Essentials is the perfect place to start. This ten-class series offers a foundation in basic observational drawing practices and techniques to unite the hand, the head, and the heart. Sign up for any class within the series individually—as a "refresher" on a specific topic—or register for the entire series for a significant discount!

Study Hall / Fridays 1:30 – 4 pm, Sundays 4:40 – 7 pm

Study Hall is a FREE weekly opportunity for students, professionals, and the creative public to utilize Manifest Drawing Center's most supportive resources—including our growing collection of classical anatomical casts and an impressive natural specimen library. Cast drawing allows artists to practice various fundamental drawing skills while also allowing for the study of classical proportions and historical works. With the help of a moderator, casts will be set up and lit early during the sessions. ■

Walking Around the City Is Not So Unusual, Or Is It?

By Steven Schuckman



Taking long walks with friends is not so unusual, nor is stopping for coffee and pastries along the way. When you do this weekly for over two years, the miles and the coffees (and the pastries) add up. Three friends, former coworkers at the Cincinnati Park Department and now retired, walk about 10 miles once a week and have so far clocked over 1,000 miles of walks and over 60,000 feet of elevation change (twice the height of Mt. Everest) through 42 City neighborhoods and 20 outside the city. They have also frequented 85 locally owned neighborhood coffee shops/bakeries so far.

The three walkers are Clifton residents Gerald Checco and Steven Schuckman and Hyde Park resident Larry Annett. With many

of the walks starting in Clifton, there are always hills to climb on the way home. Walks from Clifton have looped through Spring Grove Village, Northside, Mt. Airy Forest, Camp Washington, CUF, Corryville, St. Bernard, Avondale, N. Avondale, Mt. Auburn, Mt. Adams, OTR, Downtown, the Riverfront, Newport, Covington, Walnut Hills, E. Walnut Hills, Hyde Park, Oakley, and Norwood. Other walks included Price Hill, Westwood, Kennedy Heights, Pleasant Ridge, Silverton, Wyoming, Hartwell, Woodlawn, Glendale, College Hill, Mariemont, Milford, California, Terrace Park, Mt. Lookout, Columbia-Tusculum, Lockland, Reading, Saylor Park, Newtown, and the Northern Kentucky communities of Bromley, Ludlow, Bellevue, Dayton, and Ft. Thomas.

They have walked through 60 parks, numerous hillside stairways and hidden mid-block walkways, several regional bike paths, and a large assortment of interesting sights (at least interesting to them). These have included the former Powell Crosley estate, Downtown and the riverfront, Findlay Market and OTR, impressive building atria/lobbies, several historic Carnegie Libraries, and the Lloyd Library. There have also been several church interiors (including the Basilica in Covington), former incline sites, overlooks, walks along the Ohio and Little Miami rivers, and the campuses of UC and Xavier. Walks have included many diverse neighborhoods and lined with historic architecture and interesting new development projects since all three like to keep updated on the city's physical

changes. Other highlights include Spring Grove Cemetery, numerous community recreation centers, and the American Sign Museum.

Along the way are interesting conversations with people they meet on the street (for example, mail carriers they met along the way say they walk about 10 miles a day), peeks at little libraries, and finding numerous murals, 'street art,' and fascinating lawn ornaments/sculptures. And they are always on the lookout for new bakeries and new neighborhood coffee shops. They even came up with an acronym to describe the three of them. They call themselves the Walking Old Retired Men Society (WORMS). Look for the WORMS in your neighborhood. ■

Howell Avenue Pet Hospital

317 Howell Avenue

Cincinnati, OH 45220



Call today to schedule an appointment

513-221-3404

www.howellavenuepethospital.com

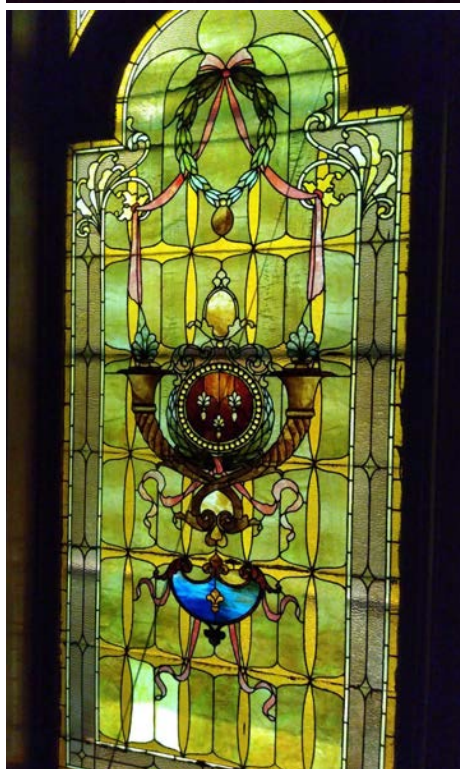
Business Hours

Mon – Fri	7 AM – 6 PM
Saturday	8AM – Noon
Sunday	Closed

Happily serving Clifton and the surrounding community since 2010!

Hidden Windows

By Dora Schield



As in most small towns or urban neighborhoods, at least a few houses of worship display notable and decorative windows illuminating a congregation's meaning of their faith. That being said, let's move on to the title of my essay, those hidden windows.

Shortly after settling in Clifton, I took an evening walk along the streets of private and multi-family houses. It is easy to admire the unique architectural exteriors of these houses any time of day. Still, as I strolled past the lighted interiors, I observed Newell posts that commanded spindled staircases, ornamental chandeliers glowing from the ceilings, and what, for me, truly deserving of royal status, stained-glass windows that seem to 'vanish' in outdoor daylight.

Even some of the more modest houses in Clifton have at least one ornamental window. For example, I noted one in particular with many clear glass panels, but above them, stained-glass transoms that might even be seen during certain daytime hours. While searching for other windows, I was invited into a house with elaborate entryway windows hidden by tall shrubbery that surprised and delighted me.

The windows illustrated in this essay denote art, stained and beveled glass. Consider the maiden with the blue vase. It was created by G.C. Riordan & Co. The design illustrates the combined use of art (painted) and stained (colored) glass, as does the vertical staircase panel located in another area of Clifton. My favorites are beveled windows that use clear or lightly textured glass; the thickness and shaping of the glass determine their dramatic outcomes because beveling behaves like prisms when exposed to sun or interior lighting. Beveled windows are favored more for doors and decorative exteriors and are more easily observed by passers-by.

Riordan Studios is the "oldest operating art/stained glass studio in the US." Its origins go back to 1838 when Coulter & Finagin Glass Co. established itself at Plum & Fifth St., Cincinnati. G.C. Riordan purchased it in 1892. Riordan was a well-respected artisan who established the Cincinnati Art Club along with Frank Duveneck, et al. BeauVerre Riordan Studios, located in Middletown, OH, continues the legacy. If the curious chooses to visit the studio, staff will demonstrate the techniques used for each type of glass. If you have time, check city directories from the mid-19th century through the early 20th century, and you'll be astonished at how many craft/artistic disciplines have been lost. In the meantime, keep alert! We invite Clintonites to submit photos of their own hidden windows (address protected) to the History Bash on December 14th. ■



The Stephenson Sisters Cincinnati's Natural History Blowout!

By Gérald Checco

With degrees in Biology and Botany, Hester Stephenson had a passion for nature. She was about to obtain a PhD in Microbiology when it was discovered that her PhD research resembled too closely something that had just been published at another American university. Hester was devastated—her many years of research would seemingly lead to nothing.

Irwin Krohn, the President of the Park Board, heard about it all and hired Hester as the first full-time parks naturalist in 1931. Eight years later, Hester hired her sister Bernice (a.k.a. "Bea") in 1939.

The Stephenson sisters were the epitome of nature education in Cincinnati, creating the first nature education curriculum, establishing well-attended nature walks, and capturing the creativity of students and teachers with their seasonal workshops for the invention of 'pixies,' beloved little characters made from natural found objects. These crafty treasures are still displayed on the huge decorated tree at Krohn Conservatory's holiday show.

The sisters created the prized Pixie Books series sold by the Park Board. Their third sister, Aida, an Illustrator at the Gibson Greeting Cards Company, helped them to design the book.

Hester was a prolific writer, authoring a bi-weekly nature article for the City Bulletin, Cincinnati's official newsletter. These 500+ word articles were featured at the front of each bulletin, revealing facts about our soil, rocks, songbirds, flowers, trees, and stars.

The Stephenson's classes welcomed over 20,000 students annually during their long career, totaling over 750,000 sessions! One highly successful program in the early 1930s—Patrol Trails—centered around Burnet Woods to survey tree species and their labeling. The energy generated by this program is sure to have led to the construction of the Trailside Nature Center in 1939, a legacy that responded to well-defined needs identified by Hester.

The Stephenson sisters both retired in 1970 for health reasons and died in their early nineties. ■



Clifton's Thoreau

By Bonnie Holliday Speeg

Clifton's leaves turn brilliant gold and scarlet in autumn. Here is a look back at Dr. John Aston Warder (1812–1883), one of Clifton's first residents, who was an environmentalist, horticulturalist, and 1883 founder of the American Forestry Association. Warder was a champion of trees, Thoreau and Whitman's contemporary, and a Quaker physician. In the 1840s, Warder was among the firsts to move to Clifton before the ostentatious mansions. The area then was a verdant green forest; no towering spires rose across the hillsides.



Warder's first house, named by him, was Scarlet Oaks on Lafayette Avenue, built for his wife Elizabeth and seven children. Clifton's geography was a healthy distance from the smoke, pig, and cholera-filled Cincinnati basin. This 1840's Scarlet Oaks predated industrialist Shoenberger's structure by at least 20 years. Yet still too close to the city in 1855, Warder, while living at Scarlet Oaks, purchased 325 acres of North Bend land from Anna, W. H. Harrison's widow. Warder built Aston Oaks English Manor in 1872. It would become the first agricultural experimental farm in the U.S., listed on the National Register.

Today, Scarlet Oaks Assisted Living on Lafayette Avenue stands on the earlier site of Dr. Warder's 1840s cottage home and orchards, the original Scarlet Oaks. In 1864, Shoenberger purchased the 47-acre estate from Warder, and in 1867, he hired architect James Keys Wilson to build the Romanesque mansion, the second Scarlet Oaks. Traveling along Lafayette Avenue, turn into Scarlet Oaks, go down the valley,

and rise up to Shoenberger's 'castle' facing north. Visualize a charming frame house on that rising site with apple, pear, and peach orchards, and a small lake. Warder's vision of bucolic life drew him to build the now-gone A.J. Downing Gothic-Revival 1843 cottage known as Scarlet Oaks.

Warder was influential in early Cincinnati as a founding member of the Cincinnati Horticultural Society and Spring Grove Cemetery. In 1845, papers were drawn up in the south parlor in Robert Buchanan's house on Clifton Avenue, Spring Grove. Warder edited horticultural journals drawing attention to landscape design, advocating and fostering for parks and cemeteries. He was a member of the Astronomical Society, Ohio Medical College, Natural History Society, and others. It was said they all felt his guiding power.

On October 21st, 2023, Warder Nature Preserve off Winton Road was dedicated. Nearby Warder Nursery, owned by the Cincinnati Park Board, provides plants for Krohn Conservatory and parks. Clifton resident Gerald Checco lives near Scarlet Oaks. Checco's contribution and dedication to horticulture in Cincinnati is duly noted; he is currently President of the Urban Forestry Advisory Board.



Rumor says that in 1883, Warder was buried in a wicker coffin at Spring Grove Cemetery. His grave marker is an enormous natural boulder. All seven children and his wife, Elizabeth, are buried here. An aging coniferous tree dominates the plot. The tree will never turn colors like Scarlet Oaks. Instead, Warder offers an abiding family portrait in green for the ages. ■

Clifton Historical Society Upcoming Events

History Bash

December 14th & March 16th, 4 – 7 pm @ CCAC, Art Room, 1st floor

Theme: "The Allure of Stained Glass" with a preservationist to answer your questions. Bring snapshots of your windows! Plus, a mansion walk-through and project discussions.

Private Historical Tour of Spring Grove Cemetery

May 4th, Times TBD

Experience a magnificent guided tour of Spring Grove's most notable Clifton grave sights and mausoleums. A \$20 per person fee helps support the arboretum. To learn more and reserve your spot, visit cliftonculturalarts.org/SpringGrove or call 513-497-2860.

More events to be announced!

The Clifton Historical Society's Holiday Party!

Dec. 14th, 9:30 am - 1 pm at CCAC
1st floor Art Room, parking at rear.

Our Guest Speakers:

Beth Johnson - Director, Cincinnati Preservation with notes on special Clifton houses and issues
Robert Flischel - noted photographer and author on his latest books, ready to sign for Christmas gifts

Delectable Foods & Wines
served up with open discussions!

RESERVE your place at
Cliftonculturalarts.org/XmasBash
or call 513-497-2860

Donation: \$25/each to support CCAC
and the Clifton Historical Society

CELEBRATING EIGHT MAGICAL YEARS



of not closing

364 Ludlow Ave • Cinti, OH 45220 • thewholebowl.com



...and so much more

- ▶ Shirt laundry
- ▶ Wedding gown preservation
- ▶ Comforters & bedspreads
- ▶ Wash & fold
- ▶ Residential pickup & delivery
- ▶ Service at Clifton Market

513.661.1400

kronerdrycleaners.com

Spring Grove Arboretum and Cemetery: A National Historic Landmark

By Geoff Gelke, Historian, Clifton Historical Society

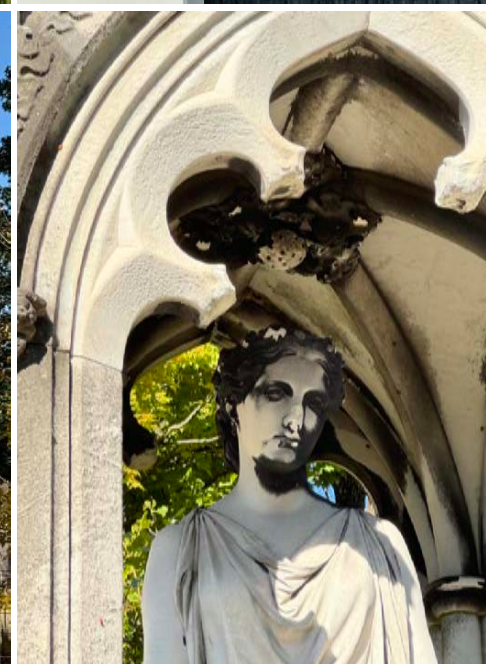
October 20th marked Clifton Historical Society's first historical tour of Spring Grove via tram with amplified docent telling the story of Spring Grove along with some of its notable Clifton residents interred. Further, how the founding "barons" of Clifton saw a beautiful cemetery as an extension of their park-like estates along LaFayette Avenue, from which they could view the cemetery from afar in their mansion's belvederes. Both 'baronial Clifton' and the cemetery thus became connected through strong interests in horticulture, landscaping, and architecture, abundant in both, first appearing in the 1840s and still going strongly. This coupling created the mystique of Clifton, a sort of 'Camelot' that survives to this day, even in the psyche of those not overly imbued with history, as a quiet acknowledgment and respect of its past while noticing its rising real estate values that exclaim its special residential status, all riding the coattails

of this early development.

To deeply appreciate Clifton, one needs to carefully tour this cemetery while viewing its special status as an arboretum of rare flora, then as a repository of architectural expressions, and then to let the landscape bring it all together in your memory as a very special place indeed. This feeling may motivate you to research names like Israel Ludlow, who started it all; Salmon P. Chase, Clifton's most notable resident; or Louise Nippert, Clifton's most philanthropic resident. The list goes on.

If you make it this far, you can then occupy your retirement years researching all the barons of Clifton buried here, all the superintendents, horticulturists, and the famous landscape designer Adolph Strauch, all of whom created this special place. Much of this will be the subject of a booklet in progress.

If you missed the Tour this year, look forward to the Spring Tour, which will be posted in The Chronicle. Special thanks to Amanda Frietsch, Docent and Historian. ■



Clifton's Grande Dame Louise Nippert

Mary Louise Dieterle Nippert 1911 – 2012

By Geoff Gelke, Historian, Clifton Historical Society



If a Clifton family could ever be considered aristocracy, it would be the Nipperts, Louise and Louis way out in front. Here were a couple of notable lineages who strongly agreed to take a 'Noblesse Oblige' stance with Cincinnati. They were both humble, accomplished, enormously wealthy, and without children. Perhaps they later compensated for that void by creating Green Acres Foundation, a 600+ acre estate in Indian Hill, for the benefit of youths to learn the ways of nature, farming, horticulture, horsemanship, and of being constant companions to the Nipperts.

But the story begins at 119 Hosea St. in Clifton, where "Louise," as she preferred to be called, lived with her parents, George A. and Elsa Dieterle, along with a woman servant. Her father worked in the family distillery (Union Distilling in Carthage) alongside his father, George F. Dieterle, who was able to build the grand house at 210 Hosea in 1906. Across the street, at 3460 Oxford Terrace, lived Louise's lifetime companion, Margret Gruen of the Gruen

Watch Company, who just so happened to be Louise's cousin. In 1930, Louise's father, George A. Dieterle, substantially upgraded their homestead by building a grand Tudor house at 3480 Oxford Terrace, complete with leaded glass that sparkles even when you view it from the street, giving it that extra look of quality. He was to die there in 1968.

When Louise reached puberty, she was sent off to a Swiss finishing school, followed by enrollment at UC, where she met Louis Nippert, a Westwood native who was there to study law. She had family wealth, alright, but Louis was the great-grandson of James Gamble. Need more be said? Eventually, they married in the Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church in 1935 and found residence at The Riverview Apartments at 2538 Hackberry St. in East Walnut Hills, quite a fashionable address back then. Louis formed a law firm with his brother on the 21st floor of the Union Central Building, then off to WW II, emerging as a colonel.

As 1950 approached, the

Nipperts sprung into their philanthropic quest by first purchasing their Green Acres estate (named after the Indigenous family, the "Greens," whose original farm it was), which can be visited today. The estate has its own farm store to purchase the farm's harvests. It is, indeed, all very impressive!

This article doesn't allow enough space for all the Nipperts' philanthropy but just consider donating \$85M to the Cincinnati Symphony and Pops to endow them forever, buying the Reds when it was rumored they were about to move to another city, \$6M to the Art Museum, CCM (she was a mezzo-soprano), UC Foundation, Children's and Christ Hospital, and millions more to help the people of Cincinnati. They both passed away peacefully at 89 and 100 at their beautiful estate in Indian Hill. In keeping with their nature, the Nippert monument in Spring Grove is not a marker but a beautiful long stone bench, welcoming visitors to stop, rest, and contemplate the beautiful lake before them. They never stopped thinking about others. ■

1882 Oscar Wilde Visits Cincinnati & Clifton

By Jan Brown Checco



Etching of Oakwood, home of Henry Probasco

The Ludlow Garage hasn't been Clifton's only destination to receive international rock stars! Had it existed in 1882, Oscar Wilde would certainly have dropped in for a show. From his first steps off the boat into New York City, Cincinnati newspapers covered Wilde's every move, publishing over 500 articles that year about "the youthful priest of the beautiful" as he toured North America to promote his own theatre production. Tickets sold out to every lecture he gave during his February and June visits to the Queen City, where he enlightened audiences about decoration and art. Society bigwigs vied for a slot on his social dance card; florists sold out of every sunflower and lily they could stock. His hotel rooms were strewn with bouquets, and young men wore capes and wigs to his public lectures in reverence to their aesthetic hero.

Destinations on Wilde's Cincinnati itinerary included Burnet House, Robert Clarke & Co. Booksellers, Rookwood Pottery, The School of Design (now the

Cincinnati Art Academy), where he was "appalled that the students were prohibited from smoking. "Great heaven," he exclaimed. "I wonder they do not caution the students not to murder each other on the landings," The Cincinnati Art Museum, The Rookwood Estate, residence of Maria Longworth Nichols on Grandin Road where he was twice a guest, Music Hall where he saw Aida and where "the audience was hard put to watch both the diva Adelina Patti and Wilde, one in slave's chains and the other in knee breeches," The Grand Opera House, and Mrs. Andrew's Boarding House where he met and dined with John R. Gandy, a decorative artist and other guests, including painter Henry Farny, and finally The Musical Club where "he condemned with stinging severity and excellent drollery the American custom of omnipresent advertising."

The morning after his boarding house dinner with Gandy, Wilde took a carriage ride into Clifton to visit hardware merchant Henry Probasco, notable for his gift of the Tyler Davidson Fountain to the city a decade earlier.

Probasco's magnificent Anglo-Normand manor – Oakwood – still commands at 430 West Cliff Lane. Wilde would have spent the morning enjoying the extraordinary parlor and library, full of rare books, including "a first folio Shakespeare, an early edition of Dante, and a rare medieval Greek Bible." The "grounds are reputed to have almost everything in the shape of shade and ornamental trees, in addition to the forest trees of America, plus evergreens gathered from various countries of the globe.

Probasco's rosarium, which sheltered 4000 roses, would have been in their June splendor, and the "ample grounds which were improved immediately after Probasco purchased the land, were in a perfected state of gentle slopes, with rise and fall attained by years of labor and immense expenditure." (descriptions by D.J.Kenny)

When he returned to England, Wilde was quoted as saying that "Cincinnati, Chicago, and San Francisco were the kindest and friendliest cities he had visited during his entire tour of the globe." ■



Nast cartoon, 1882

2nd Annual Clifton Welcome & Connect

By *Gérald Checco*



On a beautiful sunny Saturday afternoon, September 7th, CTM and Clifton Branch Library welcomed over 200 new immigrants to our area. Many are students, hospital researchers, or other professionals. Some came to our community eight months ago, while others arrived that week! Nine other organizations joined CTM and the Clifton Branch Library, providing abundant helpful information for these new neighbors. They were:

- 311Cincy and 911
- Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library - Public Engagement
- Cincinnati Metro
- Clifton Recreation Commission
- Cincinnati State Free Community ESL
- Clifton Area Neighborhood School (CANS/CPS)
- Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME)
- Refugee Connect
- UC International

The gathering included people from Ukraine, Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Cameroon, Mauritania, Benin, Congo, Thailand, Taiwan, Korea, Morocco, Senegal, and India.

Thanks to the CTM trustees who supported the planning and operation of this important neighborhood orientation event. ■

Celebrate the Triumphant Return of CliftonFest

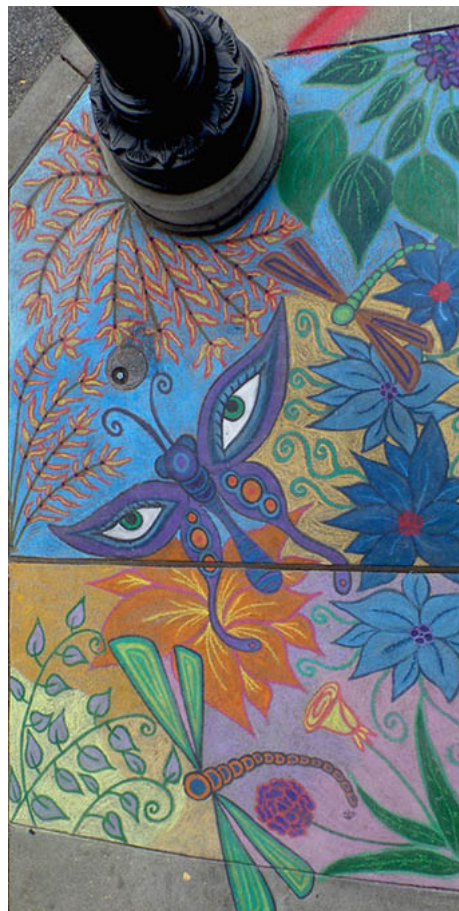
By *Leslie Mooney, CCAC*

Mark your calendars for September 12th–13th, 2025, as CliftonFest returns to Ludlow Avenue after a 5-year hiatus. Bringing together art, music, food, and community in a vibrant celebration, this beloved regional arts and culture festival promises to be bigger and better than ever. CliftonFest 2025 will feature talented local art vendors, exciting live performances, spectacular chalk drawings, and delicious culinary offerings.

We need your assistance to make this event a success! Join our volunteer planning committee to help shape the festival experience. As we get closer to 2025, we'll seek passionate individuals to assist with logistics, set-up, and clean-up and support bands, artists, and vendors throughout the weekend. Whether serving beer or guiding festival-goers, your contributions will be invaluable.

Don't miss the chance to be part of this community celebration. Sign up to volunteer and experience the joy of CliftonFest from the inside. Together, let's create lasting memories and strengthen our vibrant community.

For more information and to get involved, visit cliftonculturalarts.org/cliftonfest or contact Fiona at fiona.hd@cliftonculturalarts.org today! ■



Last year's winner with mug

Clifton Holiday Fair

By *Drake Ash*

Members of the Cincinnati Clay Alliance are busy preparing for the 15th Annual Holiday Pottery Fair. This year's event will once again be held at the Clifton Recreation Center on Saturday, December 7th, from 10 am to 3 pm.

Come shop for unique handmade pieces by over 20 local ceramic artists. You'll see a range of creations, from functional mugs, bowls, and plates to decorative home objects, sculptures, and garden pieces. Each artist will be present at the sale, so it is a wonderful opportunity to ask them any questions you might have about the process used in making their work.

We are repeating our annual mug contest, which is popular with artists and shoppers. Patrons vote on a diverse selection of mugs submitted by Clay Alliance members. At the end of the day, a winner is selected and announced. For the last two years, a whimsical trophy (made out of clay, of course!) has been awarded—created and donated by show organizer Marie Hamaker. Last year's winners were Sean and Penny Iding of ESI Pottery.

The Clay Alliance is a local and regional group of over one hundred ceramic artists. We come together to share information with one another and raise the profile of clay in our community. You can check our website for details about our yearly shows and charity events. Clayalliance.org

Parking and admission to our event are free. Come enjoy shopping for beautiful handmade gifts this year. ■

New Shade Trees on Middleton Ave.

Thanks to the Strader Fund, the Clifton Community Fund, and Catherine Hamilton Hicks for her initiative to bring 17 new redbud trees along Middleton at the Rawson Bird Preserve. Can't wait for the spring color!



Fall Planting in Our Street Flowerpots

CTM organizes four flowerpot changes on Ludlow Avenue every year, with the Clifton Business Association's support by purchasing plant material delivered by the Cincinnati Park Board. This season's crew of 10 neighbors gathered by Jayme Ritter, chair of the Caretaking and Beautification Committee, consisted of Cliftonites and their friends who came for the morning's work. Thanks to everyone who helps to keep our sidewalks pleasant to stroll, including those who regularly remove graffiti and litter.



13th Annual 2024 Clifton Golf Outing

By Tom Lohre



Mike Sanders makes the last putt for a birdie! The foursome won with the lowest score: Mike Sanders, Allyn Vonderchek, Matt Denney, Kyle Murray



CTM Golf Outing PDF
(<http://tomlohre.com/24CTMGolf.pdf>)



CTM Golf Outing Video
(<https://youtu.be/QBkTYu2BPWo>)

Thank you, Clifton Golf Outing Volunteers: John Whedon, Mindi Rich, Gerald Checco, Tom Dwyer, Tom Davoran, John Juech, and Tom Lohre.

Winners

Best score: **Matt Denney, Kyle Murray, Mike Sanders, Allyn Vonderchek**

Closest to the pin on hole #6: **Justin Bolduc**

Closest to the pin on hole #12: **Morgan Rich**

Longest drive on hole #13: **John Juech**

Thank you, major sponsor, Duke Energy, and sponsor of the Friend of Clifton Award.

Thank you, hole sponsors, for the 2024 Clifton Town Meeting Golf Outing: Ludlow Wines, Cincinnati Development Fund, Duke Energy, Clifton SAY Soccer, Live Well Financial, Sustainable Smiles (Dr. Boone), Clifton Dental (Dr. Jennifer Lowe), Superior Credit Union, Gaslight Property, Uptown Consortium, Robert DiTomassi & Barbra Druffel Comey & Shepherd, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, Ace Hardware, Queen City Ford (former Woody Sander), Clifton Market, Molly North, Mac SHACK, CRD Wealth Advisory, US Bank, Hampton Inn Corryville, DePaul Cristo Rey, KOCH Refrigeration, Clifton Business District, and Frost Brown Todd.

Clifton Golf Outing is proud to have raised over \$150,000 for the great parks, schools, and other institutions serving the great neighborhood of Clifton. This year's Clifton Golf Outing beneficiary was Keep Cincinnati Beautiful.

In addition, Clifton Golf Outing supported Cincinnati Bengal Ted Karras adults with disabilities charity by handing out green Cincy hats to all golfers. Clifton Golf Outing is a Clifton Town Meeting event.■



Samantha Shattuck, KCB development manager, explains Keep Cincinnati Beautiful's new program "Adopt-a-Spot"



Supported Cincinnati Bengal Ted Karras adults with disabilities charity by handing out green Cincy hats to all golfers



Tom Davoran and Tom Dwyer thank John Whedon



Beat the Lady Bearcat contest. Lila Jane Whedon, Lady Bearcat Marianne Taylor, Paul Muething, Luke Muething, Brian Muething, Jack Muething



Leslie Mooney received the 2024 Duke Energy's "Friend of Clifton Award." Adam Fosnaugh, Pat Woodside, Leslie Mooney, Chad Burke, Matt Bourgeois. Hole Sponsor: Mac Shack



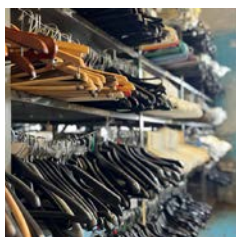
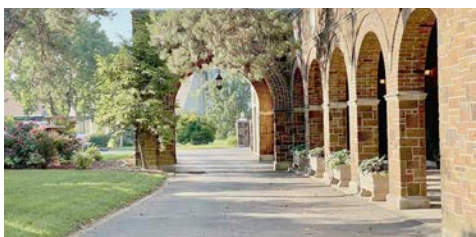
Lowest score brought in by foursome: Mike Sanders, Allyn Vonderchek, Matt Denney, Kyle Murray. Hole Sponsors: Golf Exchange, Mac Shack



Closest to the pin on hole #6 winning foursome: Justin Bolduc, Ryan Taylor, Uwe Stolz, Josh Lea. Hole Sponsor: Ace Hardware



Longest drive on hole #13 winning foursome: John Juech, Mike Cappel, Luke Blocher, Joe Nikol. Sponsors: Robert DiTomassi & Barbra Druffel Comey & Shepherd, Live Well Capital, Queen City Ford



Add your photo to our next issue! Send your image to mycliftonchronicle@gmail.com