



CTM Community News • You Do It • You Write It • We Print It

Small Businesses Lifeblood of Clifton—Keep It Flowing

As we endure a winter with COVID-19 disrupting our lives, our fantastic Ludlow Avenue business district is feeling the effects with fewer customers visiting. We chatted with owners or workers at nine small businesses to hear about the challenges they're facing and the great products and services they are safely offering. —*Bob Driehaus*

Postmark, 3410 Telford St., Sybilka Storie:

Q: How long have you been in business in Clifton?

Postmark opened in 2017 after a change of ownership from the previous restaurant Harvest.

Q: Briefly describe what you offer these days:

Postmark has re-emerged from the Covid shutdown as an affordable and elegant Bistro and wine shop. We offer an amazing deal of a \$35 tasting menu with your choice of three courses along with a Monday night Sit and Sip Happy Hour, Music on the Mark Wednesdays, featuring live music from local musicians, and a beautiful retail wine shop. Hours are Monday through Thursday 5 to 9 p.m. and 5 to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and we are available for delivery and curbside pickup (including wine!). Visit our website for reservations and ordering details www.postmark.restaurant.

Q: What do you like most about doing business in Clifton?

The vibrant and eclectic nature of the residents, visitors and neighborhood. We love the variety of shops and restaurants and being a part of that.

Q: What might surprise customers about your business?

I think what surprises people most about Postmark is that we are not a stuffy, pretentious fine dining restaurant. We just look like one! But in reality, we are a team of hard-working, dedicated and fun hospitality professionals.

Q: What do you think sets you apart from chain restaurants and bars?



Chef Owner Brad Bernstein (photo by Sybilka Storie)

Our dedications to craft and providing honestly prepared food with high-quality ingredients from local farmers and producers. We are a scratch kitchen as well, which means everything is made in house and we can accommodate dietary restrictions/allergies easily and expertly.

Q: How can the community help small businesses such as yours?

The best way to support, of course, it to visit us for lunch or dinner. We love people and making a connection with the neighbors. Ordering delivery/carryout is also a huge help these days. We are available for private event bookings for holiday parties, business meetings, receptions, family celebrations. Gift card purchases to gift friends and family are also available.

Q: What has been the biggest challenge?

Continuing to operate a restaurant and employ staff at less than 50 percent capacity. The costs of doing this is quite a challenge but we are positive and confident that we can find our way through this with the support of our wonderful neighbors.

Q: What's the first thing you want to do at your business when this whole pandemic mess is finally over?

Our biggest priority is to make it through this whole thing while keeping our guests and staff safe and healthy. If and when the day comes that things can go back to "normal," we are putting our vote in for a block party celebration! We'll keep some champagne on ice for it!



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Postmark employee, Christopher Johnson (Sybilka Storie/Red Feather Marketing photo)

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CTM President's Message

As we all head into a Covid-19 winter, I am proud of how Clifton has handled the many challenges thrown our way. We've found ways to safely get together, keep supporting our local businesses, and adapt to new rules for school, work and social life. Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) has been adapting and changing alongside you. We've moved our meetings online and learned on the fly how to handle our normal business in a new setting. We've moved events and gatherings outside and learned to better utilize outdoor spaces. And unfortunately some things had to be pushed back a year, such as the Memorial Day Parade and the Lantern Walk, which will make them all the better when we can finally get back to normal.

Adaptation and change is also necessary for CTM's upcoming trustee elections. CTM and Clifton are extremely fortunate to have an excellent slate of candidates for the six open trustee positions. Their biographies are included in this edition and I hope you'll review them carefully. To vote on them, this year CTM will be offering both in-person and online voting options. Online voting will be available for anyone who pays their CTM dues

by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 4. You can easily pay your dues online at cliftoncommunity.org/membership. By paying your dues early and providing your email address, you'll be able to vote online using a secure link sent to your email account. Just follow the link to the election website and submit your ballot from the comfort of wherever you happen to be. Renew now to take advantage! But if you prefer to vote in person, CTM will also have an in-person voting booth set up in the parking lot at Fairview-Clifton German Language School from 6 to 7 p.m. on December 7. Just walk or drive up, pay your membership dues if needed, and fill out and submit your paper ballot. Whichever option you choose, please join CTM's annual meeting starting at 7 p.m. on December 7 to hear the results.

CTM is YOUR community council, and we rely on YOUR support. If you are already a member, thank you very much for your support. If you are not a member, please consider becoming one. Your support is essential. Thank you.—*Joe Brunner, CTM President*

CTM Electronic Meetings – A New Way to Meet-Up

Because of social distancing during the COVID-19 outbreak period, the Clifton Town Meeting will be holding monthly public meetings on the Internet. You can tune in and participate on your computer, laptop or smartphone. Meetings are typically held on the first Monday of each month. Watch for the public announcement on the CTM

webpage and use the link provided along with meeting ID and passcode numbers. Meetings begin promptly at 7 p.m., but you can connect as early as 6:30 p.m. to make sure your line is established and you have access. Thanks for participating in your community council's forum!

“Road Diet” on Ludlow Avenue Will Reduce Accidents and Improve Walkability

Over a year ago, CTM requested that the City's Department of Transportation (DOT) implement crosswalks on Ludlow Avenue at different intersections along Morrison and Clifton Hills Avenues in order to enable Clifton residents to cross those intersections more safely. DOT indicated at the time that there was too much traffic to make it happen safely, so they executed a study by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). The results of that study were shared with the Clifton commu-

nity in Summer 2020. We're now in a place of assessing details of that study and sharing back with DOT our preferred option on which to move forward with a request from the State of Ohio for funding. Community input on these options is critical in the next few months.

The ODOT report noted that the Ludlow Avenue (Viaduct to Whitfield) is supporting ~60 percent less traffic than in the past, which means cars are speeding more frequently. The report called for a “road diet” —reducing

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Past Issues:

<http://www.cliftoncommunity.org/clifton-chronicle>
Published Quarterly 12/1, /3/1, /5/20, 9/1

Staff

Vicki Black, “Do it All” person
Rama Kasturi, CTM liaison
Tom Lohre, neighborhood liaison
Sixteen pages printed and mailed to 4,770 Cliftonites with summaries of and/or full stories. Complete stories and images are on the online version:
<http://www.cliftoncommunity.org/clifton-chronicle/>

2020 CTM Board of Trustees

Joe Brunner (President), Robert Hamberg (Vice President 1), Buddy Goose (Vice President 2), Gérald Checco (Treasurer), Jan Brown Checco (Secretary), Peter Block, Brian Duffy, Chris Harding, Teresa Hoelle, Mark Jeffreys, Rama Kasturi, Jennifer H. Krivickas, Malcolm Montgomery and Ioanna Paraskevopoulos (Trustees)

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the number of lanes by one along with implementing several safety measures including crosswalks—the impact of which ODOT projects will be a 38 percent reduction in car crashes.

DOT has taken this report and shared a few options for implementing this road diet in the October 2020 CTM board meeting. The criteria for this implementation—aligned with CTM—were: (1) make Ludlow Avenue safer and more convenient for pedestrians to cross; (2) calm vehicular traffic on Ludlow to support goal #1; (3) extend bike lanes on Ludlow Avenue to connect neighborhood, business district and Burnet Woods; (4) maintain safe and efficient access to and movement of buses and public transportation; and (5) maintain adequate on-street parking for residents and visitors.

Based on these criteria, DOT has developed several options for implementing the road diet with different implications for bike lanes, parking, etc. These options are posted on the CTM website at <http://bit.ly/Ludlow2022>. There is a link there to the DOT site where there is a survey; DOT is asking that residents complete that by the end of November to indicate which option is preferred as well as a second choice. CTM and DOT will also notify residents along Ludlow Avenue of the different options to ensure they have adequate opportunity to give their input.

Based on the community input to that survey, in its December 7 meeting, the CTM Board of Trustees will vote on which of the lead options to proceed. Based on that, DOT will submit for funding to the state in April 2021 with a target for approval by the Summer 2021 and start of construction targeted for 2022. Further engagement on specific plans for implementation, including parking impact by block, would be shared in the future for community input.

Regardless of which of the options the community picks, a road diet that results in 38 percent fewer crashes and enables residents to more easily cross the street will mean a more walkable and therefore livable community. Please visit the DOT website by the end of November to express your opinion on which option you prefer.

—*Mark Jeffreys, CTM Trustee and Chair of Transportation & Public Safety Committee*

Take an Active Part in Your Community!

You must be a CTM Member to cast your VOTE for CTM Trustees

Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) is your community council which advocates on behalf of the Clifton community. CTM also sponsors many activities and festivals throughout the year for our community. To support this important community work, we need your generous support. Membership dues are tax deductible and are the second largest support of income for CTM. If you paid membership dues sometime in 2020, thank you for your support. Memberships are based on the calendar year, and we need your support for 2021.

— Join Clifton Town Meeting! Here's How:

Starting or renewing your membership will help us keep Clifton a vibrant, desirable, and fun place to live, work, and play. CTM also accepts donations, and you can do that at the same time you renew at <http://www.cliftoncommunity.org/membership/> or clip this form and send it along with a check or money order payable to Clifton Town Meeting, P.O. Box 20042, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220-0042.

Membership Categories

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

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Your Membership & Commitment Matters

Join or Renew CTM Membership Today

2020 has underscored how incredibly important our neighborhood businesses are and just how much connectivity to one another as fellow Clifton residents' matters. Our unity is strengthened by the work of your Clifton Town Meeting community council. Whether you attend our month board meetings, or if you simply experience the numerous CTM efforts, many volunteers dedicate countless hours on your behalf and for our beloved neighborhood throughout the year.

CTM sponsors a variety of community-enriching activities and festivals including the annual Memorial Day Parade and Cookout, Lantern Walk, CliftonFest, Holidays on Ludlow, and our ever-popular triennial Clifton House Tour. Rest assured, when the COVID-19 restrictions ends, we will resume our community events and look forwarding to socializing with you—in person!

All these activities are possible because of your generous support. Membership dues and contributions are tax-deductible and make up our second largest source of income. The postponement of our triennial House Tour (our primary fundraiser) makes donations and membership dues even more essential in 2020 to help us keep Clifton vibrant and desirable.

Membership in CTM invites your vote on key community issues, especially on Monday, December 7 when six CTM Trustee positions are up for election. CTM memberships also help fund beautification projects like our Ludlow Avenue flower pots and holiday decorations, as well as local communications including Clifton Chronicle, Clifton Community website and our community email list.

All CTM memberships renewed/purchased in November or December are active through 11/30/2021, and are open to all neighborhood residents, property owners, and businesses, age 18 years or older. Annual dues are: \$14 for an individual, \$20 for a household, \$10 for a college student or senior, and \$40 per business. We highly encourage you to consider a lifetime membership (\$180), and/or a donation to CTM.

Please complete your membership form at <http://www.cliftoncommunity.org/membership/> or see form above to complete and mail in your membership form and dues.

—Teresa Hoelle, Kevin Marsh & Ioanna Paraskevopoulos

Meet Our CTM Trustee Candidates on pages 4 and 5



Recent CTM project efforts that have improved our Clifton neighborhood include:

- Support of \$2,000 for Clifton Cares—support of local restaurants and health care workers March 2020
- Support for the new Clifton Area Neighborhood School (CANS)
- Participation in a pilot “Parklet” project on Ludlow Avenue
- Establishment of new parking policy on Ludlow Avenue for vehicular speed reduction and safety improvements
- Opening a new art gallery on Ormond Avenue
- Replacement of eight old benches in the business district



One of the new benches in the business district

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Meet Our CTM Trustee Candidates

One of CTM's primary objectives is to build a Board of Trustees that represents the diversity of Clifton, including ethnic, racial, gender, sexual orientation, religious, profession (salaried/hourly), community of origin (lifelong Cliftonites/new to Cincinnati and/or Clifton), etc. so we ensure our decisions are informed by diverse perspectives. We thank our current slate of nominees for stepping up to serve their community and we hope that more of you will consider joining the board in the future.

—*Rama Kasturi, CTM Trustee Chair, Nominating Committee*

Teckla G. Akinyi—CTM Trustee Candidate

My relationship with Clifton starts during my college years; matinees at the Esquire, trivia nights at Olive's, wine tastings on Friday's at Mike and late nights at Arlin's followed by passionate 3AM conversations at Skyline or J Gumbo's. Having moved to the lone USA in my late teenage years, Clifton stood out to me because of the welcoming, diverse community that somehow manages to keep UC students in their 20s through to established late career adults and even retirees all engaged. After spending 2 years as a young professional, I spent some time traveling the world with two short stints living in Montreal, Canada and Philadelphia and these choices really highlighted the uniqueness of the Clifton community to me and I moved right back in the summer of 2020 to build on the home I have found here.

Beyond my college years, Clifton has allowed me a rich quality of life through activities that have kept me engaged as my life changes from exploratory college life to young professional and I trust through to when I seek family life by providing safe, walkable and aesthetically pleasing outdoor areas, keeping diverse businesses open and all the community events at Burnet woods or the plaza.

Beyond living in the neighborhood and patronizing the vibrant businesses (regular at Esquire), I had a small stint at World Peace Yoga after completing the training program where I helped with some of the community classes on Saturday. This engagement solidified my inter-

est in the community as I interacted with long term and transitional Cliftonites and learnt more about Clifton's values and motivations.

I work as a data programmer/analyst and seek to utilize my technical skills within committees that may find such useful within CTM. Further, I seek involvement in the CTM with the hopes of preserving the diverse and vibrant community nature of Clifton, which allowed this transplant from Nowhere, Kenya to find and build a home.

Brendon Cull—CTM Trustee Candidate

My name is Brendon Cull and since 2012, my wife Becky and I (and now our two children have lived on Warren Avenue. Clifton is a place that seemingly everyone in our city has a connection to, and this is an important asset for our neighborhood. We have stunning parks, great schools, a bustling business district, and we're a destination for families looking for a welcoming neighborhood to call home. I'm proud to live here and I'm committed to ensuring our neighborhood is a place that is known for safe streets, vibrant parks and arts, sustainable development, and inclusive values.

I moved to Cincinnati 25 years ago to attend Xavier, majoring in Organizational Communication with a Peace Studies minor. My first job was working for Amnesty International, and at nineteen, new to the city, I organized events in Burnet Woods and at the Esquire Theatre. I knew then this neighborhood was welcoming, diverse, and important to our city's culture.

After graduation, I worked for the renowned diversity and inclusion firm, Global Lead Management Consulting. But a love for policy and politics led to a career change: in 2000, I started working for the Mayor of Cincinnati, where I served in various capacities over five years during a tumultuous yet critical time in our city's history. As a city hall staffer, I attended Clifton Town Meetings, and was proud of the work we did to support our city's 52 neighborhoods and to improve police-community relations. After public service, I led government affairs at Kroger for a decade, focusing on collaborative policy de-

velopment, sustainability, and local engagement.

I'm currently the SVP and COO at the Cincinnati Chamber. My proudest accomplishment is developing the Chamber's transportation initiatives strategy, that resulted in the successful ballot initiative supporting funding for Cincinnati Metro, roads, and bridges. A close second was the privilege of leading production and fundraising teams that delivered BLINK to our community.

I'm on the SORTA Board and I'm the Vice-President of the Mercantile Library's Board. I've worked with dozens of organizations in volunteer roles, including the United Way, ArtsWave, Crown Cincinnati, and Tender Mercies. In my free time, I enjoy reading, running, biking (we need safer streets!), and listening to live music.

I look forward to working with neighbors, trustees, and anyone who is passionate about Clifton. I respectfully ask for your vote as CTM Trustee.

Chris Harding—CTM Trustee Candidate

My name is Christopher Harding, and I am running to serve on Clifton Town Meeting. I am currently an appointed member of the Board, serving out the rest of a vacated term left open in July. I am originally from Portland, Oregon, and moved to Cincinnati to attend Xavier University. I have since decided to lay my roots in Ohio. My background is in political consulting, advocacy, and public policy. I am currently wrapping up a campaign this November, serving as the Deputy Campaign Manager for County Commissioner Denise Driehaus. Before that, I worked on the Issue 7 transit levy, which passed last Spring, and I have done work for the Hamilton County Democratic Party. Outside of local politics, I am also serving as Public Policy Director for the Ohio Chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens, the oldest and largest Latino/Hispanic civil rights organization in the country. I have also spent time in Washington D.C. as a Policy Associate for the National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders. Considering my background, experience, and network, I know that I can serve our neighborhood well.

continued on page 5

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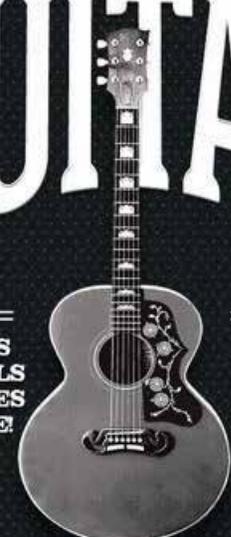
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Meet Our CTM Trustee Candidates – from previous page

I am incredibly passionate about public service, which is why I decided to apply for the vacancy. When I joined the Board in the Summer, CTM debated public safety issues in our business district and parks. Since then, a handful of Trustees and I have taken it upon ourselves to find solutions by creating an ad hoc committee. Through our work, we have pulled together a coalition of stakeholders, such as the Stewards of Burnett Woods, Cincinnati Police District 5, the Clifton Business Association, and most recently Strategies to End Homelessness. The committees' work has all been part of a more considerable effort to find solutions to homelessness, crime, and other public safety issues in our neighborhood. If elected to the Board, I will continue to pursue equitable solutions to problems that pop up and be a fierce advocate for our community. I hope that I can earn your support!

Teresa Hoelle—CTM Trustee Candidate

Hello, neighbors. My name is Teresa Hoelle, and I'd like to continue serving you as your CTM Trustee.

I live on Clifton Ridge Drive with my husband and two-year old daughter. Outside of a three-year stint of living and earning my MBA in Charlotte, NC, I have called Clifton home for the past 15 years.

I co-own a business, Ignite Philanthropy, with my husband. We manage community grantmaking for over a dozen family and corporate foundations and raise charitable dollars for key community initiatives and institutions, including Clifton Cultural Arts Center. I previously was an executive at United Way and ArtWorks, and have served on several boards, including Findlay Market, Friends of College Conservatory of Music, and MORTAR.

I want to help to preserve and celebrate what makes Clifton unique, and also advance adaptations and growth to ensure our community thrives for decades to come. I know this requires advocating for our residents and local businesses. I have the perspective of being both a Clifton renter and homeowner, as well as that of a business-owner and an expatriate. I also believe my experience of bringing community leaders and capital together to fuel community

solutions in both the cultural and human services sector can be of great value to the neighborhood I love and call home.

Of the trustees who will remain on the board, I represent only one of three incumbent women of the 15 trustee positions. I would appreciate your vote so I may continue to serve and provide my diverse perspective as an experienced business-owner, former non-profit executive, woman and mother in all decisions related to our Clifton neighborhood. Thank you.

Naghma Malik—CTM Trustee Candidate

My name is Dr. Naghma Malik and I have resided in Clifton for 11 years. My husband Dr. Geoff Calvert has been a Clifton resident for 26 years. We have always been actively involved in Clifton. For example, I regularly contribute to neighbor get-togethers by planning and sometimes hosting block and holiday parties and opening up our house for the 2018 Mothers Day Clifton House Tour.

I have a passion for promoting diversity. In 2017, this passion led me to organize an Asian Physicians Convention in Cincinnati that attracted approximately 300 attendees from across the country. I was most pleased that it showcased the colorful and rich Mughal-era culture of the Pakistani-Indian subcontinent, while also providing continuing medical education (CME) opportunities for licensed physicians, and generating tax revenue for the city and county.

For the 11 years I've resided in Clifton, my heart has been filled by the warmth of the welcoming and embracing openness of the people in our community. This has led to many long-lasting friendships. Although this year has been especially challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our Clifton community appears to be meeting that challenge by coming together.

To show my gratitude for the neighborliness I've experienced, I would like to serve as a CTM Trustee. I welcome the opportunity to use my organizing and networking skills to continue to preserve what is great about Clifton. I want to promote our community's multicultural existence, and to continue to promote its strength and per-

severance. I envision Clifton to be a beacon of diversity, inclusion and harmony.

I humbly request your vote to enable me to serve our wonderful community. Thank you for your consideration.

Genet Singh—CTM Trustee Candidate

I am an immigrant who emigrated from Addis Ababa Ethiopia to the United States in 1990 and settled in Cincinnati, and I am proud to be connected to the city, its rich history and community. I attended the University of Cincinnati to study pharmacy. While at University I met my husband of 25 years and later decided to stay at home and raise our three kids. Clifton was one of the first neighborhoods I visited upon arriving in Cincinnati, and I immediately fell in love with it. Having children who attended primary school in Clifton and being a business and home owner in Clifton has only deepened this love for the Clifton community.

I have owned various retail and wholesale businesses in Clifton, the greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky areas over the last 20 years.

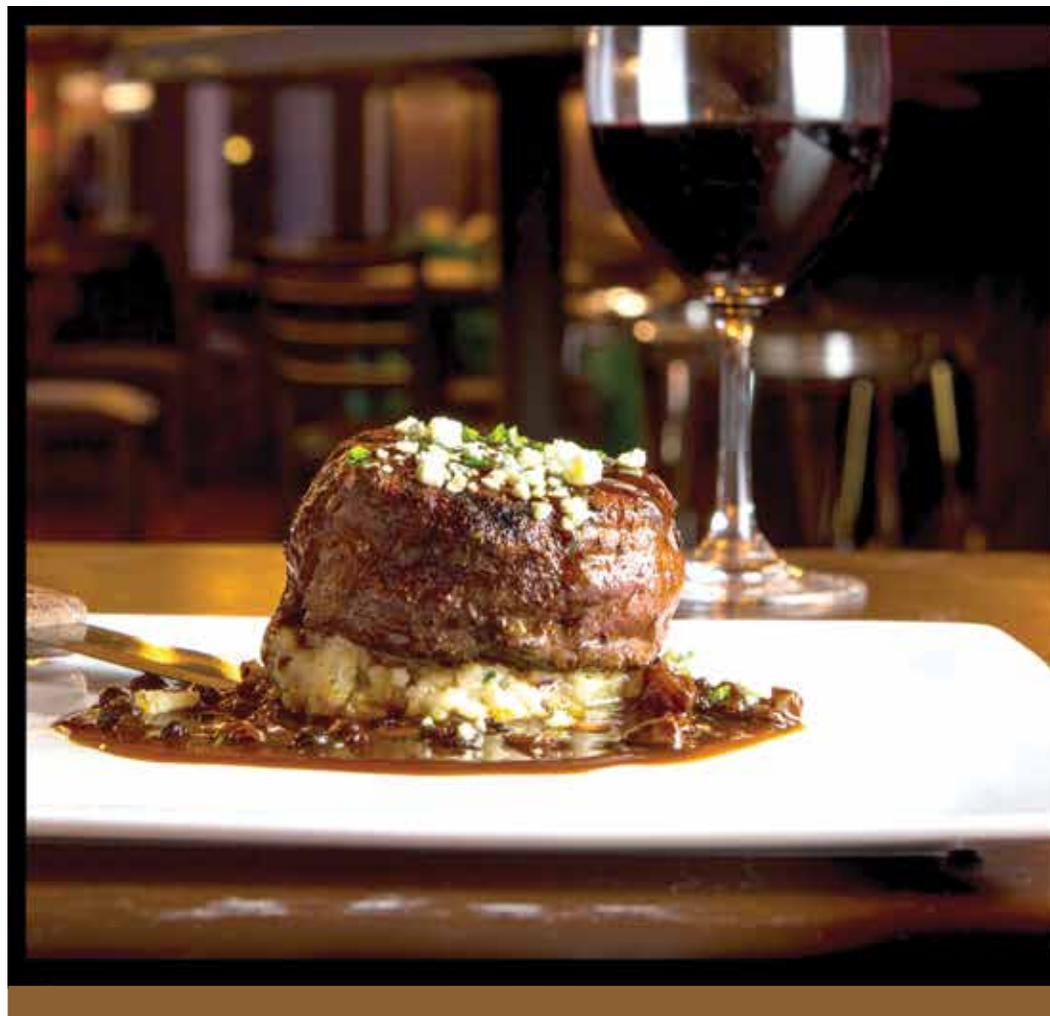
I hope to use the insights I have gained as a business owner to help the Clifton business district community. I believe that the success of the businesses on Ludlow Avenue is important for the health of the Clifton community as a whole. I welcome this opportunity to give back to the community that has welcomed and served me and my family well.

You must be a CTM Member to vote. For more information on voting as well as to join or renew your membership, see page 2 (or visit <http://www.cliftoncommunity.org/membership/>)

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Temporary Bike Lanes on Clifton Avenue May Boost Physical and Mental Health

Cities around the world are converting car lanes to temporary bike lanes, causing a surge in biking amid the pandemic. While bike infrastructure in Cincinnati is not as robust as some other cities, we do have some exciting developments led by Clifton. In August 2020, the CTM Board of Trustees unanimously approved a resolution to implement temporary bike lanes on Clifton Avenue from Calhoun Street to Ludlow Avenue at Diggs Plaza—creating a two-way bike lane on the UC/Burnet Woods side of the street. This resolution was followed by one with support from CUFNA (Clifton Heights, University Heights, Fairview Neighborhood Association) and letters of support from impacted stakeholders: University of Cincinnati, Hebrew Union College, Good Samaritan Hospital and Cincinnati Parks.

At a time while many of us are cooped up inside due

to the pandemic, having the opportunity to bike is a welcome one not just for physical health, but also mental health. But there are also other benefits that are maybe less well known. One study indicates that people who bike spend 41 per cent more than people in cars. To note, this proposal would not eliminate parking (parking would be shifted out a lane). And at a time when many of our businesses along Ludlow Avenue are suffering the impact of less traffic to their stores due to the pandemic, getting more people (particularly students) to the central business district is a positive especially as we are working with the city in parallel on putting in more bike racks.

While this stretch of Clifton Avenue is small, there are also positive benefits in reductions in pollution. In Cincinnati, from March 23 to June 30 during the height of Shelter in Place, major pollutants in the Cincinnati air

dropped by 20 percent vs the same period in the previous three years as car traffic declined from 20-42 percent. In July, however, as traffic increased, air quality measures started to deteriorate. Enabling more biking in Clifton won't result in that significant impact across the city, but the impact on air is clearly a positive in a small way.

The City's Department of Engineering & Transportation (DOT) is currently determining the best way to implement these temporary bike lanes with a target for grand opening in March, just in time for the spring! We look forward to working with DOT and the other stakeholders to implement this and continuing to build on the positive momentum of having a robust active transportation network in Clifton.

—Mark Jeffreys, CTM Trustee and Chair of Transportation & Public Safety Committee

CTM Arts & Culture Committee

Covid 19 has not stopped the progress of the Off Ludlow Gallery. Ending the summer with five "Walk on By" window art displays, the gallery added new lighting and welcomed the autumn with "Witness Marks," a photographic exhibition by Jane Alden Stevens. Although FotoFocus was cancelled this year, the organization helped financially to bring J A Stevens' intimate photos of her family home to the gallery. Additionally, FotoFocus is producing a video featuring Off Ludlow Gallery and "Witness Marks." When finished, the video can be viewed on the FotoFocus website as well as in the gallery.

Moving into the cold weather, the gallery is pleased to once again present Gallery Gifts. In November the Gallery was transformed into a gift boutique. Inside are one-of-a-kind artwork and craftwork for your holiday giving. This year more than 25 artists will be represented in Gallery Gifts. Please stop by and support these craftsmen and women. Gallery Gifts will be open on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 2 to 6 p.m. through December 20.

An opening reception for "Drip: Telling the Story of Coffee



Through Coffee" is set for January 15, 2021, from 5 to 8 p.m. The show will run through February 27, 2021. Because of the unique ability to unite people of different cultures and

background, actual coffee in some form or other will be used to create art. Deeper Roots Coffee will provide coffee education and inspiration in support of this unique show. Don't miss this one-of-a-kind adventure into art and coffee.

Over the summer, the last of the Ludlow Garage Murals were put in place. The murals feature artists who have entertained us at the Garage, including BB King, Captain Beefheart, Albert King, Judy Collins, Ricky Lee Jones, The James Gang and Iggy Pop. If interested, the original artworks for these murals are available for sale.

The Arts and Culture Committee received a matching \$1,000 grant from The Ohio Arts Council to upgrade an alleyway in the business district. A call to artists will be going out in January or February for the mural portion of this exciting project.

The Arts and Cultural Committee is looking for volunteers to help with the gallery and the committee at large. If interested in volunteering or for general information please call or text Joyce Rich at 513-550-3316.

—Joyce Rich, Arts and Culture Committee



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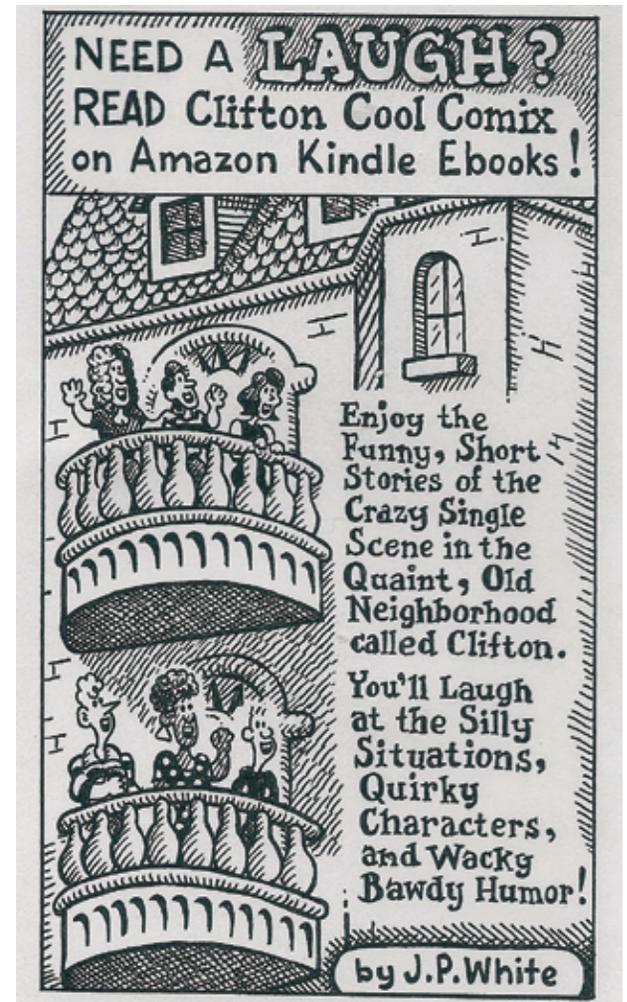
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CLIFTON COMMUNITY PLAN **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**



What is a neighborhood plan?

A neighborhood plan is best described as a map of the neighborhood's future. Acting as a guide, our neighborhood plan will tell current and future community members and decision makers where we were, where we are now, where we want to go, how we intend to get there, and who will help us along the way. More specifically, the plan:

- Allows for a platform for dialogue and engagement
- Creates and confirms neighborhood identity, goals and vision
- Helps guide policy decisions that impact the neighborhood
- Helps guide development and investment decisions
- Used as a tool for community investment projects
- Demonstrates to City leaders that the neighborhood is united

Doesn't Clifton have a few plans? Why do we need another one?

The last plans specific to Clifton are the Clifton Community Plan (1982) and the Clifton Neighborhood Business District Urban Design Plan (1978). We need a plan because a neighborhood plan is usually only relevant for 5-15 years, and our last plan was from 38 years ago. We need to create a neighborhood-wide plan that showcases our neighborhood's vision, goals, and strategies. This plan will ultimately be reviewed and approved by the City Planning Commission and City Council and recognized as our official neighborhood plan. You can find copies of past plans on the City Planning website here: <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/planning/neighborhood-plans/approved-plans/>

What is in a neighborhood plan?

Each neighborhood's plan is different – designed to meet the goals of that individual neighborhood. However, there are certain elements that are commonly addressed. Typically, a neighborhood plan will contain the following components:

- History of the neighborhood
- Existing Conditions (past and current demographic and geographic information)
- Vision statement
- Goals and objectives (on various focus areas, such as: housing, economic Development/Business Retention, transportation, parks and recreation, public facilities and open space, land use, and health and the environment)
- Implementation plans

Who participates in a neighborhood plan?

Everyone who is interested is invited to participate in the planning process. This includes residents (homeowners and renters), business owners, representatives of community institutions (like churches or schools), organizations in the neighborhood, etc.

How can I sign up for updates, get involved, or share my ideas?

There are many ways for you to get involved, no matter how much or how little time you may have! If you are interested in getting involved, email Joe Brunner, President of Clifton Town Meeting at brunnerjm@gmail.com

Some examples of how to get involved are:

As a Steering Committee Member

The Steering Committee's main job is to champion the plan and provide guidance from beginning to approval. Steering Committee members will also help lead the working groups. The Steering Committee meets once a month.

As a Working Group Member

Working group members will help provide shape and detail to specific areas of the plan. They will write the goals and strategies for each of the focus areas. Working Groups will meet six to seven times throughout the year.

As a Plan Participant

Participate in plan events, provide feedback on surveys, send your thoughts via email, and follow along during the process. There is no minimum time commitment and you can participate when you are free and interested!

Contact James Weaver james.weaver@cincinnati-oh.gov | 513-352-4882 or Joe Brunner at brunnerjm@gmail.com or visit Cincinnati-oh.gov/cliftonplan for more information.



WINTER IS THE TIME TO REST AND PLAN.

We can help you gather information about your home and the market as you plan for your future!

Druffel = DiTomassi



Barbra Druffel

513.979.2698

bdruffel@comey.com

Robert DiTomassi

513.255.5154

robertditomassi@gmail.com

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**J. Gumbo's, 286 Ludlow Ave.,
Owner Kim Lester**

Q: How long have you been in business in Clifton?

Since Sept. 15, 2011

Q: Briefly describe what you offer for sale?

We are a fast casual Cajun and Creole restaurant—we have something for everyone from our sweet Bourbon Street Chicken to our Medium Zesty Gumbo and Voodoo Chicken, if you can handle the heat. We also serve appetizers and make in house desserts. Our bread pudding is outstanding.

Q: What do you like most about doing business in Clifton?

I love the diversity of our customers and being part of a neighborhood and a college town.

Q: What might surprise customers about your business?

Our customer service is top notch, we offer free samples if you are undecided about what to order and we are open until midnight seven days a week.

Q: What do you think sets you apart from other restaurants?

There are not many options for good Cajun food around town. We offer very quick service and get compliments on our staff all the time.

Q: How can the community help small businesses such as yours?



Owner Kim Lester (photo by Helen Adams)

Come often, come hungry, spread the word. It's often said we are the best kept secret on Ludlow, so share the love!

Q: What has been the biggest challenge?

Staying open even when business was slow or finding great employees when unemployment and stimulus checks incentivized people to not work.

Q: What's the first thing you want to do at your business when this whole pandemic mess is finally over?

Return to our late night hours and throw a Mardi Gras Party!

**Ludlow Wines, 343 Ludlow Ave.,
Owner Mike Anagnostou**

Q: How long have you been in business in Clifton?

I have owned Ludlow Wines since June 16, 2008. Ludlow Wines has been here since 1963.

Q: What do you like most about doing business in Clifton?

What I enjoy most are the interesting people I've met from all around the world. Once a person from Portugal came in to purchase a bottle to take to dinner with his mentor at UC [University of Cincinnati]. Turns out he was a political scientist and personal advisor to the president of Portugal. I immediately asked him questions about the EU [European Union], which I've heard referred to often in the news, but which structure and powers I did not fully understand. He gave me a 15-minute tutorial about it. I learn so much from meeting people like this.

Q: What might surprise customers about your business?

The biggest surprise people have is learning how affordable I am. The vast majority of my customers spend well under \$20 a bottle. And I don't try to upsell them. That's primarily because I dislike it when it's done to me.

Q: What do you think sets you apart from other wine and beer sellers?

What sets me apart is my community involvement. I've



Owner Mike Anagnostou (photo by Helen Adams)

been very active in the business association and with neighborhood projects. It's not just about making money for me. I'm in love with Clifton.

Q: How can the community help small businesses such as yours?

The community already helps me through their loyal support. The residents want a viable business district and go out of their way to support it with their dollars. For them it's a quality of life issue. They want a wine shop here and they go out of their way to patronize me.

Q: What has been the biggest challenge?

No question the biggest challenge has been COVID-19. I've suspended our popular Friday and Saturday night tastings indefinitely, which has substantially changed our business model. I've started free delivery to help make up the deficit in revenue resulting from not having the tastings.

Q: What's the first thing you want to do at your business when this whole pandemic mess is finally over?

The first thing I want to do when we have a vaccine and it's widely available and administered is . . . have a wine and food party and invite everyone!

continues on next page



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Delivery within 10-mile radius

Pickup and delivery orders can be placed by email at

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Or click on the Online Shopping link

at our home page, cliftonmarket.com

Your Community Resource

Safe and Convenient Shopping

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Reserved Shopping

**Tuesday and Thursday from
8 to 10 a.m. for seniors and those
with underlying health issues**

Convenient Lot Parking

Reserved Curbside Parking

**Special Diet Foods Available
through Pre-Order**

Small Business – from previous page



Hansa Guild (photo by Helen Adams)

Hansa Guild, 369 Ludlow Ave., Co-Owner Greta Martinez

Q: How long have you been in business in Clifton?

Thirty-six years

Q: Briefly describe what you offer for sale:

We emphasize men's hats and lady's clothing made with natural raw materials, mostly handmade from small co-operatives.

Q: What do you like most about doing business in Clifton?

That's an easy one for me. Walkable community and surrounded by the big institutions.

Q: What might surprise customers about your business?

The quality of the handmade pieces, the pride because of the handmade aspect in the cooperative.

Q: What do you think sets you apart from competitors?

We don't see them as competitors on this street. We send people down the street to the other stores if we can't fulfill their request. One place or another, they'll probably be successful.

Q: How can the community help small businesses such as yours?

The obvious. We just hope that they come see us first on the street before they go online. The online sites are our competitors.

Q: What's the first thing you want to do at your business when this whole pandemic mess is finally over?

Tear down the signs of only four customers at a time and social distancing to make people feel comfortable again.



"On the Avenue" is in the online **Clifton Chronicle**. Please visit to read about your neighborhood businesses and enjoy the colorful photos! Shop Local for all your holiday gifts and provisions.



Dusmesh Owner Maya Dhillon with Preet Singh and Jas Sangha (photo by Helen Adams)

Dusmesh Indian Restaurant, 944 Ludlow Ave., Maya Dhillon

Q: How long have you been in business in Clifton?

We have been in restaurant since 2007, leased out to someone in 2013 till 2018 and came back again in 2018.

Q: What do you offer?

We have all online to-go orders, as well we do free delivery to our neighborhood, \$6 off 2nd entree. This is very tough time though.

Q: What do you like most about doing business in Clifton?

We love our Clifton neighborhood and clean great place.

Q: What might surprise customers about your business?

We do offer halal, vegan, organic and gluten-free menu. We are different, because we offer delicious and warm welcome to all of our loyal customers. We offer B.Y.O.B with no corking fee. We respect everyone who comes in the restaurant.

Q: What is your biggest challenge?

Sales. It's not busy as it used to be due to the virus.

Q: What's the first thing you want to do at your business when this whole pandemic mess is finally over?

We would at least celebrate by providing the family discount – give \$10 off order of \$40. It could be anything. We are family-owned small business.

Lentz & Co., 339 Ludlow Co-Owner Leigh Ann Lentz

Q: How long have you been in business in Clifton?

Seven years

Q: Briefly describe what you offer for sale:

Vintage housewares, furniture, toys, jewelry and accessories, plus some wonderful locally made art

Q: What do you like most about doing business in Clifton?

The people! This neighborhood is so welcoming and charming, and we love that students and neighbors near and far come through our doors.

Q: What might surprise customers about your business?

The uniqueness of what we sell. Ten-plus people might own the same lamp or bar glasses from IKEA or Target, but the treasures you find here are often one-of-a-kind. Our shop is less than 600 sq. ft., so we're constantly bringing in new items to showcase, especially the closer it gets to the holidays.



Nick Plummer and Leigh Ann Lentz (photo by Helen Adams)

continues on next page

NEW! from Clifton Business Association

Purchase "Gift in Clifton" Swag Bags!

\$45 for \$15 gift certificates from each: World Peace Yoga, The WholeBowl, Clifton Natural Foods and Sitwell's Act II

\$50 for \$15 gifts or gift certificates from each: Maya, Gaslight Bar and Grill/Ludlow Garage, Hansa Guild, ACE Hardware & bottle of wine from Ludlow Wines

Available at Ludlow Wines

343 Ludlow Avenue • Noon - 7 pm Tuesday - Saturday
513-751-3727 • mike@ludlowwines.com

Winter Wonderland Walking

It's the season of ice and snow! What's more enchanting than a walk through new snowfall? Still, remember the importance of cleared sidewalks. To maximize safety and walkability, each property owner is responsible for their adjacent sidewalks. The City of Cincinnati Municipal Code says "...property owners are required to clear sidewalks in front of their property within the first four hours of daylight after a snowfall and to clear ice within the first two hours of daylight." Negligence can lead to an unfortunate \$25 fine per property owner.

While enforcement of this code is improbable, it does signal the need for us to care for our neighbors, especially those with mobility issues. The COVID pandemic has hampered our collective lifestyle, but one thing we can control is not allowing the weather to add yet one more barrier.

What about shovels vs. snow melts? Dog owners know that some snow melts and salts can harm our dogs. Eating salt or any snow that might have been treated with a melting product can make your dog sick, as can licking their feet after a salty walk. Brine and crystals can make paw pads irritated and cracked, so rinse pup's paws after a walk. Paw wax or dog booties add protection, and

ACE Hardware ("The Friendly Place") sells "pet friendly" de-icing products that contain urea or magnesium chloride instead of salt, also less harmful to the environment and to concrete. —*Gérald Checco, CTM Treasurer*



Small Business continued from page 9

Q: What do you think sets you apart from competitors?

Our customer service—come on in!

Q: How can the community help small businesses such as yours?

That's easy! Keep coming in and shopping with us. Please think of us (and all the small businesses on Ludlow Avenue) for gifts for others or to treat yourself!

Q: What has been the biggest challenge?

Our hours. We run this shop because it's our passion, but we both have additional full-time jobs. That's been a blessing since it's helped us survive during this pandemic. But it also means we aren't open earlier in the daytime.

Q: What's the first thing you want to do at your business when this whole pandemic mess is finally over?

Throw open our doors late on a summer night to music playing and crowds of people enjoying themselves in the Plaza!

(Read about the Esquire Theatre, Paolo and Ludlow Garage in the Spring 2021 *Clifton Chronicle*.)



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www.newschoolmontessori.com



Bundle Up! FREE Yoga in Burnet Woods Continues!

The Cincinnati Parks Foundation in collaboration with the Stewards of Burnet Woods is bringing you some peace this season with yoga outdoors. Thanks to all the wonderful people supporting these community classes, they will continue on outdoors as long as possible.

Saturdays, 11-11:45 a.m.: Free Community Yoga (all levels)
Sundays, 4-5 p.m.: Free PeaceFlow Yoga (all levels)

For more details or to sign up for a class, visit the weekly schedule page at www.worldpeaceyoga.com.

TNSM Present and Social

The New School Montessori students have quickly adapted to wearing masks in their in-person learning environments. Because of TNSM's unique campus and low student to teacher ratios, the entire school can be present all day, five days a week for ages 3-12. (Read more in the online *Clifton Chronicle*.)



SAY East League

Clifton Soccer

Spring & Fall Seasons

Fielding teams
for boys & girls ages 4-18

Great soccer in a great neighborhood!

sign up at cliftonsoccer.org



344 Ludlow Ave. • Cincinnati,
OH 45220 513 281-9600

Burnet Woods Serves the Community in Living Color

Sunny September and October days followed by crisp and cool nights have produced a riot of colors this Fall Season all over Cincinnati. Burnet Woods is awash with brilliant hues of yellow, orange, brown, red and many colors in between. Tree identification is much simpler now based on their dying leaf colors, and maple and beech trees dominate the landscape.

Burnet Woods has been a favorite destination for so many people this year. I recently ran into Thayne Maynard of the Cincinnati Zoo who told me that he often escaped to Burnet Woods to eat his lunch and read his book because “the Park is Covid-19 free”. For the first time in 25 years, two churches, the Cincinnati H2O Church and the University Christian Church, have held their Sunday services in the park. Luke 5 Adventures brought children and adults with disabilities to Burnet Woods as part of their “You Can Heal In the Parks” campaign. This October, I was delighted to witness an Indo-American wedding in the Bandstand in the park. COVID-19 prevented the couple, students at UC, from being able to tie the knot in India and they chose Burnet Woods instead!

Disc golfers, yoga practitioners, bikers, skate boarders, walkers, runners, touch football players, fishermen and women, a bag pipe player, tap dancers, dog walkers, and even a cat on a leash have been spotted by me in Burnet Woods. Families and friends have been safely gathering for picnics and birthday celebrations by the Upper playground and the lower Valley areas of the park.

The park is efficiently groomed and maintained by the efforts of Tammy Eken who has been working for Cincinnati Parks for almost 10 years. She has been the primary caretaker of Burnet Woods for about two years now. Tammy’s cheerful demeanor and warm smile are a welcome feature of the park experience. Please stop and say hello and thank her for her hard work when you see her next.

—*Rama Kasturi, CTM Trustee, Parks Committee*



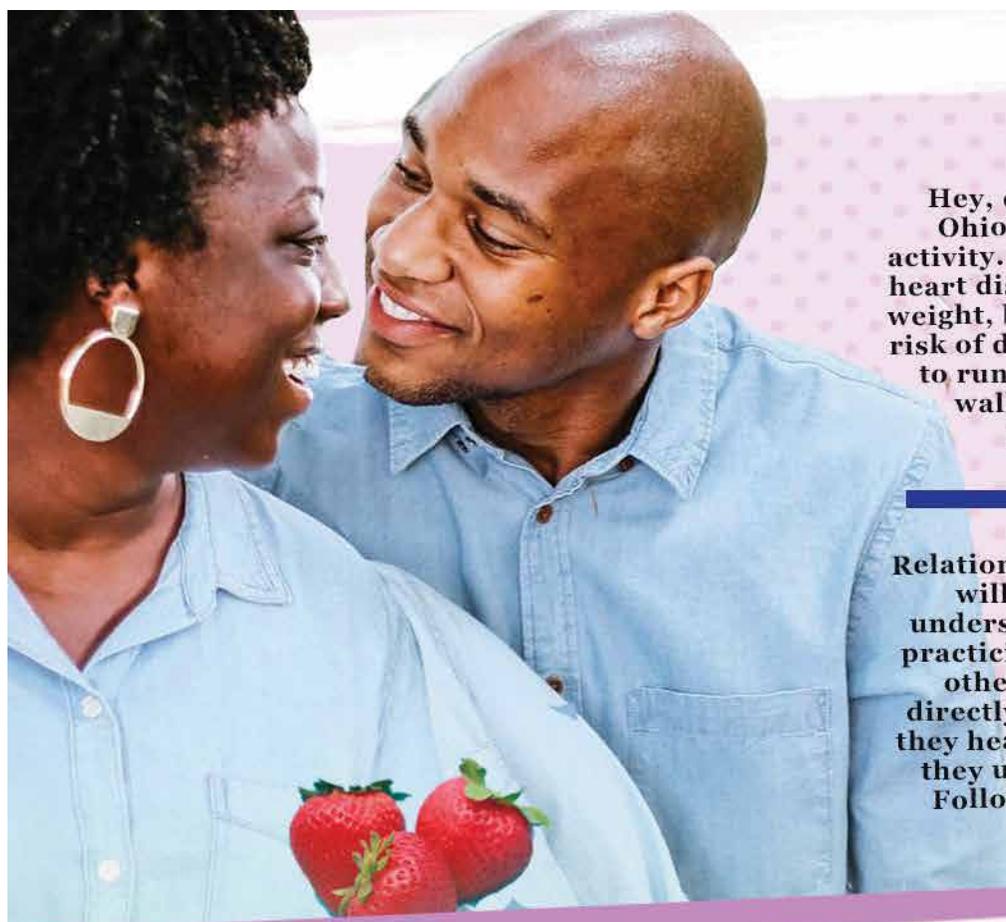
Hemingway, Dave and Sadie

Dogs and Children Love this UPS Driver!

If you have a dog, chances are that your dog knows UPS driver, Dave Adams better than maybe you do. My dogs love Dave. They know the sound of his truck and inform me about his arrival well before I set eyes on his delivery truck. What happens next is nothing short of extortion. My dogs insist that I let them out of my house so that they can run over to Dave’s truck to demand their dose of dog biscuit treats. If Dave is on vacation, he knows that he needs to communicate the needs of dogs such as mine to the driver who is substituting for him. And, they say it’s a dog’s life!! I agree that it is and it is because of Dave Adams.

So who is Dave Adams? Dave is Clifton’s UPS driver of 18 years and has been a driver for 30 years. He worked as a construction worker before he began working for UPS. He lives in Kentucky with his wife and they have two grown children, and two grandchildren. His son also recently started driving for UPS. Dave enjoys his delivery route in Clifton, and our dogs and young children love him! He is a big fan of the Bengals and enjoys drinking Yuengling beer, his favorite kind of beer! My dogs have been known to gift him a 12-pack of his favorite beer and a big box of dog biscuits every Christmas for favors received!

Please be sure to thank this “essential worker” for doing his part during the pandemic and be sure to let him know how much you appreciate those deliveries in the rain and snow and hot summer weather! —*Rama Kasturi*



HEALTH

Hey, did you move around a bit today? Well, the truth is 52% of Ohioans are not getting the recommended amount of physical activity. This puts them at risk for chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer. Not only does activity help control weight, but reduces anxiety and depression, improves sleep, reduces risk of dementia - it leads to a longer, healthier life! You do not have to run a marathon or build your own fence (you could), but even walking, golfing, gardening and carrying your groceries are movement activities. Get up and go move your body!

RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships are important, but even in strong relationships, issues will arise. One key to getting over them is to take the time to understand each other. You can increase shared understanding by practicing three-way communication. First, make sure you have the other person’s attention and then communicate your message directly and concisely. Second, ask the other person to repeat what they heard. Third, acknowledge the listener’s reply and confirm that they understood your message or clarify any misunderstandings. Following these steps will help you improve your relationships!

NO STRINGS ATTACHED | YOUR FRIENDS AT CLIFTON | CLIFTON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH | 3800 CLIFTON AVE, CINCINNATI, OH

Good News from Clifton Deer!

Need some good news? Well, look no further than your friendly local deer herd, and the community organization—CliftonDeer.org—working to humanely reduce the deer population to an eco-sustainable level.

The first bit of good news: so far, our science-based fertility control program is working! Our most recent (February 2020) deer population survey found that the total number of resident deer in the study area (bounded by Clifton Avenue, Ludlow Avenue and I-75) fell over a roughly four-year period by ~28 percent. Experts say we're still overpopulated, but we've made an excellent start on "right-sizing" our deer herd—all without arrows or bullets. Happy deer, happy gardeners. That is good news!

But there's more! Following a strong endorsement of the Clifton Deer Program by the Cincinnati Park Board, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Division, has said they will renew the Wildlife Research Permit needed for our program to continue for three more field seasons. We are delighted with Ohio's recognition of the value of this research, and attribute the renewal at least in part to a growing interest around the state and country in alternative methods for managing overabundant deer herds. This is particularly



"I have lived here 11 summers, and I have never seen this day lily's face before. Every year until now, the burgeoning buds have been chomped by the deer before they bloom. I'm so glad I got to see it this year--it's beautiful. Thank you, dear, deer people!" – Clifton Resident

true in urban areas like Clifton where lethal culling may be impractical or socially unacceptable.

As we move forward, we'll be working to answer three research questions:

- How long will it take to lower the numbers to an eco-sustainable level through fertility control alone?
- Will immigration of new deer into the study area remain low as the resident population drops?
- Can this approach be managed cost effectively?

The first two questions can only be answered with time

and continued study. Our tagged does have had an extremely low mortality rate to date, probably as a result of Clifton's relatively low traffic speeds and the general good health of our herd. This means that while immigration of new deer has been low, our population decline so far has been slower than at other study sites, but steady.

The answer to the third question—can sterilization be cost effective—increasingly appears to be a cautious "yes." Effectiveness is being established with the steady decline in population, and costs are being reduced dramatically with continued development of skilled local volunteer resources. Our operating budget for our upcoming field season is expected to be less than 30 percent of our first field season's operating budget.

Cost reductions are largely attributable to two successes. First, Clifton Deer's connection to UCAN, a state-of-the-art local spay-neuter facility for dogs and cats, and its relationship with UCAN's veterinarian surgeons and staff, has greatly deepened our local base of volunteer medical expertise and eliminated the need for our contractor, White Buffalo, Inc., to transport and set up "MASH-style" surgical facilities on site each year. Second, after three years of apprenticeship and training, our local volunteer darter is taking a leadership role in our operations, allowing us to greatly reduce our dependence on White Buffalo.

CliftonDeer.org's all-volunteer leadership team is moving forward with deep appreciation for all the support given in so many ways from the Clifton Community. While our budget needs are lower than ever, we still have expenses. And, with no public source of funding, we still need your help.

If you like living in a community on the cutting edge of effective and humane deer management, please support this important neighborhood program with a gift of \$10 to \$25. You can donate at www.cliftondeer.org/donations or by check made payable to CliftonDeer.org and mailed to CliftonDeer.org c/o Laurie Briggs, Treasurer, 724 Lafayette Ave. #2, Cincinnati, OH 45220. CliftonDeer.org is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, so your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent permitted by law.

You can also help by reporting sightings of tagged and untagged does at <https://cliftondeer.org/report-tagged-deer>.

—The Clifton Deer Team

Clifton Shows Its Appreciation

Thank You Essential and Frontline Workers!



The Clifton Community GREATLY APPRECIATES your selfless service during this pandemic!



On display at Engine 34/Ladder Company 11 is the CTM banner designed by Trustee Rama Kasturi and Clifton Chronicle Editor Vicki Black, in appreciation of the efforts of first responders and essential workers in Clifton during the pandemic. Roughneck Fireman Clinton Ferguson, above, can be seen all over Cincinnati filling in where needed. Thank you essential and frontline workers. Clifton Station #34's nickname is "The Blacksheep".



We are a progressive faith community where all are welcome.

Here are some ways we are at work - being safely present - in this time of distancing.



Worship online with us every Sunday at 9:15 AM

Join us for online worship at [Facebook.com/CliftonUMC/Live](https://www.facebook.com/CliftonUMC/Live) to worship with us anywhere (even if you don't have Facebook!)



Soul Crate

We are offering a "Spiritual Retreat in a Box" that you can experience anywhere! Visit the Soul Crate page at <https://rb.gy/t70htv> to learn more.



chapters

Northside community

Our sibling congregation chapters is an inclusive progressive Christian community where stories intersect. Follow @chaptersnorthside on Facebook and Instagram for distanced worship opportunities.

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DePaul Cristo Rey News

\$30,000 Grant from Charles H. Dater Foundation Supports Graduate Success Program

The Charles H. Dater Foundation has awarded a \$30,000 grant for DPCR's innovative Graduate Success Program in recognition of its "commitment to enriching the lives of children."

DePaul Cristo Rey is the only Greater Cincinnati high school with an organized, robust Graduate Success Program. This program is led by a full-time Graduate Success director who works exclusively with DPCR alumni to support them through college. The program includes the Graduate Success Fund, which provides micro-grants to alumni to help them overcome financial barriers to college completion. These small grants help college-enrolled alumni pay expenses such as lab courses, room and

board, transportation support, and small tuition gaps left after all financial aid has been applied. The overall goal of the Graduate Success Program is college completion for DPCR alumni.

This program fits the Charles H. Dater Foundation mission which is to make grants to nonprofit organizations in the Greater Cincinnati area for projects that

benefit children in arts/culture, education, healthcare, social services and other community needs.

Siobhan Taylor Named President of High School

DePaul Cristo Rey High School began a new academic year with a new president. DPCR's Board of Directors and the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, sponsors of the school, named Ms. Siobhan Taylor as DPCR's second president.

Introducing: CCAC Maker Kits!



Just in time for winter, CCAC-Makes brings kids the CCAC classes you know and love off-line and at home! Each CCAC Maker Kit comes with the pieces, parts, supplies and instructions (both written and video) to complete an engaging, imagi-

native, hands-on art project from start to finish.

Our Winter 2020 kit will have young artists beefing up their bookshelves with handmade bookends! Kids will construct and color their own cool bookends, then add personal flair with items found around the house. Each kit produces two book ends, and is for artists ages 8+.

Kits are available for pick up from CCAC's Short Vine location, or available for delivery within the Uptown area for a \$5 delivery fee. Visit cliftonculturalarts.org/ccac-maker-kits for kit descriptions and purchase details.



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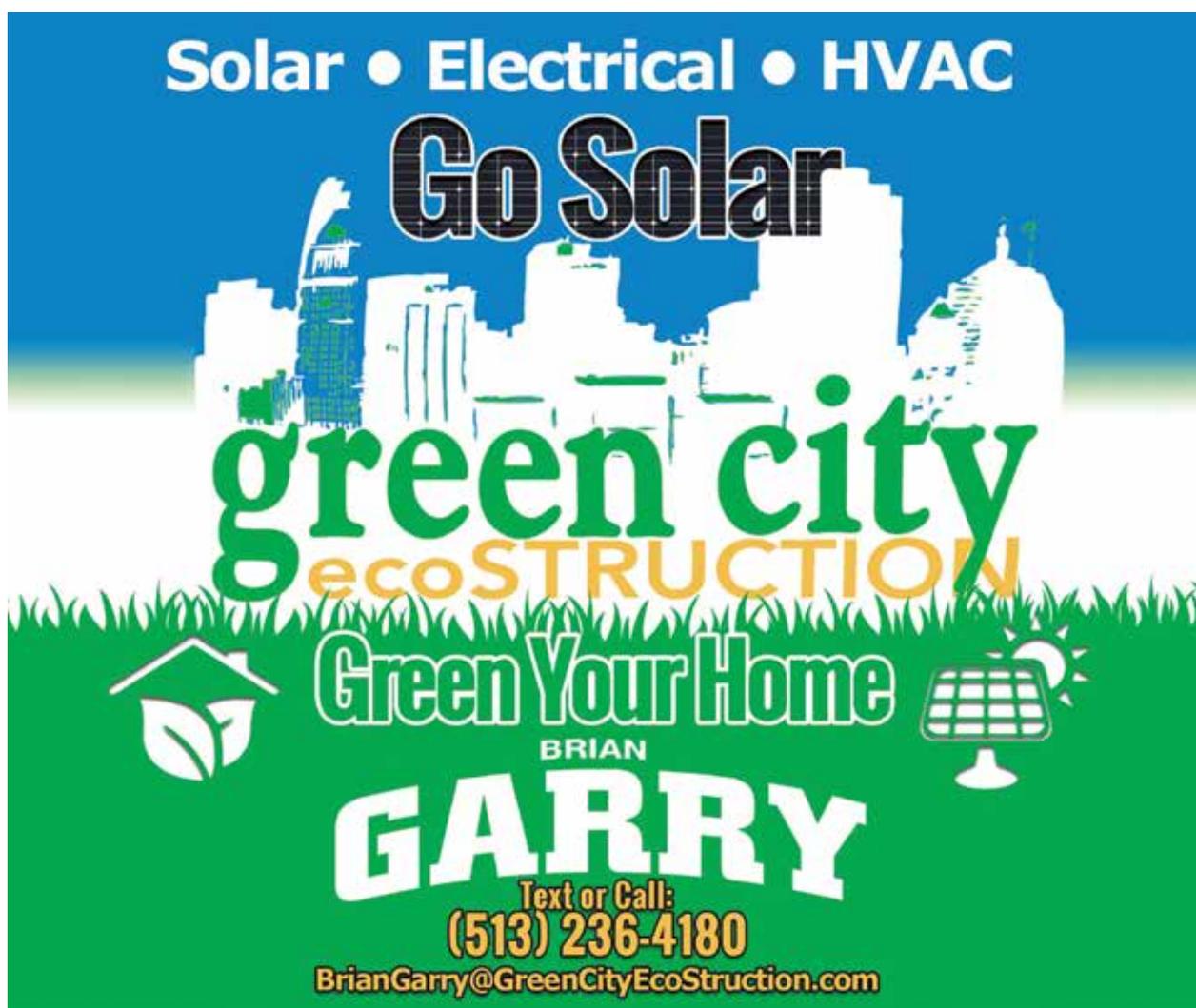
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Creating a Safety Master Plan for Clifton

In June 2020, as a side effect of the COVID19 pandemic, our neighborhood witnessed an increase of unlawful behavior that transformed Clifton into a place that made many of us feel uncomfortable. Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) worked with the other important local civic associations, including Clifton Business Association (CBA), Mt. Storm Advisory Council (MSAC), Clifton Community Fund (CCF) and the Stewards of Burnet Woods (SBW) to form an ad hoc Community Safety coalition to examine the situation and find solutions that would provide a sense of well-being and safety while not changing the congenial character of Clifton.

The problems included an increase in graffiti and litter, drug sales in the open, drug addled pedestrians, fights (with weapons wielded) on sidewalks and streets, and prostitution and sex acts performed in our neighborhood parks. The Community Safety coalition met many times, including meetings with a Human Services specialist, Captain Gregoire of Police District 5, the University of Cincinnati Police Lieutenant Jennifer Mac Mahon and Councilmember David Mann. A smaller group met with the Park Board to address problems in Burnet Woods and Mt. Storm.

Safety issues can either be dealt with by police while the neighborhood serves as a passive witness or can be dealt with by the neighborhood, with a neighborhood response to create a Safety Master Plan. We are seeking

input from everyone interested. A preliminary list of concerns include the following:

Highlights of the Community Safety Plan

1. Continue zero-tolerance for litter and graffiti, recruit volunteers to help clean up. This is a basic premise of the “broken window” theory (A neighborhood that manifests caring will be cared for.) This activity includes “all hands on deck” spring cleanup and fall cleanup (April/October);

2. Work with Social Agencies to create/ assemble brochure or information concerning social services help for people experiencing homelessness and for people with addiction;

3. Create a “Citizens on Patrol” group. Citizens on Patrol is a group of neighbors trained by the Police department that is committed to do visible surveillance rounds in the neighborhood. These individuals wearing a visible “patrol” garment provide a sense of safety and are in direct contact with the Police Department immediately if something needs to be reported.

4. Participate in Police ride-alongs to understand the job of a police officer.

5. Encourage residents and businesses to use motion-sensitive outside lights at night. Our Gaslight district is charming but has less than adequate lighting overnight, creating opportunities for theft.

6. Encourage registration with the City of personal safety camera systems. The registration enables the arrest of an individual responsible for many robberies. Follow this link to register: <https://secure.coplogic.com/dors/en/filing/showprefilingquestion?dynparam=1604411154904>

7. Install several safety cameras at business district hot spots.

8. Install sound system with classical music in our common spaces of Telford, Clifton Plaza and Diggs Plaza.

9. Work on removing low brush and honeysuckle in some parts of Burnet Woods and Mt. Storm, and change some traffic patterns to dissuade illegal sexual activities.

If you want to share a concern, or volunteer to participate in any of these actions, go to: <https://forms.gle/EDCXoR1mFaxLuU8z9>

—Gérald Checco, CTM Treasurer

ESOL Conversation Group Thrives at Clifton Branch in Midst of Pandemic

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, many businesses, events and gatherings had to pivot to some version of digital offering. Some formats are more successful than others. And luckily for new Americans, the library is one of the success stories.

The Clifton Branch ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Conversation Group has been meeting weekly at 1 p.m. Thursdays for over a decade. When COVID-19 struck earlier this year we could no longer meet in person, so we switched to virtual Zoom meetings. It has been a great way for us to stay connected, and to keep practicing our English listening and speaking skills.

The transition to online meetings has expanded our reach. People join us from the northern suburbs of Cincinnati, in addition to folks from the Clifton neighborhood. One individual who lives in Texas found our group while searching online for the “best libraries” in the U.S. She has been attending our Zoom meetings ever since, even when she traveled home to Taiwan. Other participants have also shown great dedication to our weekly meetings by joining us while on visits home to India, China and Brazil. Joining the Zoom call meant staying up late at night while using a spotty internet connection, but they made the effort.

Why are participants so enthusiastic about this group? They appreciate the familiar faces and the opportunity to practice speaking English in a supportive environment.

—Continued on page 18.

Little Sister of the Poor Add Advisory Board Member Jay Scherger

Jay Scherger, director of Kroger Ecommerce Accelerator, has been chosen as a new Advisory Board member for the Little Sisters of the Poor-Cincinnati. Jay’s innovative and creative experience for Kroger broadens the possibilities for outreach to families and donors with a focus on online communication.



St. Paul’s Home for the Aged, 476 Riddle Road, Cincinnati, OH 45220 is entering its 151st year of caring for the elderly in need in Cincinnati.

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THE WHITFIELD
CLIFTON GASLIGHT DISTRICT

513.712.3000



Gaslight
PROPERTY



Upcoming Program Opportunities at your Cincinnati Parks

Don't let Covid keep you cooped up this winter . . . go take a hike! Your Cincinnati Parks are offering any number of safe, fun outdoor activities this winter to help you beat the winter blues. Most events are FREE, however group sizes will be limited and registration is required. A full list of offerings is available at CincinnatiParks.com.

Hardy Souls – Adult Winter Hike Series

Recurring Mondays in January and February from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

Join other active adults for a vigorous hike in some of Cincinnati's most beautiful parks. Hikes are rain or shine, but will be cancelled in case of severe weather. Sturdy footwear recommended. Online registration for this free event is required. Please visit CincinnatiParks.com to register. For meeting locations and more information, email Michael.George@cincinnati-oh.gov or call 513-751-3679.

Hike destinations for the Hardy Souls – Winter Series includes: Caldwell Nature Preserve, LaBoiteaux Woods, Parker Woods, Magrish Preserve, Mt Airy Forest, and McFarlan Woods.

Cincinnati's Wild Dogs

Armleder Park
5057 Wooster Pike
Cincinnati, OH 45226
Saturday, January 23
11 a.m. - noon

Join a Park's Naturalist for an informative talk on the other members of the dog family that make Cincinnati their home. From our native Red and Gray Fox, to the newly arrived Coyote, this program has it all. Meet at the Dog Park parking lot. Online registration for this free event is required. Please visit CincinnatiParks.com to register. For more information, please call 751-3679 or email Michael.George@cincinnati-oh.gov.

Brrrrrr-net Woods - Winter Woods Hike

Trailside Nature Center – Burnet Woods
3251 Brookline Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45220
Saturday, February 20
10:30 a.m. – noon

Join us for a brisk hike through one of Cincinnati's old-

est urban forests. We'll explore the history of how this park came to be and hopefully meet some of its wilder residents. Online registration for this free event is required. Please visit CincinnatiParks.com to register. For more information, please call 751-3679 or email Michael.George@cincinnati-oh.gov.



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Please see our Facebook postings for current procedures in dealing with Covid safety issues.

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RUTH'S

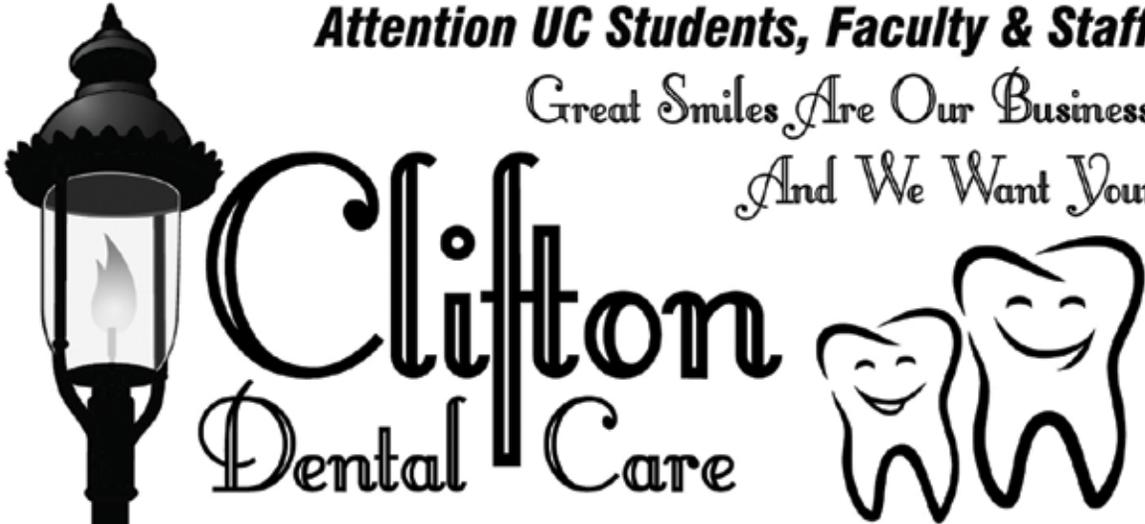
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Dinner
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The Clifton Community Fund in 2020

In the last *Clifton Chronicle* we discussed the new Shakespeare bench at the corner of Telford & Ludlow. Now we've got more fun plans coming for our pal Will and the thespians of Clifton! We'll tell you more this spring.

Meanwhile, let me take a moment to answer our most often asked question. "What is the Clifton Community Fund?" Glad you asked!

The easy answer is to click on the video at our website and listen to Jinny Berten (one of our founders) tell how the fund came about. Like many good things in Clifton—it all started at the Proud Rooster. This was in 2004. It was a small start by some folks that just wanted to make and keep Clifton the great place it is. They created the CCF as an endowed fund under the financial management of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. As our board of directors (all Clifton residents) changes over the years the GCF provides the continuity that makes change much easier.

So, what's an endowed fund? It means our money is invested and we can only use a portion of the return on those invested funds for our activities. The principle re-

mains intact. All donations go into our projects. We have no salaries or administrative costs. Thanks to your support over the last 16 years the fund has grown every year and allows us to do more and bigger projects throughout Clifton.

What defines a CCF project?

"The purpose of the Clifton Community Fund (CCF) is to preserve, beautify, and enhance Clifton, enriching its culture and quality of life. To accomplish this, we undertake projects of structural beautification (Ex. Utility boxes), community development (Ex. Shakespeare in Mt. Storm), and projects that sustain and enhance Clifton's green infrastructure (Ex. Mt. Storm Landscaping Renewal)."

Do you have an idea for a project? You can submit it at our website www.cliftoncommunityfund.org. Or, just email us at CliftonCommunityFund@gmail.com. Some of our best project ideas come from our neighbors!

One last thing, people often don't remember what a particular utility box looked like before our artist finished their work. Here's a before and after example!



Before and after example of the utility box at Whitfield and Howell intersection.

We're gonna need a bigger stork.



We deliver the most babies of any health care system in the region and now one call to **1 833 TH 4 BABY** and a mom-to-be will be guided to a health care provider who will be her partner on the journey to motherhood.

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CCAC's Annual Golden Ticket Exhibition Held Al Fresco in 2020

CCAC's 11th annual Golden Ticket, and the first Golden Ticket exhibition held entirely outdoors, features diverse, talented artists living or working within a 25-mile radius of the Clifton Cultural Arts Center. Due to on-going public health concerns, and in an effort to activate public spaces, CCAC installed accepted artworks on the perimeter of Rawson Woods Bird Preserve, as well as in an adjacent front yard on Middleton Avenue in the Gaslight District of Clifton.

More than 300 people attended the outdoor opening reception on October 30 to celebrate accepted artists and congratulate the following prize winners:

- Best in Show – *Walden Pond* by Shelby Alexander
- 2nd Place – *Destination* by ChengLun Na
- 3rd Place – *Wade* by Devan Horton
- Honorable Mention – *Seasons of the Midwest* by John Humphries
- Honorable Mention – *42nd St. near Grand Central, New York City, 2019* by Cliff Warnken

Exhibition on display through December 4 at Rawson Woods Bird Preserve (3701 Middleton Ave, 45220) – no appointment needed to view! For full list of featured artists and artwork, visit <https://cliftonculturalarts.org/golden-ticket>.



Attendees at the October 30th Golden Ticket opening reception.



Opening reception attendees view *Seasons of the Midwest* by John Humphries, winner of the Honorable Mention award.



From left to right: Honorable Mention winner Cliff Warnken, juror Ainsley Cameron, 2nd Place winner ChengLun Na, CCAC Executive Director Leslie Mooney, Honorable Mention winner John Humphries, and juror Joe Girandola.



Photo left: Attendees at the October 30th Golden Ticket opening reception take in the artwork. This year, CCAC reproduced all accepted two-dimensional works on weather-resistant substrates so that work could be displayed al fresco at the Rawson Woods Bird

ESOL Conversation Group Thrives at Clifton Branch in Midst of Pandemic –continued from page 14

Erin Mathews and I, who facilitate the group, answer questions that range from pronunciation and grammar details, to bigger questions about American culture and beliefs. We talk about what is going on in our world: COVID-19, the presidential election, protests, and health care. We explore our cultures by sharing our favorite recipes, and touring our hometowns online. Sometimes lighter topics such as shopping, movies and TV, and American slang encourage conversation and lots of laughs.

At a time when many people feel isolated, we help individuals connect with others who may be new to the United States and want to improve their communication skills in a different culture. We also refer people to resources and other services in the community that may help them meet their goals. One of our group members recently said that her friend asked her “How do you know so much about the U.S. when you haven’t lived here very long?” She answered “I have great teachers!”

If you or someone you know is interested in joining the Virtual Clifton ESOL Conversation Group, please visit cinlib.org/cliftonESOL. You need to register for the group by entering your name and email address. You’ll receive a Zoom invitation the day before the meeting so that you can join the call at 1 p.m. the day of the meeting. For more information, call the Clifton Branch Library at 513-369-4447.

— *Liz Weigand, Teen Librarian at the Clifton Branch of the Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library*



Creative solutions abound – Not even a pandemic can keep us down!

TNSM Virtual Open House January 24

If you're looking for an education that allows for social-emotional and hands-on learning: Sign up for TNSM's Virtual OPEN HOUSE on Sunday, January 24, 2021 using this link. <https://newschoolmontessori.com/admissions/open-house/>

Over 100 years ago, Dr. Maria Montessori referred to children's “many-sided powers of adaptation” and in 2020, that ability is still at work as New School Montessori students have quickly adapted to wearing masks in their in-person learning environments. Because of TNSM's unique campus and low student-to-teacher ratios, the entire school can be present all day, 5 days a week with extended-day services available as well for ages 3-12.

Working with hands-on learning materials is an important tenet of a Montessori education, giving each child the thrill of discovery that comes from firsthand experience. When a child gets to have his own “aha” moment — it sticks.

Montessori's Long Black Strip lesson gives learners perspective on how recently (in Earth's timeline) humans have entered the scene; in an instant, our brief time on Earth is clearly visible. In the original lesson, Dr. Montessori spread 328 yards (3 football fields) of black fabric down a very long street. That expanse of black fabric represented the number of years since Earth's creation. On the tip of that unspooled fabric was a single colored strip of fabric that represented the number of years humans have lived on Earth.

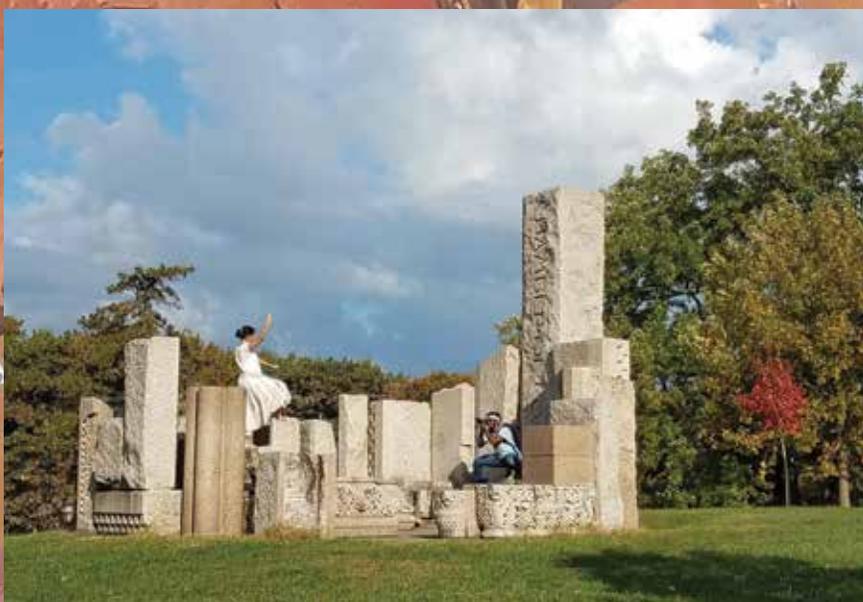
A century later and this lesson still inspires Wows! Amazings! And Oh my goodness! What a much-needed lesson in humility for us all.



The New School Montessori students have quickly adapted to wearing masks in their in-person learning environments.

(This lesson is still given by Montessori teachers today, however the length of the black strip has often been shortened due to practical issues of storage and size of school grounds.)

Autumn 2020 Makes Lovely Exit in Burnet Woods



Photos by Rama Kasturi



On The Avenue



Ludlow Garage Brian, manager and Lucia, bartender at Ludlow Garage where small groups play live on some Saturday nights in the restaurant area near the door. Check ludlowgaragecincinnati.com for upcoming music. Try out their new menu with tasty seasonal items like the Fritters: sweet potato and apple cakes with chile aioli, and their Bun Bowl: Mixed greens, rice noodles, carrots, cucumbers, peppers, bean sprouts and basil leaves. Brian takes the fantastic images of food for social media.



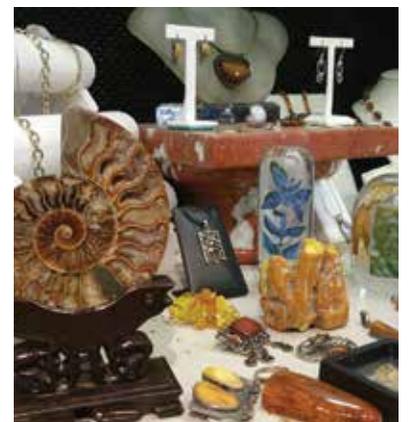
Baladi Restaurant & Bakery Make sure you check out their Intelligent Disinfection Door.



Esquire Theatre Aaron has been working at the Esquire since September 25, 2020. It's his favorite movie theater in all of Cincinnati. He has a lot of great memories here and it's the one he wanted to work at most.



Clifton Plaza The Henein Family used to live in Finneytown but due to work moved to Indianapolis. On a recent visit they had a hard time picking where to go while in Cincinnati. Ultimately they picked Clifton for Graeter's ice cream after going to the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens..



d.Raphael Lots of gifts from around the world—perfect for holiday giving



Howell Street Pet Hospital News Cliftonite John Calderous waits for his pet cat "Storm" to get its yearly vaccines.

Maya Victor, owner of Maya, and Emily, Maya social media guru, polish jewelry. Victor is getting some skull rings in for holiday shoppers. "We want to help staying safe this holiday season with our online store offering and complementary local delivery, gift wrapping, free shipping and personalized handmade greeting cards. We hope to be able to catch up in December using our online store and avoiding our clients to have to come out to our store," said Victor.



Makin' Heads Turn Featuring the art of Alfonso B. Huckleberry Sr. Art images of Maurice White, lead singer of Earth Wind and Fire and Picasso like relief. <https://www.facebook.com/iamacincyartist/> <https://alfonsobuckleberryart.com/>



Habaneros New Item: Honey Sriracha Chicken Quesadilla
New Art on display by Ervan Lane of Lace Creation2, 513-432-3106 Instagram @lacecreations, including above Octoland, 16" x 20", \$80

On The Avenue



Adrian Durban
Jackie Chesher arranging wedding centerpieces at Adrian Durban Florist.



Petey's Pet Stop
Groomer Jackie gives Misha a bath.

Clifton Natural Foods

Aline shows off the new line of 25 percent off Wyld Chewable CBD Gummies.

Wyld cultivated these flavors over the years, carefully honing their recipes to create edible delights that enhance every moment with real fruit flavors and THC-free hemp.



Presius Tajah

homeless woman selling buttons and hyper pop art on Clifton plaza. She also teaches young teenagers how to sell art. Sometimes you can see her in front of Coffee Emporium in OTR and Finlay Market. She has her own advertising agency to help you get your word out 513-615-6775.



J Gumbo's

Corey, manager, says they are having some of the best days yet. New menu item "Chicken Zydeco." Lydia, in the background, agrees.



Sitwell's Act II Brunch is coming back to Sitwell's. Local photographer Casey McClair in the front room.

Hillary Ludlow Ambassador

Hillary cleans Ludlow Avenue six days a week arriving about 9:30 a.m. You might see her with her grandchildren Lalanie, 4, and Eva Marie, 2, while she blows the street clean, sometimes for eight hours. She also does housekeeping and sells vintage and estate jewelry she gets from Paolo. He got her the job to keep Ludlow clean.



Lentz & Company Check out the latest art from Patrick White, it's a pizza you can hang on the wall. See it in the upper left hand corner of the image. They are glad just to be still in business. It's just Leigh Ann holding down the fort because Nick works at the Board of Elections. They opened up the store by selling a large quantity of the furniture and adding an array of small items.



Creative Seating at Los Potrillos From left to right: Martha Totten, Alexis Cain, Bama Brand, Lynn Lockwood and Eve Harper enjoy food from Los Potrillos. The Esquire theater was kind enough to let them set up tables in the alleyway.

Inspiring Father Tony Salamone played semi pro ball throughout the United States, as well as for one of the Cincinnati Reds farm teams. He volunteered for the Korean War and when he returned, he still played AAA Baseball throughout the country with the Boston Red Sox, Brooklyn Dodgers and Cincinnati Reds. He moved on to highly competitive softball and coached baseball for many years! He inspired



his son Paul Salamone to work smart and be a gentleman. Paul owns Paolo Modern Jewelry. Their beautiful studio is set up with a complete fall/winter line.

Semesters Tyler Lee of Tau Kappa Epsilon puts together a paddle.



Postmark Nevarre Mulderink, apprentice sommelier, shows off his favorite style of wine: Amarone della Valpolicella. It's from the province of Verona, within the

large Veneto region near Venice. It's robust flavor of fig, raisins and fruit is perfect for stews and roasts. In Italian, the name Amarone literally means "the Great Bitter"; originally, this was to distinguish it from the Recioto produced in the same region, which is sweeter in taste. Check at <http://postmark.restaurant/> for hours and to see who is playing.



On The Avenue

CliftonFest 2020

Although scaled down for safety reasons during the pandemic, this year's CliftonFest still celebrated community and the beauty of sidewalk chalk art. Sixteen artworks were commissioned and completed throughout the business district.



Ludlow Wine Mike Anagnostou of Ludlow Wines poses with his sponsored CliftonFest chalk drawing of "Mother and Twins" Artist: Gustav Klimt circa 1895 by Ellina Chetverikova. Talking about bargains, Mike says, "When I come across a white bordeaux that is not that expensive and it's well balanced, I like that!. I came across one Italian red I sell for \$8.99, it tastes like three times that."



Los Potrillos Emily Mason chalk drawing for Los Potrillos of Georgia O'Keeffe's art. Happy hour everyday 3-7 p.m. Taco Week at Los Potrillos. \$2 Vegan or Chipotle Chicken Tacos. Pair with a small Patrón Margarita \$8.

Hunan Bistro (photo at right) Hunan Bistro delivery women with Bruce Lee chalk drawing outside the restaurant.

Chalk Art at Clifton Market

Minion by NFlyerArts
Clifton Market Logo by @cass_art04



Clifton Market – Price Differences

Clifton Market has a person dedicated to pricing and cashiers help spot check prices, but pricing in the retail world has many challenges.

- If the price that rings up is higher than on the shelf, the lower price is given to the customer, even if the sale is over and the price tag has not been pulled from the shelf.
 - Old and new items in the Market's database total just under 400,000. There are 500 items in produce. Every vendor has their own way of pricing, and some price their own goods.
 - Sometimes the bread man will sell the same product at the same price to Clifton Market and Kroger, but Kroger will sell it for 10 cents less though they are not supposed to do that. Who's going to complain?
 - When products arrive, the shelf price has to be changed right away. Sometimes the database is not updated right away and a customer sees the difference at the register.
 - Clifton Market is being proactive about prices by having the cashiers write down the skew numbers of products with the wrong price.
 - Sometimes the skew numbers on the case are different from the skew on the product inside and it gets put on the shelf with the wrong skew number.
 - One time facial tissue arrived with no UPC code on it and a label had to be made.
 - Clifton Market is lowering prices by buying pallets of goods, like Gatorade.
- They work hard to fix the price difference problem.

All Good Clifton News

- Pangaea Trading Company and Toku Baru are happy to be back with lots of support from the neighborhood.
- Wonderland Vape shop holding its own.
- Live music returns at Arlin's Bar & Grill.
- Things are picking up at Personalities By Leona.
- Dewey's Pizza has curbside pick. No indoor dining, yet.
- Biagio's Bistro is hanging on.
- Skyline reports business is good.
- UDF is now offering open food.
- Bruegger's Bagels is open for carry out.
- University Nails is busy.
- Colin at Widmer's Dry Cleaners says in December there is a 20 percent discount on down pillows.
- Megan, the new front desk person at Gaslight Properties, loves working in Clifton. She has worked at the library and one of the banks.

- Torn Records reports good sales. The online store is having a ton of sales, <https://www.tornlightrecords.com/>.
- Suzanne at Brown's Tours & Travel, says they have been busier starting in October. People are going to Cancun, Mexico and Jamaica.
- Josh Carnevale is partnering with an Essex Art Gallery to open "Upside Coffee" in former Lydia's Cafe space. Offering coffee, breakfast, food, beer, wine, growlers and draft beer.
- The mascot, Orangey, is not at the Howell Street Pet Hospital. He is spending time at Aaron, front desk person's, home due to Covid.
- Ace Hardware reports sales better than last year. Bryan Valerius, owner, visited Bobby Doll of Proud Rooster. In October Bobby was in the hospital for surgery. Bryan has been helping him with his shop along with Mike of Ludlow Wines.

Heart Montessori is Open for Winter Enrollment

Looking for a school option for your child in the midst of the pandemic? Heart Montessori offers small class attendance for ages 3-6 and 6-9. The Montessori method developed by Dr. Maria Montessori is a child-centered approach to education that seeks to value each child's natural interests as they develop physically, socially, emotionally, and cognitively. The goal of Heart Montessori is to provide children with the skills necessary to make the world more beautiful than they found it. By practicing non-harming in daily life, the children develop an intrinsic sense of empathy and compassion, which empowers them to manifest the most exquisite version of themselves.

More information at www.heartmontessorischool.com or email: connect@heartmontessorischool.com.

World Peace Yoga Teacher Training IN STUDIO or ONLINE LIVE STREAM

Now you may participate in World Peace Yoga's teacher training and personal spiritual growth programs in the studio or via online live stream. In the the midst of this pandemic and all the uncertainty in the world, participating in a training like this has a powerful impact... it allows for more calm in the chaos and clarity in the confusion. The inner peace you gain through yoga practice is without a doubt life changing. The Yoga Teacher Training program they offer is one of a kind...and it's not exclusively for people interested in teaching yoga, it's also for those that are interested in making yoga part of their daily life and deepening their practice.

Scholarships are available. Please email: yoga@worldpeaceyoga.com for more information.

Mark Schlachter's Familiar Faces Presented at The Town Club

At the October meeting of The Town Club, Mark Schlachter entertained members with excerpts from his book, *Familiar Faces: The People and Places of Indiana's 93rd County*, published in 2019.

Mark Schlachter is a man of many talents and interests. This native Cincinnati has worked as a teacher, photographer, theater designer, broadcaster, librarian, writer and sculptor. He self-designed his west-side home, which features some of his metal sculptures in the yard. Or you may have seen him about town with his wife Rosemary attending the ballet or symphony or a fund-raising event for the arts.

During his time as an on-air host and General Manager at WNOP-Re-aljazz 740 from 1997 to 2000, Mark kept listeners informed of the people and happenings in fictional Ersatz County Indiana. More than 20 years ago he started working on his vision for a book about this unusual place and its quirky residents. He used family, friends and co-workers as models in his photographs.



Mark and Rosemary Schlachter

If you are in the mood for a smile and a little tongue-in-cheek humor, you might want to get a copy for yourself.

Since 1933 The Town Club has promoted charitable and educational pursuits in the Cincinnati area.

On The Avenue



The Clifton is Beautiful Screen is filled up with comments at Baladi Restaurant & Bakery. The screen will be circulating amongst the merchants every quarter. If you want to host the screen contact Tom Lohre thoslohre49@gmail.com. A larger version is ready to be mounted on Clifton Plaza. The chalk boards were created and paid for by ArtsWave.