



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

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NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR
NEWS BY, FROM, AND FOR THE KENNEDY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY

NOV/DEC 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, November 3
ELECTION DAY**
Make your voice heard at your local polling place. Remember to wear a mask.

**Saturday, November 14
Art Shop & Holiday Market**
at the KHAC thru Dec 31
Wed – Fri 10am to 5pm
Saturdays 11am to 4pm

**Tuesday, November 17
KH Community Council**
Virtual meeting via GSuites 6:30 p.m. Board discussion 7:30 p.m. Public meeting

**Tuesday, December 1
Retold Outdoor Exhibit**
at the KHAC thru Dec 31
Dawn to dusk; outdoors

No December Council meeting. Enjoy holidays, and stay safe and healthy.

Stay up-to-date by signing up for our emails at kennedyheights.org or following us on social media



Jan/Feb newsletter content due Dec 1: kelliott@kennedyheights.org

KENNEDY HEIGHTS COUNTS



Our thanks to everyone who supported the Kennedy Heights Counts initiative!

Approximately 75 people stopped by to pick up a pre-packaged goody bag (hand sanitizer, mask, snack, water), complete the Census, register to vote, get a new Kennedy Heights yard sign (pay what you can) and sign a petition to get affordable housing on the May 2021 ballot, and learn more about Community Planning. It was an amazing opportunity to see friends and neighbors and celebrate the supportive spirit that defines our neighborhood.

KENNEDY HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

A neighborhood plan is a formal process that invites the diverse interests within a given neighborhood to come together for the purpose of developing a shared vision. Our Neighborhood Plan is moving forward, and the website is LIVE!

What do you want to see in Kennedy Heights' future? More green space? More businesses? A walking trail? Safety initiatives? Property improvements?

Kennedy Heights' last Comprehensive Community Plan was passed in 2003. According to the City of Cincinnati, these kinds of plans are expected to have a 5-15 year shelf life—we are long overdue for an update!

We had hoped to be much farther in the planning process by this point in 2020, but COVID had other plans. We are now trying to gain lost ground, but we need YOUR help!

If we are to create a plan that truly reflects the ideals and dreams of our residents, we need YOU.

Visit this website to learn more about the goals, the process, and most importantly, **complete a brief survey that will inform our priorities.**

cincinnati-oh.gov/khplan

Don't have reliable internet? Experiencing digital fatigue? Paper surveys are available. Or, you can reach out to our VP of Planning, Mary Ray. She is willing to talk to you over the phone. Call or email Mary:

mary@kennedyheights.org
513-265-9199

As of the creation of this newsletter, we only had 75 survey responses. We know that more than just 75 people have opinions about the future of Kennedy Heights.

We need every resident and business to participate in order to know that our plan will truly serve the best interest of the community as a whole. Thank you for your participation!

2020 KENNEDY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

CO-PRESIDENTS: Kate Elliott, kelliott@kennedyheights.org, Sharifah Tafari, sharifah@kennedyheights.org

V.P., COMMUNITY PLANNING: Mary Ray, mary@kennedyheights.org

V.P., ADMINISTRATION: Eric Armstrong, eric@kennedyheights.org

SECRETARY: Peggy Brown, peggy@kennedyheights.org

TREASURER: Sister Carren Herring, carren@kennedyheights.org

NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPORT PROGRAM MANAGER: Jean Bange, jean@kennedyheights.org

TRUSTEES-AT-LARGE: Anita Hisle, anita@kennedyheights.org

Dee Cannedy Lowry, dee@kennedyheights.org

Cassandra Jones, cassandra@kennedyheights.org

Romona Mayo

EDITOR, KHCC NEWSLETTER: Kate Elliott, kelliott@kennedyheights.org

WEBMASTER: Rick Boyer, rick@kennedyheights.org

CONTACT US: Kennedy Heights Community Council, P.O. Box 36318, Cincinnati, OH 45236, khcc@kennedyheights.org, www.kennedyheights.org

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CONNECT WITH THE KHCC ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!



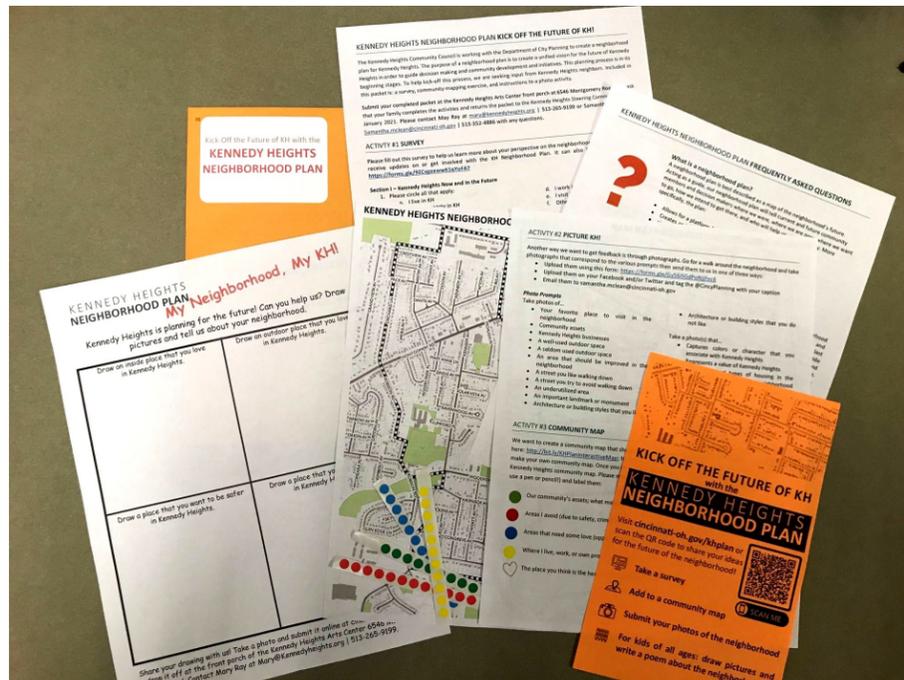
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENTS

It's the most wonderful time of the year—and yet it will be different. With COVID cases on the rise again in Hamilton County, we hope that you will enjoy your holiday season with creativity and safety.

COVID has created barriers and challenges for many initiatives, including our Kennedy Heights Neighborhood Plan. We are continuing forward as best we can, but we cannot pretend to shape the neighborhood in a shared vision without the input and opinions of all neighbors. Please help us spread the word about the Neighborhood Plan Survey. More information can be found on the front page of this newsletter.

Another initiative that COVID impeded is our Friends of Kennedy Heights Campaign. Each year, our dedicated champion Bob Kemp travels door to door to request donations for the Community Council. He is stunningly successful, and we owe much of our fiscal solvency to his efforts. This year, a door-to-door campaign has not been possible. The loss is apparent, as we have brought in \$6,000 less than budgeted for the 2020 fiscal year. For this reason, we humbly ask that you consider a donation. We know that this year has been hard, but every little bit helps. You can give online or by mail. More information is on Page 5. Thank you for your generosity.

Kate Elliott and Sharifah Tafari Co-Presidents



FRIENDS OF KENNEDY HEIGHTS: AUG 1, 2020 - SEPT 30, 2020

In these days of social distancing, we encourage you to support the Community Council through our website. Thank you for supporting your community during this time. www.kennedyheights.org

If we have inadvertently omitted your name, please inform us.

- Friends of Kennedy Heights: Adam Kirwen, Nancy Schmidt, Lily Winkler, Raymond & Denise Bykes, Sharon Rice, Timothy Hubbard, Allan & Karen Rahe, Dax Farmer, Al Gerhardstein & Mimi Gingold, Jean & John Bange in memory of Mary Wolfe

Become a Friend of Kennedy Heights! Your tax-deductible donation supports the bi-monthly newsletter and the events in and around the community.

Donation form with fields for Name, Address, City/State/ZIP, Email, and donation amount options (\$15.00, \$25.00, \$50.00, \$100.00, Other amount).

Please mail this completed form and payment to: P.O. Box 36318, Cincinnati, OH 45236. Other one-time or recurring payment options—including credit card payments—are available at www.kennedyheights.org using PayPal.

COFFEE EXCHANGE EXPRESS COMES TO KENNEDY HEIGHTS



Originally published on Soapboxmedia.com

By Jessica Esemblare

On June 7, 2018, after just five years in business, the Coffee Exchange in Pleasant Ridge was destroyed during a devastating fire. Husband and wife owners Joe and Sarah Peters were eventually able to purchase a building that had about four times the space of the original location. On January 14th, 2020, they reopened to an ecstatic public. Two months later, they were forced to close again as coronavirus spread through the country.

Despite the setbacks, Joe and Sarah continued a successful carryout business, modifying the menu and safety protocols when necessary. And even during a time of economic uncertainty, they plan to expand their business in nearby Kennedy Heights with a drive-thru location, the Coffee Express of Kennedy Heights, which will take over the long-abandoned, highly controversial pony keg, the Beverage Cave.

No opening date has been set as of publication, but you can read more at:

https://www.soapboxmedia.com/devnews/Coffee-Exchange-opens-Coffee-Express-in-abandoned-Beverage-Cave.aspx

PLEASANT RIDGE LIBRARY

The Pleasant Ridge Branch of the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library will be open Monday through Saturday from 10AM-6PM. Available services include curbside service, browsing, limited computer access, and assistance with faxing, scanning, copying, and printing. Visitors will be asked to limit their visits to 2 hours or less and building capacity is reduced. Storytime and other programs and events may be offered on a very limited basis. Available services and/or hours may change. Call us at 513-369-4488 with any questions.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT REQUESTS

Community Councils can submit 3 capital projects to the City budget on a biennial schedule. The next biennial budget is 2022-23.

You neighbors suggested several wonderful projects to submit. Only one was eligible to be considered a capital project, and the community voted to support it at the October Council meeting. The following project was selected to be submitted to the city:

2-3 acres of the vacant Shroder property will be annexed into Kennedy Park. Kennedy Heights Development Corporation (KHDC) will partner with Parks on a development plan for the remaining 5-6 acres. They are applying to the Parks department to hire a consultant to create a master plan and budget.

Caitlin Siegler-Hart and Abby McKay are spearheading this project and partnering with KHDC, with support from Clete Benken. KHDC contact is: kennedyheightsdc1@gmail.com

The budget committee makes recommendations in May 2021, and the budget is approved in June 2021. We will keep you updated regarding the approval of this project as best we can.

The other projects that were discussed will be integrated into the Neighborhood Plan. These projects include (all titles and descriptions are subject to change):

- A Walking History of Kennedy Heights - an app and physical walking trail that takes you through places in Kennedy Heights of historical significance. The trail may also include personal memories from notable neighbors, and signage for those without access to the app.
- Resident Property Improvement Work Program - an opportunity to provide paid work to residents by matching them with neighbors who are unable to keep up with certain basic maintenance tasks on their property.
- Zinsle Traffic Study and Improvement Plan - Quadrant 4 is creating a Plan working group, they are seeking interested members. Steve Grieser and Catherine Bond are assembling the working group.

Working Groups and Quadrant Leaders will be vital to continuing these other projects. Want to know more? Reach out to Mary Ray at mary@kennedyheights.org

KENNEDY HEIGHTS ARTS CENTER



RETOLD

Outdoor exhibition

December 1st – December 31st, 2020

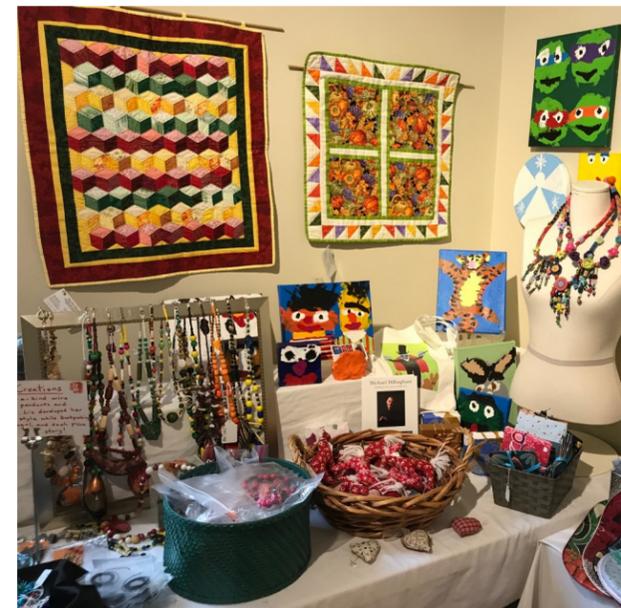
This winter, holiday stories are getting a twist! 10 local artists will put their spin on holiday folklore and display their artworks, which incorporate lighted elements, on the Kennedy Heights Arts Center's outdoor grounds. This outdoor exhibition can be a drive through experience from the warmth of your car, or you can park and explore the works in this winter wonderland on foot. Outdoor viewing open from dawn to dusk. Exhibition on view from December 1st to December 31st, 2020. More information at www.kennedyarts.org

ART SHOP & HOLIDAY ART MARKET

November 14th– December 31st, 2020

Looking for a special, one-of-a-kind gift for a loved one (or yourself!) this holiday season? Look no further! The Kennedy Heights Arts Center Art Shop & Holiday Art Market offers an amazing array of unique, handmade items by more than 50 local artists, perfect for gift-giving this season. Options include jewelry, pottery, fiber works, ornaments, cards, masks, and more.

The KHAC Art Shop & Holiday Art Market is open Wednesdays - Fridays 10:00 a.m. to 5pm, and Saturdays 11am to 4pm from November 14th until the end of the year. More information at www.kennedyarts.org



NEVERTHELESS, ART PERSISTED

Thanks to all who braved the weather to enjoy the Know Theatre's production of Fannie Lou Hamer: Speak On It! It was a compelling afternoon of live theatre, with a spirit of hope in the power of the vote.



NOTABLE NEIGHBORS: NEIL AND STELLA DUNSON

Contributed by Kate Elliott

The house was supposed to be a starterz home for Neil and Stella Dunson. That was back in 1968.

Now, 53 years later, they've raised children and welcomed grandchildren and great-grandchildren into their home on Withany Avenue.

The couple had been living in Evanston, married for a few years and with their oldest child in kindergarten. Neil and Stella had already been looking in the Kennedy Heights area before the 1968 race riots began, but those events certainly made the quiet dead-end street more appealing. At the time that they moved in, they were the first Black family on the street. They raised four children—two boys and two girls—and now have six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Their faith is important to them and the Dunsons attend First Missionary Baptist on Main Street in Loveland. Having been deeply engaged in music ministry, with Stella even directing the choir, they are missing in-person worship these days.

Neil worked for Cincinnati Milling Machine from 1964 until 2001, through the company's many name changes. He was an assembler, making the machine parts that made airplane parts. He eventually moved up to Runoff Tech, and sometimes he oversaw getting machinery started up for customers. He has been known as "Mr. Fix-it" on the street with his mechanical knowledge.

Stella worked for some time as a cosmetologist and spent years as an in-home childcare provider to local families. She is gifted at crochet and baking. *Editor's Note: This article's author is a biased neighbor who has enjoyed several of Stella's delicious treats, including*



yeast rolls and shortbread cookies, and has wrapped more than one baby in a Stella-made blanket.

The Dunsons enjoy being able to reflect on how the neighborhood has changed. Stella recalls the pharmacy that used to be near what is now C&M BBQ; Neil remembers the IGA that is now a cosmetology school. They both talked about the Water Tower Park and what a big deal it was when the Tower was taken down.

One of their favorite memories is from a winter many years ago. As Neil says, "This street sort of flies under the radar." Being a short dead-end, it was not prioritized by the City for snow removal. When a large snowstorm dumped inches of snow, the Dunsons remember everyone coming out of their homes and working together to shovel not just their driveways, but the whole street!

They also reminisce about a three year span when Withany Avenue held a block party. Neighbors who had since moved away would still come back for the celebration. They hope that the future of Kennedy Heights holds more of this neighborly connection, of showing concern for each other and helping each other.

OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

NEIGHBORHOOD SIGNS

There are still a few neighborhood yard signs remaining. Pay what you can; \$10 suggested donation. If you would like one, please email jean@kennedyheights.org

BRIDGE UPDATE

The concrete for the new roadway deck surface on the bridge has been placed, and the bridge sidewalks and railing will be completed over the next several weeks, followed by building the new roadway curbs, sidewalks, driveway aprons, and blacktop.

There have been some delays. Currently, we are anticipating that the road will reopen in

early December, which is later than originally scheduled. The contractor is preparing an updated schedule and it will be shared as soon as we learn more.

THE CARING PLACE

Winter is coming. The Caring Place is currently accepting personal care items and clothing, particularly winter clothing. Volunteers will also be needed as holiday food donations come in. Please reach out to caringplacellc@yahoo.com if you are interested in volunteering. The Caring Place is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

BECOME A FRIEND BEFORE 2020 ENDS—OUR GOAL IS \$3,000!

This year has been a challenge in many ways. Financial loss has been felt all over our city, and the Community Council is no exception.

Each year, our dedicated champion Bob Kemp travels door to door to request donations for the Community Council. This year, a door-to-door campaign has not been possible, and the loss is apparent. **To date, we have brought in \$6,000 less than we had hoped to raise in the 2020 fiscal year.**

The Community Council receives financial support from Invest In Neighborhoods and Neighborhood Support Plan (NSP) funds, but these funds have specific allocations like this newsletter. Gifts made to the Friends of Kennedy Heights are unrestricted, used as the Council—that's you—sees fit. These funds have sponsored Arts events, community building events, and help pay for our technology. 2020 is coming to an end, the Neighborhood Plan is just beginning—time is running out.

**GIVING
TUESDAY**

We need you. We know it's not the same as knocking on your door, laughing and talking as neighbors, but we hope you will help us meet our end of the year goal.

Beginning December 1, known as Giving Tuesday, and running through the end of the year, we are hoping to raise \$3,000—just half of the \$6,000 shortage. With more than 5,000 households in Kennedy Heights, if every home gives just \$1 we will sail past our goal!

Send checks to Kennedy Heights Community Council, P.O. Box 36318, Cincinnati, OH 45236. Online payments, including recurring payments, can be made at www.kennedyheights.org using PayPal.