



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

SEP/OCT 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, September 15
KH Community Council
 Virtual meeting via GSuites
 6:30 p.m. Board discussion
 7:30 p.m. Public meeting

Saturday, September 19
Kennedy Heights Counts
 Drive-thru Census and Voter
 Registration Event
 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 KHAC Annex Parking Lot

Monday, October 5
 Deadline to register to vote
 in November general
 election.

Tuesday, October 20
KH Community Council
 Virtual meeting via GSuites
 6:30 p.m. Board discussion
 7:30 p.m. Public meeting

Planning for the future is difficult in this time of COVID. Stay up-to-date on neighborhood happenings by signing up for our e-news at kennedyheights.org or following us on social media



Sep/Oct newsletter content due
 Oct 1: kelliott@kennedyheights.org

VOTING IN THE TIME OF COVID

KNOW YOUR OPTIONS AND PLAN AHEAD



Ohio's fall election is fast-approaching, with the pandemic still in full swing. Election Day is scheduled for November 3, with the U.S. presidential race, all 16 Ohio congressional seats and many other state races on the ballot.

vote—or have updated your voter information—no later than 30 days before an election.

The deadline to register for Ohio's November election is Oct. 5.

You can register to vote online through the Ohio Secretary of State's website: **olvr.ohiosos.gov**

To do so, you must provide your name, date of birth, address, driver's license or Ohio ID card number, and the last four digits of your Social Security number.

Alternatively, you can print out a paper form, fill it out and deliver it to the

Hamilton County BOE, located at 4700 Smith Rd.

KEY DATES:

Oct 5: General Election voter registration deadline

Oct. 6: Early Voting and mail-in voting begins

Deadline to request absentee ballot: Oct 31

Early voting and mail-in voting ends: Nov 2

During the primaries, the coronavirus outbreak pushed Ohio to postpone its spring election and switch to almost entirely absentee voting. County boards of elections have gotten more money and support to prepare, but expect another election heavily dependent on early voting or voting by mail.

REGISTER

Make sure you're registered to

Continued on page 6.

PLAY IN THE STREET



Leave it to the Kennedy Heights Arts Center to create a way to rekindle the Play in the Park joy while maintaining safe distance!

The Joy Mobile visited two different sections of Kennedy Heights on two different Wednesday nights. They were perfect summer evenings, sharing joy, Streetpops, Afrakan cuisine, colorful umbrellas and Mokko Jombie stilt walkers.

Thanks to all the welcoming residents, fabulous volunteers, the Afrakan Artist Alliance, and Karen Sickmann Saunders.

And, thank you to the lovely residents on Bantry/Iris/Dante/Glen and Zinsle/Kirkup who joined on their front porches and yards for a safely distanced celebration. We're so glad you're our neighbors.

Funded by Arts Giving Circle of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, with operating support ArtsWave. *Photos by Thomas R. Kinsel.*



2020 KENNEDY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

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

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Romona Mayo

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The KHCC Neighbor to Neighbor newsletter is published with funds from Friends of Kennedy Heights and City of Cincinnati Neighborhood Support Program.

CONNECT WITH THE KHCC ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENTS

We persevere. 2020 continues with its ups and downs, and with no clear timeline on which we can expect a return to "normal." Which is why we made the decision for all Council meetings to continue in a virtual setting, and to cancel any plans for a traditional Progressive Dinner or Winterfest. We hope that we can come up with a creative holiday celebration in the same way that Play in the Street reinvented Play in the Park, but we have nothing planned yet.

Speaking of creativity, we have managed to construct the beginnings of what we feel will be a very important event. On September 19, we will offer Kennedy Heights Counts. This will be a drive-thru, COVID-safe event to help residents complete the Census, register to vote, and obtain PPE supplies. Be sure you are signed up for our newsletter (at kennedyheights.org) or following us on social media as this event develops.

Want to help plan this important event for civic engagement? Reach out to board@kennedyheights.org

Meanwhile, stay safe, stay well, and stay connected while physically apart.

Kate Elliott and Sharifah Tafari Co-Presidents

COMMUNITY PLANNING, WITH SADNESS

Neighborhood planning will resume soon, but with a weight of sadness. The City Planner who had been assigned to us, Jared Ellis, passed away suddenly. He was kind and joyful, cared deeply for his work, and he will be missed.

We have been assigned a new Planner, and work is beginning anew. Please email mary@kennedyheights.org if you want to be involved.

In the meantime, we hope that all will keep Jared's family in your thoughts.

FRIENDS OF KENNEDY HEIGHTS: JUN 1, 2020 - JULY 31, 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: Dan Kasprovicz, Roslyn Storms, Martin Culver, Robert & Gail Cardwell, Nellie Hope, Bob & Shirley Johnson, Romona Mayo

Form for becoming a Friend of Kennedy Heights, including donation options (\$15.00 to \$100.00), contact information fields, and mailing instructions.

BLACK LIVES MATTER SIGNS SUPPORT BLACK UNITED FRONT



On Saturday, June 20, 150 neighbors and friends who came out on to plant Black Eyed Susans for Justice and stood in solidarity against racism and police brutality. During the event, the Community Council sold many "Black Lives Matter" yard signs with a "pay what you can" model, with the understanding that the funds raised would support the community in some way. The day raised an inspiring \$500. After much reflection and input from neighbors, it was determined that all funds should go to Cincinnati's Black United Front.

The Black United Front started in 2000, led by Iris Foley and other leaders as the city grappled with the deaths of more than a dozen black men over five years, all while in police custody.

In 2002, a federal district court established the city's collaborative agreement with the Black United Front and ACLU. The agreement set standards for an independent board to hear citizen complaints, establish police problem solving approaches, and provide for data collection on police action. Today, the Cincinnati police openly endorse the agreement and its reforms.

These funds will support training the next generation of activist leaders to continue this vital work. They are trying to raise a total of \$50,000 to cover \$15/hour, three days a week for three months of intensive leadership development.

If you would like to support this work further, a tax-deductible gift can be made to New Prospect Baptist Church, 1580 Summit Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45237, put "Leadership Development Collaborative Agreement Work" in memo line.

PLEASANT RIDGE LIBRARY

The Pleasant Ridge Branch has been open for limited services since July 27th. We 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 30 minutes or less. Building capacity will be significantly reduced. Storytime and all programs and events are still cancelled until further notice. Available services may change. Call us at 513-369-4488 with any questions. Check www.cincinnati.library.org to access all our eBranch offerings, and to see the most current information on services offered at all of the branches.

ELECTION DAY (cont.)

VOTING BY MAIL

To vote by mail, which is a secure and popular method of voting, your ballot must be postmarked by November 2. You also must attach your own postage.

Please note: You should mail your ballot as soon as possible. That back and forth could mean four trips through the mail, and the U.S. Postal Service estimates it may take between 2-5 days to deliver each way. This spring election saw even longer delays, and many Ohioans had their votes invalidated because they arrived late.

Voting rights groups suggest mailing your ballot at least a week before Election Day. Your ballots can be received up to 10 days after the election to be counted.

Alternatively, you can drop off your absentee ballot in person at your county board of elections anytime before November 3 at 7:30 p.m.

VOTING IN PERSON

Once registered, you vote as early as October 6. Early voting happens at the Hamilton County

Board of Elections at 4700 Smith Road in Norwood.

In the first two weeks, early voting is possible on weekdays between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. In the final two weeks leading up to Election Day, hours extend later during the week, and for limited hours on the weekends.

The final day to vote early in person is Monday, Nov. 2, but voting wraps up early at 2 p.m.

POLLING LOCATIONS

With COVID-19 looming, it's possible some polling locations could move from where you're accustomed. Look up your polling site:

<https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/polling-location/>

POLL WORKERS

One big concern among election officials and voting rights advocates is a shortage of poll workers. A large contingent of retirees usually pitch in on Election Day, but COVID-19 makes that risky. If you feel able to serve, register as a poll worker (workers are paid): votehamiltoncountyohio.gov/become-poll-worker

KENNEDY HEIGHTS ARTS CENTER



Kennedy Heights Arts Center is excited to reopen to the public at the end of August, with the opening of two exhibitions that address race, justice, and identity. Gallery and art shop hours are W-F 10am to 5pm, Sat 11am to 4pm. **Masks or facial coverings are required inside the building, and visitors are asked to stay 6 feet apart from others who are not in your party. Capacity will be limited.** Learn more at www.kennedyarts.org.



ILLUSTRATIVE BECOMING

Drawings by Latausha Cox

Kennedy Gallery | Aug 29 – Nov 7, 2020

"Illustrative Becoming" is a term artist Latausha Cox created to describe an auto-ethnographic practice of drawing that maps an individual's past for the purpose of better understanding their identity. As a Black female, Cox chose to share her personal story through drawings about her racial

history to better understand how her culture influences her artistic voice and educational practice. In depicting quiet memories through visual methods, illustrative becoming reveals connections and themes that provide a space for identity to be found. University of Cincinnati DAAP, Master of Arts in Art Education Thesis Exhibition, Director's Choice winner.

UPRISING

An outdoor exhibition of printed works by Black artists calling for justice
KHAC grounds | Aug 29 – Dec 5, 2020

Presented in partnership with Art Beyond Boundaries, curated by Jymi Bolden Exhibition sponsors: The George and Margaret McLane Foundation, ArtsWave and FotoFocus.

This summer's protests and a common form of political art—the protest poster—was the inspiration for UPRISING. Artists include: Cherie Garces, Melvin Grier, Terence Hammonds, Gee Horton, Hannah "Jonesy" Jones, Jimi Jones, Cynthia Lockhart, Ricci Michaels, Thom Shaw, and Gilbert Young. Newly exhibited works by these artists will be printed in large format and installed on the grounds of Kennedy Heights Arts Center. The exhibition can be viewed as a drive-through experience, utilizing the circular driveway that wraps around the building, or guests can park and explore the exhibit on foot.

Art prints and postcards of the images will be available for sale, with net proceeds split between the artist (50%) and the Ohio Justice and Policy Center (50%).

Kennedy Heights Arts Center is located at 6546 Montgomery Road. Visit www.kennedyarts.org or call 513-631-4278 for more information.

IN MEMORIAM: MARY WOLFE, 1925-2020



Mary Wolfe and her husband Jim moved to the Cincinnati area in the mid-50's. They soon became active in the neighborhood, with Jim helping to organize people to work together on projects and Mary becoming involved in the preschool Montessori program (originally KH Parent Teacher Co-operative).

For two years, Mary volunteered full-time in the Kennedy School Library. Originally, there was no space for the library. So, Mary and other volunteers moved the books into the lunch room and put them away during lunch. After lunch, they unpacked the books again. Mary also served as a volunteer with the Community Council in various community efforts

Back then, a major effort took place in the homes of various KH residents on a monthly basis: the production of the KHCC Newsletter. At that time, folks gathered, with even children participating. All would fold, address, and then deliver the newsletter. It was a key vehicle to keep everyone informed of the events and issues in the community. Mary's daughter, Melissa Wolfe McNally, remembers these times as being fun for the children, too.

Mary was known to say that if you live in a community, you pitch in and help out; it's part of being a good citizen. She was a proud supporter of Kennedy Heights Montessori School, the Progressive Dinner, and the Sap Run.

When Mary was asked how she described Kennedy Heights to others, she chose words like "friendly," "diverse," "people get to know each other," "it's a great place to live" and "all are welcome."

SUPPORTING THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The Caring Place is continuing to provide drive-thru service, with masks and physical distance to ensure the safety of all.

We are again accepting donations of new or "gently used" clothing (new underwear), shoes, linens. Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am to 2pm ONLY. Please do NOT leave any donations outside if we are closed. The weather and varmints will force us to throw away your donations.

TCP has volunteer opportunities for you. You can call (513) 841-1499, email caringplc@yahoo.com or reach out via our Facebook page.

The **Kennedy Heights Community Garden** still has FREE beds available for gardeners. If you are interested, you can contact sharifah@kennedyheight.org for more information.

2020 LANDSCAPE AWARD WINNERS



Christina Barkley | 6225 Hedge

A second win for Christina, a life-long resident of Kennedy Heights. A stone wall features perennials, shrubs, and annuals for color. Foundation beds show off her favorite hydrangeas. A bed of tall, colorful annuals and perennials decorate the side of the garage.



Pete and Yunus Spence | 3765 Woodford

Pete grew up in the two-family house where he is now living. Now, Pete's father lives upstairs; Pete and his husband Yunus live on the first floor. Shrubs are a green backdrop for bright, colorful annuals. A pot fallen and left on its side now holds sweet potato vine to look like a colorful stream flowing out of the pot, then recreated with a similar pot on the other side of the bed.



Cathy Cook and Connie Price | 3640 Davenant

Cathy and Connie moved to Kennedy Heights in 1992. When a large maple tree was removed the house looked naked without it, so Connie added a new coat of paint and window boxes. The window

boxes have become Connie's favorite part, filling them with colorful annuals.



Patricia Dawson | 5851 Wyatt Avenue

Patricia and her family have lived in Kennedy Heights for three years. Her favorite part of her garden is that it is an all-season garden. In the winter, barberry and holly surround the window boxes. In the summer, it is full of texture and color. In the spring, the various greens are highlighted with sprouting plants, and in the fall the remnants of the cone flower and perennial sunflower provide treats for the gold finches.



John Leopard | 3623 Davenant Avenue

John moved to Kennedy Heights in 1985 to one of the houses on the site of the old Yonante Inn. He received a Landscape Award in 1993. He used to rely on annuals to provide interest, but has replaced them with permanent sources of color and texture, like ornamental shrubs. Two tricolor beech trees provide a striking focal point with their colorful foliage.

Honorable Mentions:

Andy & Emily Lyon	Dennis & Marcella McNeal
6265 Robison Road	3800 Congreve Ave

Thank you, Landscape Awards Committee:

Michele Dragga, Chair	Jane Patty
Carolyn Thompson	Mary Ray