



Kennedy Heights

September/October 2021

# NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Kennedy Heights Community News

“Winners share a common pride and enthusiasm to beautify their yard and, by extension, Kennedy Heights.”  
—Michele Dragga



## Growing Neighborhood Traditions

photograph by Landscape Award Committee

For more than 30 years, Kennedy Heights has been celebrating their most beautiful front-yard gardens with a Landscape Award. The tradition was started in 1988 by longtime resident and active community member Joyce Hibbard. She loved gardening and noticed dozens of fellow green thumbs around her. She hatched the idea for neighbors to nominate their favorite gardens to be recognized. Hibbard's hope was to encourage a habit of horticulture and pride in properties through Kennedy Heights.

That spirit is carried on with current Landscape Award Chair, Michele Dragga. Leading the process since 2015, Dragga works with a committee to receive and review the year's nominations. A unique feature is that neighbors are encouraged to nominate each other *and* themselves; if you've worked

hard on your landscape, celebrate it and be celebrated!

“I love that the awards highlight residents from all corners of the neighborhood,” says Dragga. “A look at the winners from over the years reflects the diversity of Kennedy Heights: young or old, people of color or white, owners of large or small houses and gardens. All share a common pride and enthusiasm to beautify their yard and, by extension, Kennedy Heights.”

This year's winners include a range, from new neighbors who tackled a big project, to repeat recipients earning their place in the Hall of Fame. Each recipient expressed great pride in the recognition, akin to the pride of place that inspired Hibbard to begin this beloved tradition so many years ago.

### 2021 LANDSCAPE AWARD WINNERS Keith Gorby, Bryan & Michelle Gorby

Bryan And Michelle have small children,  
(continued on page 4)

**upcoming events**

**Art Exhibit: *America Reimagined***, 9/4-10/30, Kennedy Heights Arts Center Mansion, 6546 Montgomery Rd. Opening reception on 9/4, 6:00-8:00

**Community Council Meeting** 9/21. 7:30 meeting. Virtual. [meet.google.com/amo-fjbm-bgq](https://meet.google.com/amo-fjbm-bgq) By phone: 574-241-1036 then enter PIN: 453 185 950#

**Book Club** 9/9, 10/14, 2-3pm. Adults, Pleasant Ridge Library. Learn book titles by calling 513-369-4488

**FALL BACK to the 1960s** 10/2, 12-5pm. All-ages event of music, art, culture, and food outside at KHAC's Lindner Annex.

**National Night Out** 10/5, 4:30-7:00pm. Owl's Nest Park, 1984 Madison Rd. Celebrate police-community partnership

**Community Art Show** 10/16-12/31. Non-juried art show featuring work by neighbors in KHAC Annex Lindner Gallery.

**Community Council Meeting** 10/19. 7:30 meeting. Virtual. [meet.google.com/amo-fjbm-bgq](https://meet.google.com/amo-fjbm-bgq) By phone: 574-241-1036 then enter PIN: 453 185 950#

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Kate Elliott



Sharifah Tafari

**A LETTER FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS**

Dear Neighbors,

The only thing that stays the same is nothing stays the same, right? Just as we gained confidence in returning to in-person events and meetings, we are seeing another terrible spike and must prioritize the health of our neighbors.

As of sending this newsletter to print, we have made the difficult decision to continue Community Council meetings in a **virtual format only until further notice**. Should the situation change, we will communicate with you through our email newsletter and our social media channels. If you do not have access to these sources, please call **513-919-5710** to be added to a phone tree.

The good news is that the weather should remain pleasant for a few more months and we can continue to gather outside while masked. In this newsletter we celebrate yet another street that has held a street party gathering, and we encourage you to do the same. If you need help planning a small get-together for your street, never hesitate to reach out to the Board at [board@kennedyheights.org](mailto:board@kennedyheights.org) or by calling **513-919-5710**.

Meanwhile, we hope you notice a theme in this issue of Neighbor to Neighbor: the power of people. The Landscape Awards, Play in the Park, Block Parties—all exciting traditions that are thanks to one person having one idea, then sharing that idea and bringing people together to make it happen. Lots of big ideas are showing up in our Neighborhood Plan work. You can always stay up to date with the Neighborhood Plan by visiting [www.cincinnati-oh.gov/khplan](http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/khplan) We hope you'll share any big ideas you have, and step up to help your neighbors with their big ideas. By working together, we'll keep Kennedy Heights vibrant.

Kate & Sharifah  
Kennedy Heights Community Council

**How To Access Virtual Council Meetings**

Website: [meet.google.com/amo-fjbm-bgq](https://meet.google.com/amo-fjbm-bgq)  
Or call in by phone: **574-241-1036**  
Then enter PIN: **453 185 950#**

**Receiving Timely Updates**

Because the future changes rapidly, it is difficult to communicate up-to-date information in a bi-monthly newsletter. Event cancellations and venue changes are shared, when possible, on our social media pages and via emails. If you do not have access to these resources, please reach out to the Board at [khcc@kennedyheights.org](mailto:khcc@kennedyheights.org) or call **513-919-5710** so that we can add your phone number to a Phone Tree and provide more timely updates as our resources allow.



## We're Not Out The Woods Yet: Hamilton County Sees Substantial COVID Spread

All of Hamilton County, including the City of Cincinnati, have been identified as an area of "substantial spread" of COVID-19 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Vaccination is the best tool available to prevent serious illness from COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective and readily available in Hamilton County. There are more than 200 locations throughout Hamilton County that provide vaccines at no-cost. Most clinics do not require appointments.

If you need a COVID-19 vaccine or are experiencing financial difficulty due to the pandemic, visit **513Relief.org** or call the **United Way's 211**. 513Relief.org is a one-stop website with vaccine and test locations as well as COVID-19 financial relief options such as the Hamilton County Rent and Utility Program. The Rent and Utility Program can cover up to 12 months in past rent and three months in future rent. Learn more at **513Relief.org**.

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT: Building Positive Police-Community Relations

The best way to build a safer community is to know your neighbors and your surroundings. National Night Out combats our modern culture of isolation and encourages us to rediscover our own communities. Join the Cincinnati National Night Out and bring together police and neighbors under positive circumstances. Free food, drink, carnival games, and more!

**October 5, 2021 | 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

Owl's Nest Park | 1984 Madison Road, Cincinnati OH 45208  
513-979-4470

## Working Together to Stay Together: Pilot Program Hiring Paid Positions

Kennedy Heights has had many frank conversations around our aging population. What is discussed less frequently is our aging housing stock, yet the two are deeply intertwined. Our last newsletter mentioned building new affordable senior housing. What about the many seniors who are eager to stay in their homes but struggle with maintaining their "senior" homes?

Great news! We are in the early stages of developing a stabilization and jobs creation project. People Working Cooperatively (PWC) and our local Guardian Savings Bank have been in conversations with Council Board. PWC has a 46-year history performing critical home repairs so that low-income homeowners can remain in their homes. Their expertise is invaluable as Kennedy Heights creates a sustainable local program. What is emerging is a locally-based workforce to provide services to distressed properties.

**But we need talent!** We need one or more individuals with construction experience and a passion for teaching the trades. This **paid position** would play a key role in developing the program, recruiting workers, and managing the service requests. We will also need eager workers ready to learn new skills and join the crew, also a paid position.

Contact us at **steve@kennedyheights.org** to learn more or to share ideas, talents, or resources. Want to get involved with KHDC? Contact **mary@kennedyheights.org**, or **513-265-9199**.

*Rooted in a history of welcoming all people, Kennedy Heights Development Corporation is dedicated to growing a neighborhood where residents, businesses and community thrive.*

Kennedy Heights Development Corp. is supported by:  
Cincinnati Neighborhood Business Districts United (CNBDU)

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**The Landscape Awards  
Committee**

Michele Dragga -Chair  
Carolyn Thompson  
Jane Patty  
Mary Ray

**Landscape Awards (continued from cover)**

*“We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses.” - Abraham Lincoln*

so when they moved into their house, they wanted a landscape that was both beautiful and low maintenance. They especially wanted to avoid mowing the steep hillside that leads to the street. Keith Gorby, Bryan’s dad, came up with the award-winning solution: a drought-tolerant garden that replaced the sod with succulents among limestone rocks and accented with a dry riverbed. He and Bryan then installed over 25 varieties of succulents to make the striking hillside garden that catches the eye of anyone traveling Montgomery Road.

**Tyrone & Sherrie Broadus, Bradley Miller  
McHugh Place**

This is the third time that the Broadus’ garden has won a Landscape Award, so they are now in the Kennedy Heights Landscape Hall of Fame. Tragically, Tyrone did not live to enjoy this honor because he succumbed to a heart attack resulting from Covid complications. Sherrie’s godson Bradley has stepped up to help maintain the yard and garden. (In the photograph, Sherrie’s godson Elijah is standing in for Tyrone). The garden that Tyrone and Sherrie worked so hard to create was the setting for Tyrone’s memorial service.

**Rhonda Lewis  
Red Bank Road**

Rhonda credits her father for inspiring and influencing her gardening efforts. Her landscape is full of pockets of color and texture, but her favorite is the pollinator garden. The garden is not large, but is registered with the Cincinnati Zoo as a Plant for Pollinators Garden and is packed with colorful blossoms that attract bees and butterflies. A charming addition is a goblet filled with beads from a discarded necklace and topped with water to provide a shallow pool for pollinators to drink.

**Mozella Lewis  
Standish Avenue**

It’s all in the family. Mozella is the mother of both Rhonda Lewis and last year’s winner Christina Barkley. She is proud of Rhonda and Christina as well as her two other daughters who all pitch in to help with the gardening. What Mozella enjoys about her garden is watching a seed grow into a full-grown plant and being amazed at how God allows things to grow and turn out to be so beautiful.

**Ben and Rebekah Berger  
Rogers Park Place**

Ben and Rebekah moved into their house about a year ago, and since then Ben has been meticulously maintaining the landscape they inherited. He enjoys weeding, calling it a mindless escape that also produces gratifying results and a sense of satisfaction. His favorites are the roses. By researching their care on the Internet, he has become a self-taught gardener.



*From top to bottom, then left to right: Rhonda Lewis, Ben Berger, Mozilla Lewis, Tyrone & Sherrie Broadus & Bradley Miller*



# The Power of Play

This summer, many of us were grateful to gather together again in Kennedy Heights Park to celebrate Play in the Park. The festive event has become a yearly tradition, summoning residents from across Kennedy Heights and welcoming neighbors from Pleasant, Silverton, and elsewhere.

The cheerful green signs have become such a steady presence each summer that it is easy for this author to forget that the program is only in its eighth year. It is important, then, to pause and reflect on the power of people—people committed to creating the neighborhood they believe is possible.

In 2013, Kennedy Heights Park was becoming less welcoming, infamous for dice games and drug deals. When it also became the site of two shocking acts of violence, Susan Wade Murphy decided that enough was enough. This park belonged to the neighborhood, and it was their right to reclaim it for fun and not fear.

Wade Murphy took an idea to the Kennedy Heights Community Council Safety Committee and shared her idea: a weekly planned community gathering with activities and food, chaperoned by the police to restore a sense of safety to the space. The idea was popular, and Wade Murphy rallied approximately 30 neighbors to pull it off. Their efficiency is a testament to what can be done with enough motivation and enough volunteer power: The second act of violence occurred on June 12 of 2013. The first Play in the Park was held on July 24 and occurred

weekly through August. By September 3, the event was a cover page story in *The Cincinnati Enquirer*.

The program has grown over the years, but as Wade Murphy says, “that inspiration and commitment has not waned since 2013.”

The program has even grown to bring together generous and supportive partners who donate food and entertainment. The collaboration with the Kennedy Heights Arts Center has become particularly fruitful, with KHAC innovating the “Play in the Street” program in 2020. This event took the music and art on the move, a kind of joy parade traveling through four different areas of Pleasant Ridge and Kennedy Heights as a way to reduce crowd sizes during Covid. And this year, KHAC funded two artists who curated programs specifically for Play in the Park: Golden Brown Enterprises’ interactive art installments, and Pones / Preston Bell Charles III’s dance and music Scavenger Hunt. The program planned for four Wednesdays, but the positive reception inspired an encore fifth day.

The program continues to reflect the joyful diversity of our communities as people of many ages, races, genders, and backgrounds take time to enjoy music, art, and each other. And all because one person had a big idea.

**What ideas do you have for Kennedy Heights?** Share them at an upcoming Council meeting (Sept 21 and Oct 19), or email them to [board@kennedyheights.org](mailto:board@kennedyheights.org)

*Who knows what you might create?*



Kennedy Heights Arts Center

More information about classes and events and upcoming Call for Artists can be found [www.kennedyarts.org](http://www.kennedyarts.org) 513-631-4278

Ellen Muse Executive Director



### AMERICA REIMAGINED September 4 – October 30, 2021

This photography exhibition showcases images and narratives that offer an intimate look at the ways Americans are grappling with, and adjusting to, the dramatic changes in daily life across the US in 2020 and beyond, created by emerging photographers and their mentors.

Curated by Michael E. Keating, Cincinnati photojournalist and Boyd’s Station Advisor

Everyone is invited to a free opening reception on Saturday, September 4 from 6-8pm. Light refreshments will be served.

in: Kennedy Heights, Pleasant Ridge, and Silverton. Residents who live in these neighborhoods are encouraged to submit an original work of art that is able to hang on the wall. Pieces will be installed in the Kennedy Heights Arts Center Annex’s Lindner Gallery.

The official Call to Artists will be coming out soon.

### FALL BACK to the 1960s! Saturday, October 2, 12-5 pm

This year, we will celebrate fall by traveling back to the 1960s—1969, to be exact—the summer of the iconic music festivals Woodstock and The Harlem Cultural Festival.

This free, all-ages event will feature music, art, culture and food from this the year when the first man landed on the moon, 250,000 marched on Washington to protest the Vietnam War, Civil Rights Acts were enacted, and Scooby Doo debuted. Three bands will play rock and roll and Motown. Come dance, make art, play games, and enjoy food and drink. Local artists will offer specially designed artworks, installations, and groovy decor.

**Saturday, October 2. 12 to 5 pm.** Outside at KHAC’s Lindner Annex. In case of rain, the event will move inside. Free; cash bar.

### Art Classes for Youth and Adults

Expand your creativity this fall at Kennedy Heights Arts Center! Affordable art classes for youth, teens and adults. Choose from drawing, painting, collage, clay hand-building, and more. Sliding scale fees for those with financial need.



### Local Talent: Community Art Show October 16 – December 31, 2021

**Call to Artists!** We want to celebrate the diverse creatives who live in our community with a neighborhood art exhibition. This non-juried show is open to artists, age 14 and up, living

### Community Council Meetings Stay Virtual For Now

We are so hoping to meet in person again beginning Tuesday, September 21 at the Kennedy Heights Presbyterian Church. But the COVID situation continues to worsen, and safety is our priority. Virtual meetings can be

accessed using this link: [meet.google.com/amo-fjbm-bgq](https://meet.google.com/amo-fjbm-bgq). If web access is a challenge, you can call in by phone: 574-241-1036 then enter PIN: 453 185 950# We hope to see you soon, in the safest way possible for now.





Another wonderful street party, this time on Lumford!

**CONNECTING WITH YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD**  
**No One Can Do Everything. Everyone Can Do Something.**

We hear again and again that the neighborhood is changing and that we aren't as connected as we used to be. Goodness knows COVID did not help. So what do we do? Small actions make a big difference. Fall is a great time to get out there and gather while the weather is good. We've heard lots of great ideas:

- Hosting street-wide

potlucks throughout the neighborhood

- Regular "Clean Up" walks
- Refreshing our gateways with more flowerpots and signs
- Yard Games in a local park
- Field Day for kids
- Puppy Parade

If have ideas but aren't sure you can coordinate one yourself, email [board@kennedyheights.org](mailto:board@kennedyheights.org). We're here to help!



Mon, Tues 10am-8pm  
 Wed-Sat 10am-6pm  
**CLOSED MONDAY**  
**SEPT 6**

The Pleasant Ridge Branch of the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library offers curbside service, browsing, Take & Make activities, computer access, and assistance with faxing, scanning, copying, and printing. Visit [www.cincinnati.org](http://www.cincinnati.org) to access all eBranch offerings and for the most current information on the services and programs. Registration required for some events. Call the branch at **513-369-4488** with any questions. **Masks required indoors.**

- 9/9, 2:00 p.m. – Adult Book club.
- 9/11, 11:00 a.m. – Movers & Shakers. Families.
- 9/15, 4:00 p.m. – Imagine Lab – Science Activities. Ages 6-12.
- 9/21, 6:00 p.m. – Community Forum on Elections – hosted by National Issues Forums. Adults/Teens.
- 9/28, 7:00 p.m. – Genealogy Program.
- 10/14, 2:00 p.m. – Adult Book club.
- 10/20, 4:00 p.m. – Imagine Lab – Science Activities. Ages 6-12.
- 10/26, 7:00 p.m. – Genealogy Program.

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

Donation: Please check amount.

Cash or check is accepted.

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*Include my name (only) in the newsletter as a Friend of the Community: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No*

*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](http://www.kennedyheights.org) using PayPal. Kennedy Heights Community Council is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.*



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Find us at [khcc@kennedyheights.org](mailto:khcc@kennedyheights.org)

We want to know how YOU get your Kennedy Heights news.  
 Please complete this brief online survey: [bit.ly/KH-Comm-Survey](https://bit.ly/KH-Comm-Survey),  
 or call 513-919-5710 to answer the questions over the phone.

Thank you!