

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Kennedy Heights Community News

All “Cooped Up” During COVID!

by Christina Miller

The movement towards environmentally sustained food sources has literally entered our backyards. Here in Kennedy Heights, as in many neighborhoods across the country, people have become a part of the “backyard chicken” movement—raising their own source of meat and eggs.

As you might imagine, this movement has exploded during this year of COVID. The Ritters had already begun gardening and believed raising chickens was the next logical step in their family’s move to producing their own food. But for all of our families interviewed for this article, the food that is produced by owning chickens is only a small portion of what they provide.

Children and parents alike are finding them to be great fun, while raising them helps to reconnect them to nature in a new way. And children are learning greater responsibility as they help to care for them and gather eggs, which also helps them to understand the food chain.

Nick Hellwig shared that a friend thought he could “sell the eggs and save the money for my kids college fund.” But there’s a cost to raising chickens. There’s the coup and bedding, and then there’s feed which they need for proper nutrients. But chickens are omnivores

and are not picky eaters, so some of the cost of feed can be averted by making them your compost buddies. Those peas and meatloaf your child just put in the garbage? It won’t go to waste again!

All of the families interviewed have unfortunately lost one or more of their chickens—some to a predator. Nicholas Grutz cautions that if you are going to raise chickens, remember it’s your responsibility to keep them safe. He and the Hellwigs have had to make some significant changes in the way they shelter theirs at night.

At the end our conversation, I asked Nicholas Grutz if he had a piece of advice he’d like to share. He said, “If you are going to raise chickens, Prepare to have tons of fun!”

photos by Christina Miller



the Ritters



the Grutzes



the Hellwigs

upcoming events

Greenup Day @ KH Park

Saturday, 5.15.21, 9-12pm
Check the Friends of KH Park Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofkennedyheightspark> for more information.

Bridge Dedication

Saturday, 5.15.21, 12-1:30pm
Food and fun near KH Park following Greenup Day.

KH Community Council

Tuesday, 5.18.21 & Tuesday, 6.22.21
6:30 pm Board discussion
7:30 pm Public meeting
Virtual meeting via GSuites-meet.google.com/amo-fjbm-bgq

HIVE Sculpture Unveiling

Saturday, 5.22.21, 1pm
KH Art Center. Visit www.kennedyarts.org for more details.

Annual Student Art Show

Wednesday, 6.5.21
KH Art Center.

Adult Book Club

May 13 & June, 10, 2 pm
Outdoor event at the branch (weather permitting) or on Zoom.

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Kate Elliott



Sharifah Tafari

A LETTER FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS

The arrival of better weather certainly fills us with hope for better days to come. We hope you are taking advantage of the beautiful parks and green spaces in our neighborhood as safe, outdoor spaces to reconnect with neighbors and friends and family.

Speaking of our parks, we hope you will join us for our annual Green Up day on May 15. This is a great opportunity to kick off another wonderful season of outdoor time. Get your hands dirty and beautify Kennedy Park. Volunteers will spread mulch, plant flowers at park entrances, and clean up any debris in the area. Tasks will be assigned based on interest and ability from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Kennedy Park.

Our neighborhood planning continues energetically. We need your feedback! Our wonderful working groups have crafted preliminary goals. We have community events planned where we can gather your feedback and suggestions. Mark your calendar for our Kennedy Bridge Dedication, which will take place on May 15 at 12:00 p.m. (just after Green Up Day). There will be food and fun, and Steering Committee members will be present to share this info and hear your thoughts. You can always check in on the plan website at www.cincinnati-oh.gov/khplan, where we will update goals and action steps as they develop:

As vaccines become more common, we hope you are feeling better about the future. At the same time, please continue to protect each other by wearing masks and practice COVID safety precautions.

See you around!

Kate & Sharifah
Co-Presidents

Kennedy Heights Community Council

Call Me, Maybe?

As we seek to better communicate with the community, volunteers have suggested that a Phone Tree may be an effective way to reach people who do not use the internet as frequently. This Phone Tree would be used for incredibly time-sensitive news that could not be included in the newsletter, such as announcements from City of Cincinnati or last-minute event changes. If you are interested in having your phone number available in a Phone Tree database, please reach out to the Board at khcc@kennedyheights.org or call 513-919-5710.



Sugar Maples, Buckeyes & Kentucky Coffee! from Kate Kern

Sound like a breakfast bar offering? Maybe so, but it's not! Rather, we are excited to announce that the Sugar Maples, Buckeyes and Kentucky Coffees are types of trees that will be a part of the major tree planting project in the Kennedy Heights Park this spring. We have received mitigation funding from Cincinnati Parks for the trees removed during the rebuilding of the Kennedy Avenue Bridge. That funding has made possible 40 new trees. Others will include Tulip Poplars, Sycamores and Shagbark Hickory trees; as well as, understory trees: Redbud, Dogwood and Ironwood. Twenty-two of the trees (bareroot "whips") will be planted in the construction area near the bridge. The remaining will be landscape grade (2" caliper) planted throughout the park filling in where trees have been lost. Six new Beech trees will be planted in the wooded area up from the wetland, rejuvenating the presence of this important species in the park. Tree stumps and downed tree segments will be removed in preparation for the tree planting. A native erosion control seed mix, which includes native grass and wildflower seed, will be planted around the new trees in the former bridge construction area. Additional work in the park will include replacement of the Kennedy Avenue entrance sign and repair of the wooden boardwalk along the wetland.

GreenUp Day!

In addition to weeding, planting annuals and mulching beds at Kennedy Avenue and Robison Road entrances, on **Saturday, May 15 at 9-12pm** we will refresh the bed by the shelter. Bring your gloves and favorite weeding tool. We will work in light rain. **Rain date—May 22.**

For more information: **Friends of KH Park Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofkennedyheightspark>** for more information. Volunteers also needed for ongoing care of entrance beds over the growing season. Contact **Kate Kern kkern@kennedyheights.org** for more information.

KHCC Community Garden

Gardening neighbors, it's time to spring into the garden! The community garden is located on the grounds of Woodford Paideia Academy. We have raised beds (8'x4') available to rent this growing season. For more information call **(513)225-2355**, email **sharifah@kennedyheights.org** or send a message on our Facebook page **Kennedy Heights Community Council**.

Neighborhood Plan Update

Preliminary Goals and Action Steps have been drafted. Next step? Hearing from YOU! These Goals will be posted on our Planning website: **www.cincinnati-oh.gov/khplan**. We encouraged you to email the Board with your thoughts; contact VP of Planning Mary Ray at **khcc@kennedyheights.org**, **513-265-9199**; or see Steering Committee representatives at Green Up Day and Kennedy Bridge Dedication on May 15.

Don't Forget Election Day!

May 4 is Election Day—the mayoral primary. You will be able to vote on the controversial Affordable Housing Charter Amendment, **Issue 3**. Cincinnati is facing an affordable housing crisis, and the Affordable Housing Trust set up in 2018 has been chronically unfunded. **Issue 3** would make it mandatory that an initial \$50MM be put into the Affordable Housing Trust every year, and that the amount increase yearly based on inflation. Opponents of the amendment believe that it does not suggest viable funding and will take funds from vital social services including rec centers and first responders. Supporters are confident that they proposed multiple effective funding solutions, and that this amendment is necessary because if the City were going to act on affordable housing they would have done so by now. You get to decide, so be sure to vote on **May 4**.



Drs. Dana & Aubrey Bateman

Bateman Dentistry

by Christina Miller

From son, to daughter, to wife, Bateman Dentistry is a family affair. Located at 6526 Montgomery Road on the corner of Tyne and Montgomery, Dr. Batemen has been practicing dentistry for over thirty years. One of just three percent of dentists who takes Affordable Care Act patients, he has begun seeing patients come from as far as 60-70 miles away for treatment.

Dr. Bateman says coming to work every morning is “not like a job.” He enjoys what he does, and clearly enjoys doing it with family. His daughter, Dr. Aubrey Bateman, has worked side-by-side with him for eight years now. And son Devin worked there before opening his own practice eight years ago in Milford, Ohio. A daughter-in-law also works in the office and Dr. Bateman’s wife fills in when office staff is away.

Originally, Drs. Green and Walton were a part of the staff. In 1994, Dr. Green, a man who helped integrated Coney Island, passed away. Around the same time Dr. Walton, the first African American Board Certified oral surgeon in Cincinnati left the practice. As Dr. Bateman says, “there is a lot of history in this office.”

Hopefully, in the near future he will afford us another interview so we can delve more deeply into what promises to be history worth learning about.

GroundTakers

by Christina Miller

It was an unexpected bright light in my day, meeting Roger V. Mitchell. Roger is the semi-retired owner of GroundTakers which has been in business for over thirty years and approximately twenty years at its current location on the corner of Kennedy and Woodford Avenues.



Roger V. Mitchell
Owner

I had casually stopped at the business on two other occasions to see what they had on site, but had not been fortunate enough to come at a time the owner was there. So, I have concluded that since I had already created a space in this newsletter for an article on GroundTakers, it was providential that I met the owner on my third impromptu visit.

I explained why I was there, and he welcomed me with a socially distanced fist bump and then invited me into his shop. After handing me all of his business collateral, business card and the like, he informed me he was also a prophetic poet and sat down and read me one of his pieces from his current book, “The King’s Gift.” Our conversation during and after his reading was about love. Loving your neighbor. Loving your fellowman. A conversation which left me appreciating my neighborhood of KH. Before long, we turned the conversation back to the business at hand—GroundTakers.

GroundTakers advertises as a company whose business is total ground control. From repairing or installing new lawns, to snow removal and ice control, they do it all. “Your heartbeat, our mission,” states the brochure. And while I have not personally had work done by GroundTakers, if the owner is as passionate about his work as he is about his neighbor, you might find GroundTakers a business worth exploring.



page photos by Christina Miller

photo: Hamilton County Digital Online Library



worked in banking and manufacturing, and before retiring he served in social work as a job coach for mentally disabled adults at CRI (Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services). John retired in 2006. Art was a special ed teacher with Cincinnati Public Schools and served at Winton Hills as Assistant Principal. He developed the program Project Succeed which helped youth with behavior challenges. Art is now retired.

John and Art enjoy living in Kennedy Heights, appreciating the diversity and how we have remained stable over the decades. They do miss years past when we had four neighborhood grocery stores, a bakery, dry cleaner and several gas stations like Gulf, Standard Oil, Pure and Texaco which provided full service (including mechanical work). It has been a great place to grow up and raise families. They remember couples that served on council with their dad: the Lamberts, Hoffmans, Cautleys, Mystroms and the Wolfs. They particularly remember Donald Peterson, the Assistant Pastor at the KH Presbyterian Church and what a wonderful man he was. They also remember going to the Blue Ash Airport and flying with their dad in his Luscombe 8 small aircraft.

Looking forward, John and Art are anxious to see new services and facilities for the elderly so that they can remain in the community. We hope they are able to continue enjoying their retirement here with us in their favorite neighborhood!

Editor's Note: Lt. John Lehr's birthday is May 17. Due to the COVID pandemic we were not able to celebrate his 100th birthday last year. We remember him this year on his 101st.

The Lehr Men

by John Bange

On the grounds of the Kennedy Heights Arts Center you will see a special monument to Lt. John H. Lehr. He was a legendary Tuskegee Airman and served in the Army Air Corps during WWII flying missions in a red-tailed P-51, escorting B-17 bombers. John Lehr lived in Kennedy Heights for most of his adult life. He served on the Community Council during the 1960s. He died in 2015 at age 94.

John's two sons, **John W. and Art Lehr**, live in Kennedy Heights today, only several doors apart on Solar Vista Place. They lived in Evanston when they were young before moving here in 1962 where they attended elementary school and then Walnut Hills High School. Four generations of their family have lived in Kennedy Heights.

Both attended the University of Cincinnati. John W. graduated with degrees in economics and psychology. Art graduated with a degree in education. John W.



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2021 Creative Community Artist Residency
with Helen Atkins & Will Geusz

Artists **Helen Atkins and Will Geusz** (Albuquerque, New Mexico) will be in residence at **Kennedy Heights Arts Center** from April 28—May 22. They will collaborate with local residents to create **HIVE**, a ceramic mosaic sculpture exploring notions of community and identity. Participants will create handmade ceramic tiles that will be incorporated into a larger hexagonal sculpture installed at on the grounds of the Arts Center. Visit kennedyarts.org or call 513.631.4278 to learn more about how you can be involved. Join us on Saturday, May 22 at 1pm for a free celebration to unveil the finished sculpture!

SUMMER CAMP

IN THE GALLERY

**Summer Art Camps for kids
age 5-13**

Ready for warm weather, sunshine, and fun times? So are we! Kennedy Heights Art Center is offering 10 weeks of in-person summer art camps for youth ages 5-13 from June 1 – August 6, 9:00am to 3:00pm daily. Our COVID safety plan includes small group sizes, socially distant spacing and masks, outdoor settings, and frequent sanitizing.

- **In To Harlem and Beyond** camp, students age 9-13 will work with artist Cedric Cox to create paintings inspired by artists from the Harlem Renaissance and beyond.
- **How Freedom Echoes** with MoPoetry will inspire young poets and writers age 10-13 to learn the historical importance of Juneteenth, and carry their own messages of hope and freedom into the next generation.

Register today, camps are filling up fast! To register visit kennedyarts.org/learn. We strive to make arts accessible to everyone with sliding scale fees. If you have any questions please call 513-800-4567 or email bethany@kennedyarts.org.

**Collective Impact: Females Joining Forces
April 10 - May 29, 2021**

Our current exhibition focuses on the combined power of women and their collaborative creativity. **Collective Impact: Females Joining Forces**, curated by Mallory Feltz, features work by seven Cincinnati-based female artist collectives: Art for Artists, ART HAGS, Bombshells of Cincinnati, LOOK, Maidens of the Cosmic Body Running, PhotographHERS, and Pull Club. On view through May 29, 2021, artworks will be installed inside the Kennedy Gallery and also outside on the grounds in our drive-through gallery.



Cedric Michael Cox



Mallory Feltz

**Annual Student Art Show
Opening June 5**

Celebrate our amazing community of artists! The annual Student Art Show features original creations in all media by adult and youth students who participated in classes at the Arts Center this year—as well as work by our talented art instructors.

Gallery hours are Wednesday - Friday, 10am to 5pm, and Saturday, 11am to 4pm. Reserve free timed entry tickets at www.kennedyarts.org.



Ellen Muse-Lindeman
KHAC Executive Director

**Kennedy
Heights
Arts
Center**

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The **CARING PLACE** is now accepting new and gently used spring and summer clothes. And, of course, we always accept toilet paper, personal care items, household cleaning items and housewares. Please drop off your donations on Tuesdays and Thursdays 8am to 3pm only. *Please do not leave donations outside the door.* Thank you for your cooperation and donations.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Volunteer opportunities abound at The **CARING PLACE** every month! Please consider volunteering to:

- help unload the Freestore Food-bank truck, 2nd Thursday and last



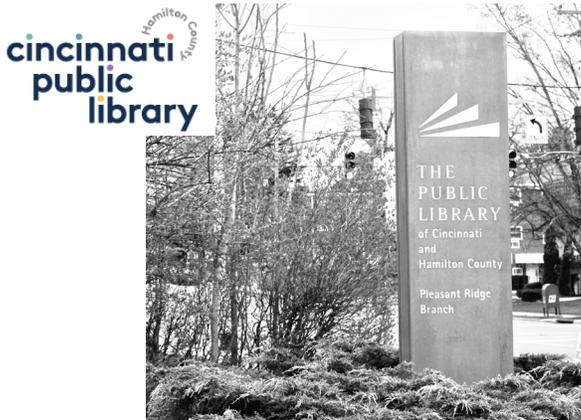
photo by Christina Miller

Tuesday each month.

- deliver senior boxes and groceries on the 3rd Tuesday and Thursday each month.
- drop off leftover perishable foods to the homeless shelters downtown on the

1st, 2nd & 3rd Thursday/Friday each month.

For assistance or more information contact us at: **(513)841-1499**, or caringplc@yahoo.com, or **Facebook us at The Caring Place-Kennedy Heights**. *Many thanks for helping our neighbors in need!*



THE PLEASANT RIDGE BRANCH of the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library

**Monday - Saturday
10am - 6pm**

Available services:

- *browsing*
- *computer access (limited)*
- *assistance with faxing/copying/scanning & printing*

Visits limited to 2 hrs. and capacity is reduced.
Current available services and/or hours may change.

For branch offerings and questions call us at 513-369-4488 or go to www.cincinnati.library.org

May — June

Cicada Invasion! All ages welcome!

Various take and explore activities throughout May and June, including STEM activities, crafts, and scavenger hunt.

May 5 & 11 - 7pm

Cicada Trivia on Zoom

May 22 - 2pm

Outdoor event. Cicada Burrow Casting demonstration & scavenger hunt.

June 12 - 2pm

Cicada Saturday. Outdoor event. Crafts, scavenger hunt, bring shells and learn to ID the species and sex.





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Find us at 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,
 or call 513-919-5710 to answer the questions over the phone.
 Thank you!