



SPRING GROVE VILLAGE

NOVEMBER 2020



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY GARY ROBBINS,
SGV COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Our monthly Community Council meetings are a great opportunity for learning about what's happening around the city and the neighborhood. From community conversations and presentations to guest speakers - you will have a chance to hear input and ask questions, and your participation makes this a stronger, friendlier community. Hope to see you online!

We will host another virtual community council meeting on **Tuesday, November 10 at 7:00 pm**. If you would like some assistance with using Zoom for the first time, just call or text **542-1750** before the meeting. We have two special guests lined up to share with us:

This past year, **Cincinnati Animal Care** replaced the SPCA for dog warden services in Hamilton County. **Ray Anderson**, Media and Community Relations Manager, will share about their many services: pet adoption, lost & found, stray animal care, and much more. Learn more at www.CincinnatiAnimalCare.org. Got questions about dog or cat care, dog etiquette, or requirements in the City? Contact CAC: 513-541-7387.

Lauren Doepke is an intern from Miami University working with the **Mill Creek Alliance** on their Water Quality Monitoring program. She, along with SGV resident, **Raeya Gordon**, will be developing a Mill Creek monitoring site at Mitchell Avenue. Join our Zoom call to meet them and learn about this interesting and important work being done to improve our Mill Creek. Contact Lauren at 513-437-6972 or at doepkel@miamioh.edu.

Hope you will join us - we would love to hear from you!

November Community Council Mtg

**Tuesday November 10
7PM**

Use this link to join a Zoom video conference from your computer:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/
j/86157193953](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86157193953)

or from your smartphone
using this meeting ID:

861 5719 3953

Or join us via audio direct from
your phone: 312 626 6799.

Special Guests:

Ray Anderson,
Cincinnati Animal Care
Lauren Doepke,
Mill Creek Alliance

SGV COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT

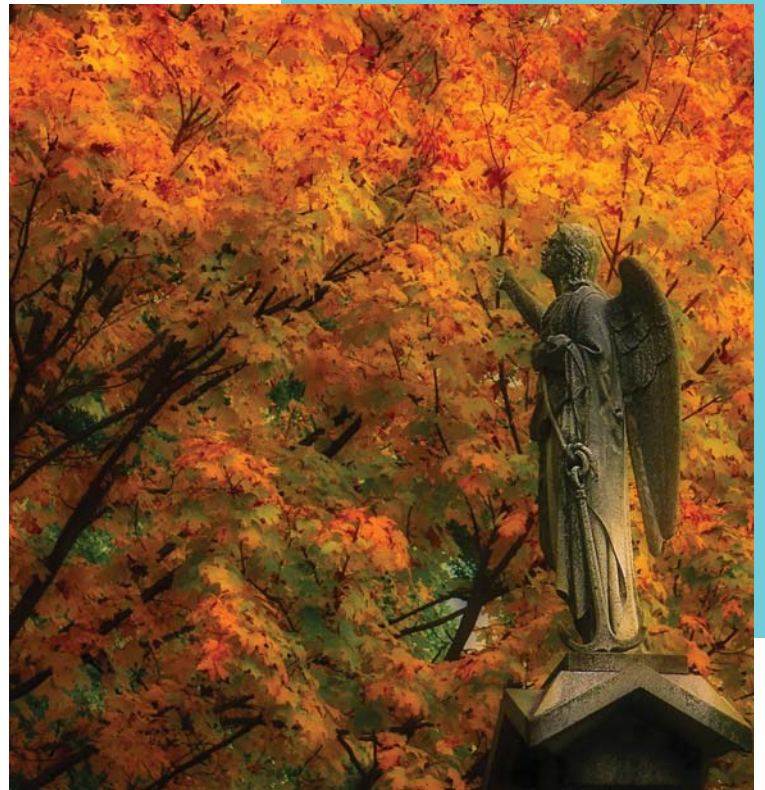
BY LIZ VIRGO

COMMUNITY
COUNCIL SECRETARY

Eleven community members and guests gathered virtually for our October Community Community Board meeting. After brief introductions, we heard from **Kerri Castlen** with the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency (SOAQA). Six air quality complaints were submitted from our community during the week of September 17 this year. SOAQA is not allowed to conduct field responses due to COVID so they instead partner with representatives from companies that are the cause of most air quality complaints. After some investigation, these representatives discovered the chemical source of these odors. SOAQA found that they do not believe the odors in our neighborhood pose any health threat. However, some community members find the air quality to trigger asthma and others find it to be a major nuisance. Air quality is most affected in the fall, particularly in September. Complaints can be made at **(513) 946-7777 or southwestohioair.org.**

BASF, Emory, and other chemical manufacturers in the area are the cause of most odors. Some community members have been concerned that the EPA is no longer operating and protecting our air quality due to COVID restrictions. Kerri Castlen assured us that EPA regulations have not changed, however, it is true that the agency is no longer able to conduct their own field research. Ms. Castlen said she thinks most of the odor complaints have come from Emory over the years, and that the responses to complaints have been quick and thorough. Title 10 ordinance can be employed if we feel more action needs to be taken with the city since the odors are technically considered a nuisance rather than a toxin and SOAQA is therefore not going to respond. Kerri Castlen welcomes questions at **(513) 946-7738.**

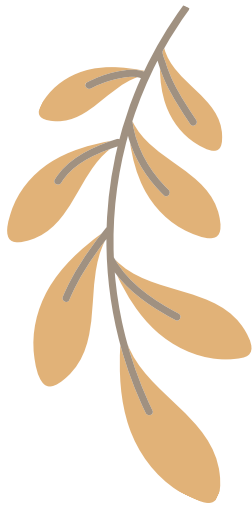
The St. Bernard Church Annex building is one of two voting location for our neighborhood. The Annex will have complete COVID compliance standards with lots of sanitizer and cleaning. If you are unsure where to vote, please visit <https://votehamiltoncountyohio.gov/> The Annex was previously gerrymandered out of the neighborhood, but when neighborhood resident **Dave Evans** learned about that he took proper action to get our neighborhood polling place back! He says he will continue to work hard to make sure this polling place stays in our neighborhood. In person voting for the 2020 General Election takes place on November 3, 2020, or registered voters can vote early by visiting the Hamilton County Board of Elections. Make your voice heard!



A stunning photo by Mary Ann Breagy Harden courtesy of Spring Grove Cemetery captures the cemetery in the fall at it's finest

We also heard from City Council member **Greg Landsman**. Mr. Landsman said there is a very aggressive COVID testing and tracing program in the city. There is also a group in the Health Department that helps enforce new COVID laws. We have not seen the same levels of hospitalizations as we have seen in the spring and summer, though the pandemic is still very active. CARES dollars have helped our city budget in recent months.

Mr. Landsman also mentioned that gun violence has increased recently though other crimes have gone down. The city is working with community partners on this problem and the anti-gun unit has been ramped up within the past month.



Holiday Schedule Updates from your SGV Community Council

Community Council Meetings (will remain on Zoom until further notice):

November - Tue, 11/10

December - No Meeting

January - Tue, 1/12

The December newsletter will be a combined December and January version, and will arrive to you in mid-December.

Sarah Maguire is stepping down as Newsletter Editor in January. The newsletter is currently created using Canva, which SGV's webmaster **Jill Gibboney** created a few years ago and updated recently to give it a fresher look. It is pretty easy to use. Please let someone on the Community Council Board know if you would like to help edit our newsletter!

During our meeting we identified some neighborhood needs we would like City financing to address. We are submitting Community Budget Requests (CBR) to the city for the following needs in order of preference:

- Summer Youth Coordinator
- Speed humps on Mitchell Ave.
- Mini-Dog Park
- Mill Creek Landing Project
- Mitchell Este Ave. improvements

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Want to join the Community Council Board? Submit your name up until October 30th!

Elections will take place at the November Community Council Meeting.

Elections for Community Council are held each year at our November Council meeting, this year it falls on **November 10**. Listed here are those neighbors, so far, who will be on the ballot (all continuing members):

Jerry Carrico

Phil Murphy

Gary Robbins

Liz Virgo

Would you like to join them? Please consider this a call for service and an opportunity to share your gifts and enthusiasm. Questions? Call or text our community hotline:

513-542-1750.

Reminders about elections:

- 1) No write-ins! You'll need to be on the ballot if you want to serve on the Council.
- 2) Last day to submit your name for the November ballot is Friday, October 30.
- 3) Can't attend the meeting on November 10 but want to vote? Absentee ballots will be available

Monday, November 2 by calling our community phone line **513-542-1750.**

WINTON PLACE YOUTH CENTER UPDATES

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Winton Place Youth Center is open for new registrations! Because of the pandemic, the program is a little different. The hours are from noon to 6 pm and lunch is provided. Students who are enrolled in online school will receive help from the staff and those that are in school in person will receive help with their homework. Staff will include a fourth grade math and science teacher and a part-time reading specialist. In addition, there is karate class once a week as well science experiments and exercises.

To register, stop in and talk to Ms. Allie or email allie@wpyouthcenter.org or call the Center at 513-681-8004.



The **Southern Gateway Chorus** is a 501©3 non-profit organization of male a cappella singers ages 13 to 89. Members hail from Oxford, Centerville, Dayton, Ohio, Northern Kentucky, and as far as Batesville, Indiana. For years, the Southern Gateway Chorus made its home at Harmony Lodge in Spring Grove Village. Members came from far and near every Tuesday evening to practice at the lodge in our neighborhood. They have competed internationally and have won numerous awards, including a silver medal at the **World Choir Games** here in Cincinnati in 2012. They are also an organization committed to community service and have conducted fundraisers for many needy organizations, high schools, and music programs.

We are truly grateful for this generosity and to the members who worked to organize the project and visited on the day of the donation.

BY SUSANNE HAGEDORN

WPYC BOARD PRESIDENT



WPYC IS GRATEFUL TO THE SOUTHERN GATEWAY CHORUS

Recently, **Southern Gateway Chorus** members visited our **Winton Place Youth Center** to bring us donations of food and cleaning supplies, gift cards, and financial support. Since Cincinnati Public Schools have gone to virtual learning for now, the Youth Center has expanded its hours in order to help these young children accomplish their lessons online in the belief that it would be very difficult for them to achieve success on their own. The extended hours include lunch and the singers generously took this opportunity to help with the additional expense.

COMMUNITY BUDGET REQUESTS

BY GARY ROBBINS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Thank you to all who contributed ideas for consideration. Each Community Council was invited to submit up to three requests. On 10/23 we submitted the following three requests:

- 1) Summer Youth Coordinator
- 2) speed humps on Mitchell Ave
- 3) a dog park

These are requests for project funding in the City's Fiscal 2022-23 Budget. That budget process will conclude with final approval on 6/30/21. We hope to have representatives from the City come out to meet with us along the way to learn of our needs for these projects. While only community councils are permitted to submit formal CBR requests, anyone in Cincinnati may submit a project idea using the City's Neighborhood Project Suggestion form, which can be found on the City of Cincinnati website. Note:

Two of our previous CBRs were funded and are still pending. They are: 1) community planning resource support for a neighborhood plan (SGV 2.0 - on pause due to COVID) and 2) a new SGV Gateway Entrance Sign to be located at I-75 and Mitchell Ave (under construction).

VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION UPDATES

BY SARAH MAGUIRE

VDC VICE PRESIDENT



If you've walked by or driven past **Schomaker Commons** at 638 E. Epworth Avenue recently, then you've probably noticed the construction and new windows that have been installed in the front! Thanks to the **Neighborhood Growth Fund** grant that the VDC received from **Fifth Third Bank** through **Homebase Cincinnati**, we have been able to not only landscape the community gateway at the end of the Orient Avenue (at Chickering and Este) last summer but also replace these windows in a building that is used for many community meetings.

We are grateful to Homebase and Fifth Third as well as the amazing window work done by Southern Ohio Glass for making this project a reality.

If you are looking for a way to support your Spring Grove Village community, consider joining the Village Development Corporation Board!

Our all-volunteer board has completed numerous house renovations over the last 40 years and is hoping to bring on some new board members that will help shape the future of our neighborhood's community development. Email us at villagedevelopmentcorp1@gmail.com to learn more!

AUTUMN UPDATE FOR SGV COMMUNITY GARDEN

BY ANDREA FARMER

SGV GARDEN SECRETARY

Throughout October, the gardeners in the SGV Community Garden have been busy with fall clean-up. We are very grateful for volunteers from The Civic Garden Center and to our good friends at Marathon Biodiesel. Civic Garden Center Volunteers helped **Nannie Oliver** thin out the front daylily beds on October 17. **Marathon Biodiesel's Garden Volunteer Team** brought us two brand new picnic tables (!) and helped us with a final garden clean-up on October 22. A huge THANK YOU to the Marathon Crew! We are so very grateful!



Civic Garden Volunteer Day October 17, 2020: Thinning the Daylilies with Spring Grove Village Garden Coordinator, Nannie Oliver: Mamadou Dieye, Amy Gable, Carly Jones, Lydia Klus, Matt Monterosso, Haylee Teutsch, Andie Ticknor, Kaemen West, and Angela & Lyndon Connolly (not pictured)



Marathon Biodiesel Volunteer Team - October 22, 2020
Seated Linda Wylie and Alex Menne. Standing l to r: Trent Junga, Mark Perry, Pete Schneider, Carson Whitehead, Terry Mann, Mark Russell, Isaac Perkins