



# SPRING GROVE VILLAGE

OCTOBER 2020



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY GARY ROBBINS,  
SGV COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

As you know, COVID-19 is still around, and lately on the rise.

At our last council meeting, Malika Smoot from the Cincinnati Health Dept reported there were 25 reported cases of COVID-19 so far in Spring Grove Village.

As such, we are not planning for an in-person council meeting as yet. This month, however, we are returning to our regular newsletter! A big thank you to our Street Captains for voicing their willingness to distribute newsletters to your door!

We will host another virtual community council meeting on **Tuesday, October 13 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 some important information about a city initiative—*ShiftCincy-Policing* and a representative from the *Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency* about our recent smelly air. We will vote on Community Budget Requests (suggestions for the City to fund projects in our neighborhood). And we will meet and vote on candidates for next year's community council. Congratulations to Matthew Copson, our Street Name Jumble winner, who received a Kroger Card award! Any suggestions for a new contest?

We hope to see you all again soon. Stay safe.

### *October Community Council Mtg*

**Tuesday October 13  
7PM**

We will meet virtually via  
Zoom.com

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/  
/81104801139](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81104801139)

If you need assistance with using Zoom for the first time, just call or text 542-1750 for tech support before the start of the meeting.

Special Guests:

**Greg Landsman**, City  
Councilman

**Kerri Castlen**, Southwest Ohio  
Air Quality Agency

# SGV COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT

BY LIZ VIRGO

Ten community members gathered virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, September 8 for our monthly Community Council meeting. Our first speaker was **Samantha McLean** from the Greater Cincinnati Complete Count Committee with a report on the progress of the 2020 Census. Results for our neighborhood are included in census tracts 73, and parts of 80 and 81. Our self-response rate is slightly higher than average at 56.3% compared to 53% in the city overall. Final self-response rate in 2010 was 58%. The Census Bureau says it's on track to count at least 99% of U.S. households. But that may not mean the count is complete or accurate. For more detailed census data see: [www.Censushardtocountmaps2020.us](http://www.Censushardtocountmaps2020.us).



We also heard a presentation from **Malika Smoot** of the Health Department. Malika is part of the **Healthy Communities Program**, which promotes various aspects of health including *Active Living*, *Healthy Living*, *Infant Mortality*, *Men's Health*, *Narrative Change: ACEs & Opioids*, and more. Regarding Coronavirus, over 5,000 people in the city have tested positive as of today, 25 of those in Spring Grove Village. To track further data see: <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/covid19/> Pop-up testing sites are continuing in partnership with different locations. Information about pop-up testing locations can be obtained by calling **513-357-7462** and Malika Smoot can be reached at **513-357-7458**.

**SGV 2.0 Update:** Neighborhood plan will eventually be reviewed by the City Planning Commission and others at City Hall for approval. The current plan began in January 2019 but has been on pause since Covid began. Steering Committee members are seeking to re-engage community members in a safe way. There is a web page (<https://www.mysgv.org/sgv-2-0>) and the Steering Committee has drafted goals and strategies. Please email **springgrovevillage2.0@gmail.com** if you have questions or would like to get involved!

The neighborhood has 5 flower pots on Spring Grove between Clifton and Mitchell that we maintain in partnership with the city. The city hired college students to water the pots, and those students were gone after COVID struck. The pots do not look good, but we are being given plants and some other free services for the pots next year.

The Neighborhood Support Program (NSP) is money we apply for from the City annually. It is used largely for clean-up activities, newsletter printing, support of Winton Place Youth Center, and other needs. Council will be developing a new NSP proposal for 2021.

There was a discussion about whether or not we have a welcoming committee for the neighborhood. Gary said we are looking for more active participation from neighbors. Larry Falkin, SGV resident and Director of the City of Cincinnati's Department of Environment and Sustainability, shared an idea for a project involving Old Timber Inn, located on Spring Grove Ave, being repurposed to become a recreational area along the Mill Creek. There are several ideas of recreational activities that could take place there. Larry asked what we thought of this idea and got positive feedback. Elmer owns the building currently and works behind the bar regularly. The property sits just on the SGV side of the border between Northside and SGV. Northside's community council are also interested in updating the area. Our SGV 2.0 Committee's nature and health group has ideas that are in line. Larry is suggesting that the City purchase the Old Timber Inn. For the Community Budget Request, we can send in three suggestions to the City to request project funding (suggestions will be voted on in October). Some of the suggestions include:

- Crosswalks in neighborhood (Jerry Carrico noted that we did not get to the table on time when the City had funding for crosswalks recently)
- Summer Youth Coordinator
- Surveillance cameras
- Neighborhood collaboration to organize neighbors to help with landscaping and building skills for projects
- Speed humps on Mitchell Ave

### IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS, SEND THEM IN!

There was a discussion about vacant lots in the neighborhood. The VDC has a lot on Chickering they are hoping to give away/turn into something. The lot is overgrown now. Liz suggests turning an empty lot into a dog park. Jerry says there is a lot behind his house, though they are privately owned and have undevelopable qualities.

We will have an election for the Community Council Board at the November Community Council Meeting. The Board will come up with a unique plan for how we will handle the election during COVID.

Larry Falkin, SGV resident and Director of the City of Cincinnati's Department of Environment and Sustainability, shared an idea for a project involving Old Timber Inn, located on Spring Grove Ave, being repurposed to become a recreational area along the Mill Creek. There are several ideas of recreational activities that could take place there. Our SGV 2.0 Committee's nature and health group has ideas that are in line. Larry is suggesting that the City purchase the Old Timber Inn.

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

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**.



## NEW FISH IN THE MILL CREEK!

Have you seen any of the new fish in the Mill Creek? Thirty years ago, the water would have been too polluted to fish in and besides, there was not much life in the stream. Years of industrial degradation and misuse of the creek created a habitat that was, well, uninhabitable!

But today, a parent can take their child to the creek and teach them to fish. Together they will find plenty of large-mouth bass, hybrid striped bass, freshwater drum, bluegill, pumpkinseed sunfish, catfish, and carp.

Check out more at <https://bit.ly/2Su9yVF>

And learn more about the Mill Creek here:

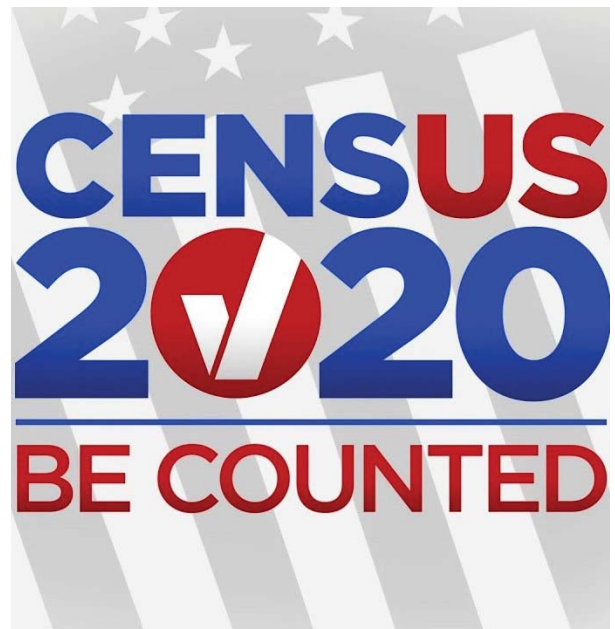
<https://www.themillcreekalliance.org/news/>

## 2020 CENSUS UPDATE

Have you completed your Census survey? The 2020 Census is still open! It's EASY, SAFE, and IMPORTANT. Everyone is counted. Your response matters. You can complete the Census at [www.my2020Census.gov](http://www.my2020Census.gov)

The COVID-19 emergency is an example of just why the 2020 Census is so important. Census data from 2010 are being used to inform important decisions that will directly affect the funds, resources, and materials we receive during our recovery efforts. Additionally, an undercount in the 2020 Census will devastate our region and those who rely on important government programs such as daycare, school lunches, healthcare, housing, and food stamps.

That's not to mention the impact Census data play on determining how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding will flow into communities every year for the next decade, plans for highways and bridges, important business decisions, community projects, even determining the location of new schools and hospitals. Census results affect your community every day. In short: the 2020 Census will be vital to the short- and long-term well-being of Cincinnati and all those who live here. If you haven't already done so, please visit [www.my2020Census.gov](http://www.my2020Census.gov) for more information, or to fill out your Census.





## YOUR SGV NEWSLETTER

Every month we produce and distribute a neighborhood newsletter with news and information from around the neighborhood. For the past six months, the newsletter was in the form of an electronic eNewsletter only—sent to about 250 folks. We are excited to return to a paper newsletter (with a new look!) this month, distributed door-to-door to about 1,100 of you, or electronically. If you'd like to get on the distribution list for an electronic copy, call or text our community hotline at **513-542-1750** or email us at **sgvnewseditor@gmail.com**. Copies of our newsletter are also available for pickup at our drop box located at the front door of **Schomaker Commons, 638 E Epworth Ave.**

You get our neighborhood newsletter delivered monthly direct to your doorstep. We are proud to be the only Cincinnati neighborhood who provides this level of personal service. If you're not getting a newsletter delivered, reach out to your Street Captain, who can be found at [mysgv.org/street-captains](http://mysgv.org/street-captains). You can also look on Nextdoor for archived newsletter or visit our website at [www.mysgv.org/archives](http://www.mysgv.org/archives).

The newsletter is only as good as the value included. While we strive to report on our local community news, you may have good information to contribute. Consider sharing with your neighbors about events or changes within your group or organization. Maybe be a reporter for your church or school. We want to know about your next festival, workshop, picnic, or celebration and what is happening on your street. If you have news you would like to share with folks around the neighborhood, or have questions about what might be appropriate, please contact **sgvnewseditor@gmail.com**, or by phone or text at **513-542-1750**.

Special thanks to our newsletter editors, our street captains, and our contributors who provide us with content that helps you stay connected and informed on your community. We use an outside printer, Litho-Graphics, who works well with us, accommodating our various formats and scheduling needs at a fair price. And for the special fliers that often accompany our newsletter, a big thank you to our friends at the Greater Cincinnati Water Works for printing them. A special thank you to our small dedicated team of neighbors who sort the newsletters each month and deliver packets to each Street Captain. And, last but not least, our faithful, dedicated network of 30+ Street Captains who deliver newsletters to your doorstep each month. If you are interested in becoming a newsletter editor, street captain, or contributor, please contact us today!

## VOTER INFORMATION

The 2020 General Election Day is Nov 3rd.

Visit [www.voterlookup.ohiosos.gov/VoterLookup](http://www.voterlookup.ohiosos.gov/VoterLookup) to confirm your voter registration and find your polling location, or you can early vote in person at the Hamilton County Board of Elections, 4700 Smith Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45212, beginning **Tuesday October 6 and ending Monday November 2.**



**[Click here to see hours of the Hamilton County Board of Elections.](#)**

Absentee ballots that have been requested will begin mailing out on **Tuesday October 6** and can be dropped off at the drop box at the Hamilton County Board of Elections by **November 3**, or you can return completed ballot by mail – **post marked by no later than Nov 2nd.**

**You have the right to vote.** Acquaint yourself with your choices – see the 2020 Primary Voter Guide provided to you by the Cincinnati League of Women Voters – distributed with this newsletter. If anyone tries to stop you, call the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-687-8683. **Make your voice heard!**

*Everyone has to vote in November. It is the most important election ever.”  
Late Rep. John Lewis, 1940-2020*

## SGV 2.0 ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



The SGV 2.0 Neighborhood Plan is taking a pause, but we still want to work with our neighbors on two important initiatives throughout the Fall. We are seeking all interested community members (no prior involvement in the planning process is needed!). Meetings will be held virtually. Please fill out the following forms if you are interested by October 15th or email [springgrovevillage2.0@gmail.com](mailto:springgrovevillage2.0@gmail.com) for more information.

**Equity in the Neighborhood Plan:** For anyone interested in taking a closer look at the plan’s language and reviewing it through an equity lens, sign up here:  
<https://forms.gle/v3RA5rZNw8wC6QhZA> Public

**Art Engagement:** For anyone interested in creating or contributing to an interactive public art project:  
<https://forms.gle/6ZBCg6GpvPNmoQh6>



## COMMUNITY BUDGET

Every other year the City of Cincinnati gives all Community Councils the opportunity to submit up to three budget requests for consideration for the next fiscal year. These requests can be for capital, improvements like crosswalks, or for programs and services. Last month we began the process of identifying potential projects for SGV to request for the City's FY 2022-23 budget. This year's Community Budget Requests are due on October 23rd. At our October council meeting we will hear a presentation on several projects and host a community vote on which projects to submit.

## AUTUMN UPDATE FOR SGV COMMUNITY GARDEN

The SGV Garden actually had a pretty good season! We are still harvesting various vegetables and flowers, and the front garden has recently come into full bloom. On Saturday, September 12, an energetic volunteer team from the Civic Garden Center helped us weed and spread wood chips in the pathways. Thanks to Sam Settlemire, Volunteer Coordinator at the Civic Garden Center, for his work in arranging and organizing the volunteer work team! Our next scheduled work day is Thursday, October 15, when the Marathon Biodiesel Volunteer Team will assist with our end-of-season cleaning of the beds and pathways. Finally, later in October, we will harvest the remaining flowers from the front sidewalk area, and put the garden to sleep for its winter rest.



GARDEN COORDINATOR NANNIE OLIVER (IN FRONT) WITH CIVIC GARDEN CENTER VOLUNTEERS (LISTED ALPHABETICALLY): ANA ABSALON, KAYLA BAAH, MAMADOU DIEYE, HANNAH FISHER, PATRICK KURTZ, SARAH JENCSON, REBECCA RAMIREZ, HANNA SWEENEY, ASHLYN WILLIAMS, AND KAEMEN WEST.

### FREE SEEDS!

If you would like to grow some celosia flowers next year, please contact Andrea Farmer at [andreastephaniefarmer@gmail.com](mailto:andreastephaniefarmer@gmail.com) and she will be happy to mail you an envelope of at least 100 seeds, which is probably enough to fill your sunny flower beds next year!