

SPRING GROVE VILLAGE



SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, September 10

Gold Star Chili

285 W. Mitchell Avenue

6:30 p.m. | Discount food/drinks

7:00 p.m. | Council Meeting

(adjourn by 9:00 PM)

INVITATION TO COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

You are invited to the next SGV Community Council meeting featuring:



SEDRICK DENSON, OHIO DISTRICT 33 REPRESENTATIVE
Elected in November 2018, Sedrick Denson represents us in the Ohio State House. He graduated from SCPA and UC, and wants to know what issues are important to you. Come out and meet him and bring a few good questions.

Contact Sedrick: (614) 466-1308, rep33@ohiohouse.gov



JENN ARENS, EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT RUBRIC

As our neighborhood grows, we will see developments that we like and others that we don't. What role can citizens play when developers propose new projects in our community? Meet Jenn Arens (Peaslee Neighborhood Center) and learn about a creative community tool for assessing development.

Contact Jenn: 513-621-5514, jennifer.arens@peasleecenter.org



LOCATION: GOLD STAR CHILI

Gold Star Chili is one of our wonderful neighborhood establishments and a great place for a take-out meal or a space to meet up. It will also be the location for our September Community Council meeting. Come early at 6:30pm to meet the store manager, Dima, and take advantage of a special discount on food or drinks.

Each monthly Community Council meeting is a great opportunity to learn about what's happening around the city and the neighborhood. From reports by police and fire officials to presentations from guest speakers to community conversations, you will have a chance to hear input and ask questions. More importantly, it's a great place to meet new people and catch up with those you already know. **Your presence and participation make this a stronger, friendlier community.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| <p>9/7 Evening in the Garden SGV Community Garden</p> | <p>9/10 SGV Community Council Meeting Gold Star Chili 285 W. Mitchell</p> | <p>9/21 Monarch Festival Cincinnati Zoo 3400 Vine</p> | <p>9/28 Run the Riffle with Mill Creek Alliance Salway Park</p> | <p>10/2 Village Works' Picnic-in-the-Lodge Harmony Lodge</p> |
|--|--|--|--|---|

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING REPORT: AUGUST

BY LIZ VIRGO, COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOARD MEMBER

Thank you to our neighborhood Firehouse for hosting our monthly Community Council meeting on August 13th! We enjoyed pizza and hearing from our two guest speakers, Lakeisa Ealy of the non-profit Cincinnati Preschool Promise and Hamilton County Treasurer Robert Goering.

Lakeisa Ealy was helpful and enthusiastic as she explained that Preschool Promise helps provide families who need it most with tuition assistance to community-based preschools or Cincinnati Public Schools preschools. Not only does Preschool Promise help individual families, they also provide support for preschool providers. You've probably seen the star ratings posted on the Step Up to Quality signs around town. The Step Up to Quality program is administered by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Preschool Promise is not a part of these government departments, but they use the Step Up to Quality rating system to determine which preschools need Quality Improvement. Preschool providers that receive a rating of 1 or 2 stars can apply for Quality Improvement support through Preschool Promise and receive coaching to improve their quality.

After Ealy was finished, Treasurer Robert Goering answered several questions about the Department of Treasury. Goering explained that his department collects property taxes, but does not set them. Goering answered several questions about the Land Bank Program, which repurposes abandoned properties with delinquent taxes. More information about this program can be found at www.hamiltoncountylandbank.org. The Treasurer also mentioned that payment plans can be arranged for tax delinquencies.

The meeting ended with an announcement from the Winton Place Youth Center that they are seeking new Board Members. Please visit www.wpyouthcenter.org to contact this important community organization if you are interested in learning more about serving on their Board.



August Community Council meeting at Engine Co 38 firehouse



Off. Cummins & Capt. Gregoire

REMINDER: EVENING IN THE GARDEN ON SEPTEMBER 7

BY ANDREA FARMER, GARDEN SECRETARY

You are invited to the 2nd annual Evening in the Garden! It will be the first weekend after Labor Day, on Saturday, September 7, from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Please come and bring your friends and neighbors with you to the SGV Community Garden, located at the intersection of Chickering and E. Epworth Avenues.

Please RSVP to Mrs. Nannie Oliver, Garden Coordinator, at 513-542-8440, or to Andrea Farmer, Garden Secretary, at andreastephaniefarmer@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you!



WINTON PLACE YOUTH CENTER FUNDRAISER

BY JAMIESON WILLIAMS, WPYC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Winton Place Youth Center is currently running our FALL Frenzy Raffle! This fundraiser raises money for WPYC programs and gives you a chance to win a \$50 Gift Card or UP TO \$500!

There's a drawing each day in October. Tickets can be purchased at the Youth Center or online at www.wpyouthcenter.org



JOIN THE WINTON PLACE YOUTH CENTER BOARD

BY JAMIESON WILLIAMS, WPYC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Winton Place Youth Center currently has a vacancy on its Board of Directors. It is our hope that there are community members interested in joining. Being passionate about youth and their development is the most important quality we look for in a board member, however, there are some extra assets that would prove beneficial. Media or corporate connections will assist WPYC in its growth and sustainability. The position does require fundraising and networking on behalf of the youth center.

The commitment will entail a minimum of one meeting per month. If you are interested in joining, please email Executive Director at jwilliams@wpyouthcenter.org with a resume or short bio and why you're interested. The board will then vote on and induct any new members.



A SPECIAL THANKS FROM WPYC

BY JAMIESON WILLIAMS, WPYC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We would like to give a SPECIAL THANKS to the following individuals and organizations:

- Matthew Church for their continuous support of our program and for providing transportation to the Cincinnati Zoo, The Place, & Great American Ball Park this summer!
- Zins Plumbing for all the assistance this year for all of our issues that arose.
- Ms. M. Stewart for providing snacks to our students this past school year! Providing snacks for 50 students each day can really add up.
- Mr. J. Jordan for tutoring students and leading a workshop for some of our older students.

We may be forgetting some people, but thank you to everyone who participates in our fundraisers and attends our community programs! We would not have made it 35 years without the support of Spring Grove Village. Here's to 35 more!

PROPERTY TAX UPDATE

BY JERRY CARRICO, COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOARD MEMBER

On August 15, the Property Tax Working Group had its latest meeting. At this meeting, Phil Denning, the City's Director of the Department of Community and Economic Development, gave a presentation on how the tax abatement process works. There are basically two types of abatements: commercial and residential. The commercial abatements go through a rigorous review process (which can include the Ohio Tax Incentive Review Council); whereas the residential process is simply a checklist. If the developer has done all the things on the list, they qualify for the abatement. According to Mr. Denning, the residential abatement could only cover the increased value above whatever amount at which it was acquired. I was surprised that he was not aware of a loophole that allows the developer to demolish a perfectly good house then have its property revalued at the amount of the empty lot before applying for the abatement. This is a loophole that most in attendance agreed must be closed.

It is important to note that most cities target residential abatements in areas that are blighted or otherwise require new housing investment. This is not the case in Cincinnati. This lack of a targeted area allows developers to capitalize on the abatement process in areas where housing is already at a premium or the area is gentrifying. This is another problem the working group is tackling.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a flyer breaking down the amount of residential abatements granted, by neighborhood. It is easy to see that whereas Hyde Park received over \$42M and OTR over \$20M, Spring Grove Village received less than \$50,000. Kind of bring things into focus, doesn't it? Also enclosed is a flyer about an upcoming meeting for public input on Tuesday, September 24 at 6 pm. This may be the final meeting requesting public input so it is important that you make your concerns known. If you want your views to have an impact, you have to let the city representatives know. Be involved. Be informed. Be heard.



🏠 Nextdoor: JOIN AND UPDATE YOUR SETTINGS!

BY GARY ROBBINS, COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

It is exciting that more than 500 neighbors in SGV have signed up for Nextdoor! As many of you know, Nextdoor is an online, Facebook-like network that provides a social/civic connection for those just in our neighborhood (address verification required). If you haven't already joined, talk with a neighbor about it and consider signing up. We provide postings there to keep us all informed of local neighborhood news. (You won't find this anywhere else.)

The sad news is that with so many postings, it's easy to tune out as many things may not be of interest to you. There are steps you can take to limit the amount of information you see. Consider making some of these changes to your Nextdoor settings:

1. Limit postings to only Spring Grove Village (this will dramatically reduce what you see).

Nextdoor allows access to our neighborhood AND also our nearby neighborhoods.

2. If you prefer email access, consider a weekly digest of postings instead of individual messages.

Need help? Please call 513-542-1750 to get assistance with your Nextdoor settings.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY GARY ROBBINS, COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Neighbors are horrified at the news of the shooting incident that took place this past month on Orient Avenue. And we grieve with the family who experienced the loss. District 5 Police tell us the investigation to learn the motive and find the perpetrator is ongoing. They tell us it was intentional and not a random event. If you know something, please call Crime Stoppers and leave an anonymous message at 513-352-3040.

Good neighbors, we are blessed by the number of folks who care about this neighborhood and do their part to contribute to make this a good community. Getting involved helps make us feel safer and accepted, and brings a sense of pride and inclusion. We have many ways to get involved – from committees and projects to formal involvement in organizations like the Community Council, Winton Place Youth Center, or Village Development Corporation. But, we especially welcome new ideas and initiatives – what is your gift that you want to offer? SGV 2.0 is one place where new ideas are welcomed. I hope you consider participating in this wonderful work. (And stay tuned for the next SGV 2.0 gathering – a town hall-like event to see the work of Pathway working groups from many residents in the neighborhood!)

Over the next 3 months of Council meetings, we will be reviewing current volunteer opportunities. It is our hope that you will find something that interests you. Come to a meeting, find a friend to partner with, and discover a new sense of community here. At each November Council meeting, we hold an election for our Community Council Board. If you have the time and interest in serving in this way, please think about this opportunity. Per Council by-laws, a list of candidates for the ballot will be printed in our October newsletter. Candidates need to inform us of their interest by the October Newsletter deadline in order to be on the ballot (no write-ins allowed). Call 513-542-1750, email springgrovevillage@gmail.com, or talk with any current board member to share your interest. In support of more community involvement, the Community Council Board is planning to provide some leadership training – consider taking advantage of it as a way to get started. This will be open to all community members and will especially welcome our younger residents.

Urban Forestry, each year, makes free trees available to citizens as part of their ReLeaf Program (see attached flyer). The Mill Creek Alliance is sponsoring a special “Run the Riffles” Event down at Salway Park on Saturday, 9/28. This is a full day event with something for everyone. Checkout the details on their website: www.themillcreekalliance.org/runtheriffles. Be sure to follow other events sponsored and held at Spring Grove Cemetery including tram tours, run/walk events, live entertainment, and more: www.springgrove.org/events/. And, of course, look for all of our neighborhood events posted online at: www.MySGV.org/events. (If you have events of interest to neighbors please let us know: springgrovevillage@gmail.com.)

PROPERTY TAX WORKING GROUP

PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, September 24, 2019 | 6 - 8 p.m.
United Way of Greater Cincinnati
2400 Reading Road, Cincinnati, OH 45202



**Protecting homeowners,
strengthening neighborhoods.**

Throughout the past few months, the Property Tax Working Group has been studying trends related to property taxes in order to make recommendations aimed to help seniors and those with special needs, living on a limited income, remain in their homes. The Working Group has also been looking at the varying effects of tax abatements on the neighborhoods of Cincinnati and will make recommendations for possible changes. **We would like to hear your thoughts and opinions. Please come and share with the Property Tax Working Group.**

Visit cincinnati-oh.gov/propertytaxproject

for more information contact Samantha McLean at samantha.mclean@cincinnati-oh.gov | 513-352-4886 or the co-chairs, Carol Gibbs at csbgibbs@aol.com and Vice Mayor Christopher Smitherman at christopher.smitherman@cincinnati-oh.gov | 513-352-3464

RESIDENTIAL TAX ABATEMENT DATA OVERVIEW

Prepared for the Property Tax Working Group

This data are based on the **Cincy Insight's Residential Tax Abatement Portal**. The data on this overview are from August 2, 2019. The Cincy Insight Portal is updated regularly and is interactive. It can be accessed here: bit.ly/ResidentialTaxAbatements

There have been **2,519** residential tax abatements totaling **\$166,188,996**.

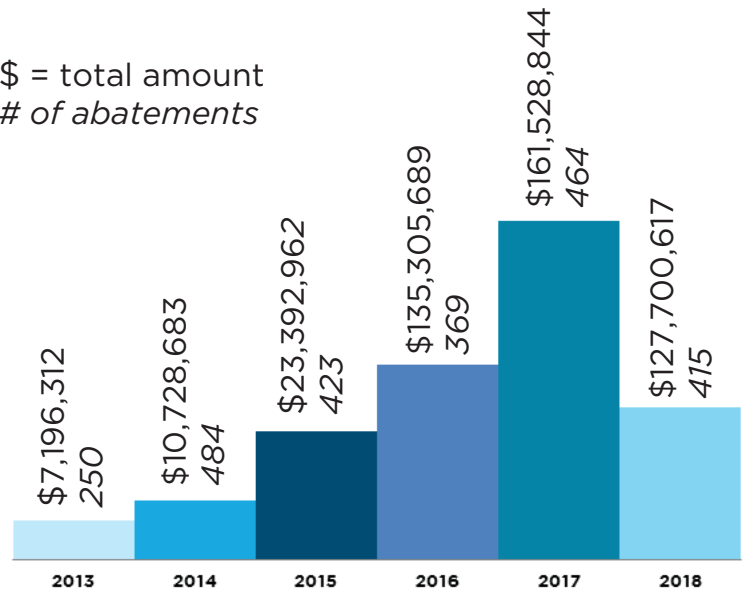
ABATEMENTS BY NEIGHBORHOOD

| Neighborhood | # of Properties | Total Amount |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Avondale | 32 | \$1,140,159 |
| Avondale - North Avondale | 4 | \$66,982 |
| Bond Hill | 73 | \$2,095,646 |
| California | 1 | \$25,229 |
| Camp Washington | 8 | \$144,666 |
| Carthage | 1 | \$0 |
| Clifton | 44 | \$1,127,426 |
| College Hill | 41 | \$1,651,497 |
| Columbia Tusculum | 92 | \$10,902,017 |
| Columbia Tusculum - East End | 6 | \$517,364 |
| Columbia Tusculum - Mt Lookout | 4 | \$476,764 |
| Corryville | 30 | \$1,052,241 |
| CUF | 80 | \$751,484 |
| CUF - Heights | 1 | \$3,968 |
| Downtown | 27 | \$2,452,737 |
| East End | 25 | \$11,707,328 |
| East Price Hill | 26 | \$478,225 |
| East Walnut Hills | 44 | \$1,794,029 |
| English Woods | 1 | \$22,597 |
| Evanston | 42 | \$1,580,295 |
| Hartwell | 2 | \$25,745 |
| Hyde Park | 262 | \$42,042,383 |
| Hyde Park - Oakley | 1 | \$0 |
| Kennedy Heights | 11 | \$87,134 |
| Linwood | 14 | \$1,827,628 |
| Madisonville | 43 | \$1,580,497 |
| Mount Adams | 49 | \$8,865,755 |
| Mount Airy | 8 | \$215,806 |
| Mount Auburn | 47 | \$2,437,967 |
| Mount Lookout | 143 | \$9,603,488 |
| Mount Washington | 20 | \$227,759 |
| North Avondale | 18 | \$380,335 |
| Northside | 204 | \$5,446,103 |
| Oakley | 137 | \$4,282,218 |
| Over-the-Rhine | 194 | \$20,224,475 |
| Paddock Hills | 4 | \$75,626 |
| Pendleton | 25 | \$1,685,002 |
| Pleasant Ridge | 20 | \$585,909 |
| Roselawn | 3 | \$9,940 |
| Sayler Park | 15 | \$1,352,940 |
| South Cumminsville | 13 | \$153,626 |
| South Fairmount - Westwood | 1 | \$0 |
| Spring Grove Village | 3 | \$49,244 |
| Walnut Hills | 51 | \$13,489,933 |
| West End | 30 | \$1,975,958 |
| West Price Hill | 16 | \$248,620 |
| Westwood | 23 | \$393,692 |
| Not Provided | 579 | \$10,927,522 |

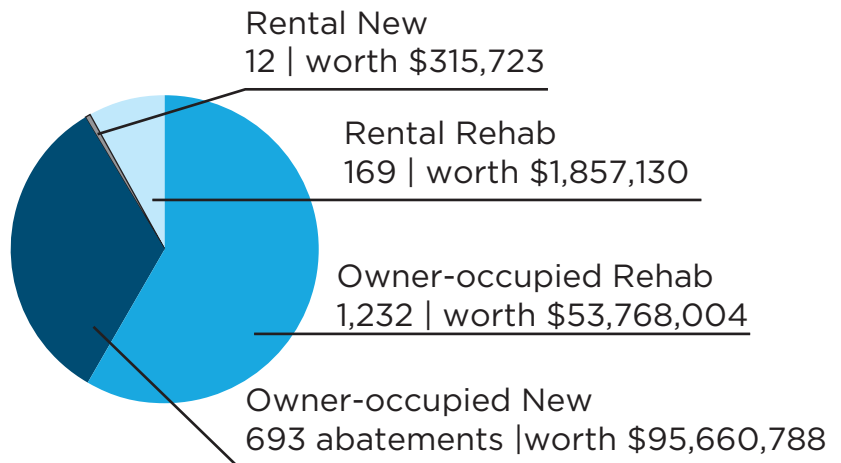
Neighborhoods are based off of Community Council boundaries.

AMOUNT OF ABATEMENTS PER YEAR

\$ = total amount
of abatements



OWNERSHIP TYPE



Ownership info for 413 abatements (\$14,587,352) not provided

LEED CERTIFICATION STATUS



2,036 (\$68,424,165) not LEED certified



ReLeaf Tree Program Fall 2019

The annual ReLeaf program began in 1988 with a mission to provide trees for homeowners who either have lawns that are too narrow to be planted by Urban Forestry or for those with conflicting utility service structures. The program has expanded to include schools, community areas, and other public green spaces. Eligible participants are provided a tree to plant in their front yard, providing the beauty and energy-saving benefits street trees bring. Funding from Duke Energy and the Cincinnati Parks Foundation allows us to provide the trees to Cincinnati property owners at no cost to them. To date, we have given away more than 18,000 trees.

Interested in participating for 2019? Find a selection of trees & online registration at:

<https://www.cincinnatiiparks.com/urban-forestry/>

Complete application by October 4th, 2019 for consideration.

To Qualify:

1. Property must be within Cincinnati city limits.
2. Trees must be planted within 30 ft of the right-of-way or visible from the street. Planting between the street and sidewalk and in backyards is not acceptable.
3. Plant the right tree in the right place. Please consider the mature size of the tree. Be aware of any obstructions from wires, utilities, or other structures.

Considerations:

- This program is made possible through the support of the [Cincinnati Parks Foundation](#) and the [Duke Energy Foundation](#).
- We do have a limited supply. Applications are a first come, first serve bases.
- A higher priority is given to planting trees on private property along streets the Cincinnati Park Board cannot plant due to narrow right-of-ways.
- Other priority areas include community focal points such as entrance ways, street triangles, areas near street intersections, and public frontages along major streets.
- Approved applicants are responsible for pickup and planting. Pickup will occur October 19, 2019 at 3215 Reading Road.
- Forestry staff will inspect each planting location before approving tree requests, and will inspect locations after planting to ensure guidelines are followed.
- If you have additional questions, please contact Urban Forestry at 861-9070.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL

By Jerry Carrico

At the CAP meeting on August 21, Captain Ted Sampson of the Hamilton County Fusion Center and Brian Taylor of the Department of Homeland Security presented a synopsis of their Active Shooter Training course. They pointed out that active shooters present no apparent method or pattern in selecting their victims. In 2018 there were 27 active shooter incidents in 16 in states. It is important to distinguish between active shooter incidents and mass killings. The recent incident in which a member of the Sikh community killed four family members was a mass killing but he was not an active shooter. They were specifically targeted. They listed 10 key behaviors:

1. Demographics are not a good predictor.
2. $\frac{3}{4}$ of active shooters took a week or more to plan their attack.
3. The majority obtained their weapons legally.
4. Although $\frac{1}{4}$ of active shooters had some sort of mental counseling or diagnosis in their past, only 4 percent of the population with mental problems become active shooters. This is the same as other crime in the general population.
5. They have typically recently experienced multiple stressors.
6. 4 out of 5 have displayed unusual behavior shortly before the attack.
7. Peers and teachers are more likely to observe this behavior.
8. They commonly talk or vent about their plans and 40% of the people who learned about this do not speak up.
9. They attack places that are familiar.
10. 5 out of 8 were actually targeting some person or particular persons in the group they attacked.

Like they say, "If you see something, say something." If you are caught in such a scenario, run, hide, fight. Run if you possibly can because they cannot shoot you if you are not there and even if you are, a moving target is harder to hit. If you cannot run, hide. Active shooters know they only have a limited window for their carnage, so they are not likely to take time to sniff you out unless you are a particular target. If you cannot do either one, fight. If you are struggling with the assailant, some others may attack him as well and overpower him.

A great source of info is available at www.dhs.gov. At the top, it will be slowly scrolling different issues . When the one for active shooters (Run, Hide, Fight) comes across, simply click on it and a long list of resources will come up. One of the best on the list is Planning and Response to an Active Shooter. Check out the site and become aware of your options.

**“get to know
your neighbors”**



Fall 2019

Picnic in the Lodge

Wednesday, Oct 2nd; 6-9pm

Harmony Lodge

(Corner of E Epworth & N. Edgewood)

Special Feature

Authentic Barbershop
Singing

Live Music Night

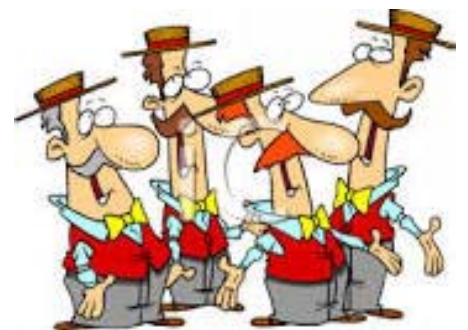
Calling all local musicians!
Open mike is yours until 9ish.
Come show off your best talent.

Soft drinks, hamburgers, hotdogs & veggie burgers provided.
Bring a potluck dish or something from your garden to share.

Kids, bring your parents.

All adults, come
out for some fun.

Your neighbors
want to meet you.



***** (Please note corrected date!) *****

The Spring Grove Village Garden Club cordially invites you to...

An Evening in the Garden
Saturday, September 7, 2019
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.



Back By Popular Demand, it's...EVENING IN THE GARDEN!

Wine, cheese, and other light refreshments will be served.

*Spring Grove Village Community Garden
is located at the intersection of Chickering and East Epworth Avenues.*

Please RSVP to Nannie Oliver, at 513-542-8440,
or via email: **andreastephaniefarmer@gmail.com**